**Jane Eyre Discussion Questions**

Chapter 1
1. How does Bronte create sympathy for Jane in the first chapter?
2. Describe the exposition of the novel.
3. Do you believe Jane’s description of her abuse by John Reed is realistic or exaggerated? Explain.

   “I really saw in [John Reed] a tyrant; a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering: these sensations for the time predominated over fear, and I received him in a frantic sort.”

Chapter 2
1. Describe how the weather sets the tone for this chapter of the novel.
2. Describe how Jane holds an ambiguous place in the Reed home and in society.
3. How does Mrs. Abbot try to frighten Jane before locking her in the red-room?
4. Jane briefly considers escaping Gateshead. What options does she ponder?
5. Why is Jane allowed to live at Gateshead?
6. Consider the other characters’ actions when Jane is locked in the red-room. How do the other characters’ dialogue and behavior help shape readers’ opinions of them?

Chapter 3
1. Describe how the tone of the chapter changes from beginning to end.
2. Explain how Jane suffers prejudice based on her appearance.

Chapter 4
1. Analyze Bronte’s use of fire and ice in this chapter. Provide examples from the text to support your thoughts. What do these motifs represent in the text?
2. From Mr. Brocklehurst’s description of Lowood, how do readers know that he is a hypocrite? How does this knowledge foreshadow Jane’s experience at Lowood?
3. Explain the epiphany that Jane has at the end of the chapter about her relationship with Bessie.

Chapter 5
1. What can readers infer about Mr. Brocklehurst’s character from the information presented in this chapter?
2. What do burnt porridge, distasteful food, and inadequate portion sizes at Lowood emphasize?

Chapter 6
1. Describe the harsh physical conditions of the setting in this chapter.
2. How does Helen Burns endure her harsh treatment at Lowood?
3. Analyze the difference between Jane and Helen’s beliefs about Christianity.
4. What does Helen tell Jane about her feelings toward the Reed family?
Chapter 7
1. How does Bronte indicate that Mr. Brocklehurst is a hypocrite in this chapter?
2. From Jane’s point of view, how is Miss Temple’s behavior in this chapter unacceptable?

Chapter 8
1. What is the one thing that Jane truly wants?
2. Contrast Helen and Jane’s views of solitude.
3. How does the tone of this chapter change from beginning to end?
4. Explain how Jane’s temperament begins to change in this chapter because of her relationship with Miss Temple and Helen.

Chapter 9
1. Contrast Helen and Jane’s views of death and religion.
2. Analyze how the weather parallels and contrasts the tone and events of this chapter.

Chapter 10
1. How does Miss Temple’s marriage affect Jane?
2. Discuss Jane’s one real concern about venturing away from Lowood.
3. Explain how Bronte uses the supernatural in this chapter.

Chapter 11
1. Before Jane goes to sleep in her new room at Thornfield, she kneels to pray. This action does not correlate with Jane's previous beliefs concerning religion. Why have Jane’s views changed?

Chapter 12
1. In this chapter, Jane experiences a rare moment of equality with the male gender. Explain this incident and its significance.
2. Explain how Jane’s attire exemplifies her ambiguous position in society.

Chapter 13
1. Explain why Jane’s paintings are atypical.
2. Explain the significance of Mr. Rochester’s comment to Jane: “Excuse my tone of command; I am used to say, ‘Do this,’ and it is done. I cannot alter my customary habits for one new inmate.”

Chapter 14
1. Explain how the weather contrasts with the mood of the chapter.
2. What are Rochester’s thoughts as he tells Jane: “I do not wish to treat you like an inferior…”?
3. What are Rochester’s feelings toward Celine Varens?

Chapter 15
1. Explain how Rochester and Jane seem to become equal in this chapter.
2. Evaluate how the relationship between Mr. Rochester and Jane changes drastically in this chapter.
3. Explain why Jane now thinks of Adele more favorably.
Chapter 16
1. Describe Jane's confusion about Grace Poole's position at Thornfield.
2. Examine how Jane's feelings for Rochester change drastically from this chapter's beginning to end.

Chapter 17
1. In Blanche’s visual description of governesses, identify the negative connotations that she applies.
2. Explain how readers know that Rochester has intimate feelings toward Jane.

Chapter 18
1. Summarize how Blanche insults Jane throughout this chapter.
2. Above all, why is Jane most disturbed by the impending marriage between Mr. Rochester and Miss Ingram?

Chapter 19
1. How does Bronte apply Gothic conventions in Chapter 19?
2. In this chapter, Rochester and Jane are momentary equals. When and why does this equality occur?
3. Analyze the change in the relationship between Rochester and Jane that occurs in this chapter.

