


Investigate!

Jane Eyre: Volume One

 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

Investigate! Jane Eyre

Volume One

❖ Chapter 1 (Volume 1, chapter 1)

- In what ways do the illustrations from Bewick help us to understand Jane's personality and the nature of her imagination?
- Consider how Jane is treated by the Reed family
 - What does this tell us about her position at Gateshead Hall?
- This chapter contains several references to the world outside the house
 - What do they tell us about Jane's relationship to the natural world?


❖ Chapter 2 (Volume 1, chapter 2)

- What is the symbolic significance of the Red Room?
- Make a list of the words and phrases that Mrs Reed, Bessie and Abbott use to describe Jane's behaviour in this chapter:
 - What do they tell us about the way in which Jane upsets their expectations of how a child – especially a girl – should behave?

❖ Chapter 3 (Volume 1, chapter 3)

- How does this chapter add to our understanding of the novel's representation of childhood experience?
- What do we learn about the role played by servants at Gateshead Hall, and particularly in relation to Jane?
- What part does the doctor, Mr Lloyd, play in the chapter?

❖ Chapter 4 (Volume 1, chapter 4)

- What seems to be Brocklehurst's version of Christianity?
- Other versions of Christianity will be presented later in the novel:
 - In each case, make sure that you compare them with each other and relate them to Jane's own development
- What do we learn about Jane from her preferences among the books of the Old Testament?
See  Texts in detail > *Jane Eyre* > Imagery, metaphor and symbolism > Mythological and literary references

❖ Chapter 5 (Volume 1, chapter 5)


- What are Jane's initial impressions of Lowood School?
- Jane soon meets Helen Burns (although she is not named until the next chapter)
 - What does her conversation with Jane tell you about the school and the situation in which Jane finds herself?

❖ Chapter 6 (Volume 1, chapter 6)

- What are the main contrasts between Jane and Helen Burns in:
 - Personality?
 - Behaviour?
- What kind of example does Helen offer Jane?
- What difference does Helen's friendship make to Jane's life at Lowood?

Investigate!

Jane Eyre: Volume One

 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info


Investigate! *Jane Eyre*

Volume One



❖ Chapter 7 (Volume 1, chapter 7)

- Chapter 7 contains a good deal about religion and the way it is applied to the education of the girls at Lowood School
 - What principal beliefs lie behind the regime of the school?

❖ Chapter 8 (Volume 1, chapter 8)

- What kind of role does Miss Temple begin to play in Jane's life?
- How does this chapter contribute to the ideas of education developed in the novel?
See  Texts in detail > *Jane Eyre* > Educational context

❖ Chapter 9 (Volume 1, chapter 9)

- A deadly epidemic brings about a change at Lowood
 - What might this tell us about the way the novel is constructed?
See  Texts in detail > *Jane Eyre* > Narrative > Development of the narrative
- To what extent is Jane able to accept Helen Burns as an example for the way she should live her own life?
See  Texts in detail > *Jane Eyre* > Religious context

❖ Chapter 10 (Volume 1, chapter 10)


- Bessie, the servant from Gateshead, reappears in this chapter

- What is the impact of her arrival at this point in the narrative?

❖ Chapter 11 (Volume 1, chapter 11)


- Jane's arrival at Thornfield opens a new phase in her life
 - What are her first impressions of the house?
- Why do you think Charlotte Brontë offers the reader so much detail about the contents and decoration of Thornfield?
- What is the significance for the novel of the reference to the Bluebeard story?

❖ Chapter 12 (Volume 1, chapter 12)

- Consider the passage from 'Anybody may blame me who likes ... necessary for their sex'
 - What kind of issues does it raise:
 - For Jane's present situation?
 - For the novel as a whole?
See  Texts in detail > *Jane Eyre* > Themes > Gender and the role of women
- In what ways are the circumstances of Jane's first encounter with Rochester characteristic of the atmosphere of the novel?

❖ Chapter 13 (Volume 1, chapter 13)

- Rochester often associates Jane with fairies
 - Why do you think he does so?
- What does Rochester think he is learning from Jane's paintings and drawings?

 refers to links on www.crossref-it.info

- How does his opinion of her work modify the reader's view of Jane?

❖ **Chapter 14** **(Volume 1, chapter 14)**

- A number of times in this chapter Rochester associates himself with Satan
 - What kind of image of himself is he trying to create?
 - How does it compare with
 - The ways in which Jane describes herself?
 - The ways in which Rochester refers to her?

❖ **Chapter 15** **(Volume 1, chapter 15)**

- 'No, reader', begins a paragraph in this chapter
 - As you read through the novel, note the passages in which Jane addresses the reader directly
 - Do these passages have anything in common?
 - Why, on these occasions, might Jane wish to signal that she is about to take the reader into her confidence?