

# Jane Eyre: (c) Mr Rochester

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☞ refers to links on [www.crossref-it.info](http://www.crossref-it.info)

- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To examine Brontë's portrayal of Mr Rochester and his role in the novel.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Discuss well-known romantic heroes from novels, films, TV, etc.
  - What characteristics do they have in common?
  - What is meant by a 'Byronic hero'? ( ☞ *Jane Eyre* > Characterisation > Jane's suitors > Rochester)
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Read Jane's first meeting with Rochester in Chapter 12.
  - Discuss what hints there are about their future relationship.
  - If possible, watch different versions of this scene in a variety of film and TV interpretations. ( ☞ *Jane Eyre* > Resources and further reading > *Jane Eyre* on film and TV)
  - What different angles do they take, particularly regarding the impression given of Rochester himself?
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Read **Worksheet (c)i**, the gypsy episode (Ch.19) in script form.
  - What is the point of this charade?
    - Note that the game 'Charades' is played earlier – your own version could be played with the class for a little light relief!
  - What does this scene say to us about Rochester?
- What links can you see with his behaviour in other parts of the novel?
- ❖ **Recreative task:** Write a couple of paragraphs as Rochester might describe the situation, and his feelings, at the end of Chapter 26.
  - Try to find the right style.
    - Get the class to discuss and list some of the aspects of Brontë's writing (typical sentence length & order, typical vocabulary & phraseology)
  - Include some description to help capture the mood as Brontë does throughout the novel.
    - Allocate each student a page from Chapter 26 to select & discuss a descriptive example. ( ☞ *Jane Eyre* > Characterisation > Bertha Rochester)
- ❖ **Critical task:** Read **Worksheet (c)ii**, an essay on Mr Rochester.
  - Annotate it with your thoughts, both in agreement and disagreement.
  - Add another couple of paragraphs on two more aspects of Mr Rochester. You could use:
    - His passion
    - His impetuosity
    - His changes in the final chapters
    - Some other choice of your own.
- ❖ **Extension Task:** Compare Rochester with the 'hero' of another novel (or play or film) which you know well.
  - Turn this into a short presentation to the class.