Chapter 20
1. How does Bronte effectively use Gothic elements in Chapter 20?
2. What effect does Bronte create in having Rochester refer to Jane as his “little friend” multiple times in this chapter?
3. Contrast how Jane and Rochester view Thornfield in different ways.
4. Mr. Mason has been seriously injured by the woman locked in the third story room. However, he obviously cares for her: “Let her be taken care of; let her be treated as may be: let her—‘, he stopped and burst into tears.” What can the reader infer from his words and actions?
5. Consider Rochester’s comments at the end of Chapter 20. What statement does he make about class and society?
Chapter 21
1. Explain and analyze the meaning of Miss Ingram’s comment: “What can the creeping creature want now?”
2. Describe the mood of the scene where Rochester and Jane say goodbye.
3. Contrast the descriptions of Eliza and Georgiana. How is Jane different from each of her cousins?

Chapter 22
1. Explain the significance of Jane’s thoughts toward Georgiana: “It is only because our connection happens to be very transitory, and comes at a peculiarly mournful season, that I consent to render it so patient and complaint on my part.”
2. How do the setting and weather conditions mirror Jane’s mood in this chapter?

Chapter 23
1. Explain how the imagery Jane uses at the beginning of this chapter creates a mood of optimism.
2. Explain the significance of the possible allusions, “Eden-like” and “string somewhere under my left ribs.”
3. What separates Jane from her love?
4. After Jane accepts Rochester’s proposal, a thunderstorm begins, and a lightning bolt strikes a tree. What is the significance of the lightning bolt?

Chapter 24
1. Explain why Mrs. Fairfax looks at Jane with a “sad countenance.”
2. Explain the irony present in Rochester’s desire to dress Jane in jewels and fancy clothing.
3. Explain what Rochester means by this: “Ten years since, I flew through Europe half mad; with disgust, hate, and rage as my companions; now I shall revisit it healed and cleansed, with a very angel as my comforter.”
4. How does Jane frighten Rochester in this chapter?

Chapter 25
1. Compare and contrast how Jane and Rochester view marriage.
2. Explain the significance of Jane’s nightmares.

Chapter 26
1. Evaluate Bronte’s use of fire and ice in this chapter.
2. After learning of Rochester’s wife, what is surprising about Jane’s behavior when she locks herself in her room?
3. Evaluate Bronte’s use of sarcasm in Rochester’s words regarding Bertha Mason: “I must shut up my prize.”
Chapter 27
1. How does Bronte create sympathy for Rochester in this chapter?
2. Justify Jane’s reasoning to leave Rochester. On what does she base her decision?
3. Conclude Rochester’s reasoning for asking Jane to travel to Europe with him.
4. Explain the irony in Rochester’s statement: “Hiring a mistress is the next worse thing to buying a slave; both are often my nature, and always by position, inferior; and to live familiarly with inferiors is degrading.”

Chapter 28
1. As a poor beggar, how does Jane still not fit into society?

Chapter 29
1. Explain how Hannah decides Jane’s class in society?
2. How is Mr. St. John’s description similar to that of Brocklehurst’s?

Chapter 30
1. Why does Jane find happiness and comfort at Moor House?
2. How does the weather mirror Jane’s mood in this chapter?
3. Contrast St. John’s personality with that of his sisters, Diana and Mary.
4. Explain the significance in the fact that St. John’s uncle is named “John.”

Chapter 31
1. Analyze the internal conflict that Jane experiences regarding her new life.

Chapter 32
1. How does Jane surprise St. John in this chapter?
2. Compare St. John’s and Jane’s thoughts toward relationships and lust.
Chapter 33
1. Identify Bronte’s use of fire and ice in this chapter.
2. Analyze Jane’s view of wealth.

Chapter 34
1. Other than the fact that Diana and Mary will be arriving, why does Jane plan to “clean down” Moor House?
2. Contrast St. John’s behavior in this chapter with that of his sisters.
3. Identify instances of the words in this chapter that use ice or coldness to refer to St. John and explain their effect.
4. How does Jane’s behavior around St. John change throughout this chapter?
5. Explain the significance of the diction that Bronte uses in St. John’s description of his duty towards God.

Chapter 35
1. How does St. John use guilt to persuade Jane to marry him and accompany him to India?
2. Contrast St. John’s and Jane’s method of prayer.

Chapter 36
1. Explain how Jane’s position in life is different now than when she fled Thornfield.
2. Identify the significance of the places Bertha Mason sets afire.
3. How does Bronte create sympathy for Rochester in Chapter 36?

Chapter 37
1. Analyze the significance of the following quote: “I told you I am independent, sir, as well as rich: I am my own mistress.”
2. Why does Jane feel like she and Rochester are equals now—that she can accept his marriage proposal?

Chapter 38
1. Contrast St. John’s and Jane’s ideas of home.