

Investigate!

Jane Eyre: Characterisation

Investigate! *Jane Eyre*

Characterisation

❖ **Role and significance**

- Make a list of the main characters in the novel
 - Trace their **role** in the plot
 - Their **significance** in the story
- Do the same with the minor characters.

❖ **The creation of character**

Narrator's description

- Make notes on how Jane describes
 - Miss Temple
 - Blanche Ingram
- In what ways do the **detail** and **tone** of her descriptions help us to understand *Jane's opinions* of those characters and the role they play in her life?

Self –description

- Choose any one of the speeches in which Rochester tells Jane about his past life and make detailed notes
 - How does he represent himself to Jane?
 - Create a table showing to what extent his self-description correspond with the ways in which Jane perceives him
- Look now at the other speech(es) and try to decide how consistent an account he gives of himself.
- Provide evidence to demonstrate in what ways, if at all, these speeches modify Jane's feelings about Rochester.

Dialogue

- Mr Brocklehurst appears twice in the novel: in chapters 4 and 7 (Volume 1, chapters 4 and 7)
 - Re-read these chapters and make notes on the way in which he speaks
 - What does this tell us about him?

❖ **Women in *Jane Eyre***

- Re-read the scene in which Rochester takes Jane and the others to the attic to see Bertha. Note:
 - The details of Bertha's appearance and actions
 - Rochester's behaviour towards her
 - What are the main features of how she is represented?

❖ **Jane's suitors**

Rochester

- Do you think that at the end of the novel Charlotte Brontë is suggesting that it is only in his chastened and comparatively helpless condition that Rochester is a suitable husband for Jane?

St John Rivers

- Locate the passages where Rochester and St John first appear in the novel
 - Make notes on how each of them is represented
- Locate the passages in which each man proposes to Jane
 - Make notes on what these scenes tell us about the differences between the two men.