

Jane Eyre: (f) Rochester's two proposals

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- ❖ **Lesson focus:** To use close examination of the text to analyse and contrast the two proposal scenes and to explore what is revealed there about the relationship between Jane and Rochester.
- ❖ **Opening exercise:** Print out the questions on **Worksheet (f)** onto card and cut out. Distribute around the class.
 - Each student answers their question.
- ❖ **Discussion ideas:** Ask students to share their thoughts on their question with the class.
 - Discussion should arise which will draw attention to some of the key issues.
- ❖ **Textual examination:** Draw up a table which will be used to compare and contrast the two proposals in Chapters 23 and 37.
 - Students could be given the following headings to help them if necessary:
 - Setting
 - Weather
 - Change in Jane and Rochester's situations
 - Other factors.
 - This could be done together as a whole group on the board, or in small groups with reporting back.
 - They should find a range of points based on the language used and the events and dialogue in the two passages.
 - Add to this anything which, even though there is no direct contrast, tells the reader something about Jane and Rochester's relationship. (Look, for example, at the moth image in Chapter 23.)
- ( *Jane Eyre* > Characterisation > Jane's suitors > Rochester)
- ❖ **Recreative task:** As one of Rochester's friends:
 - Write a letter to him after the first proposal, expressing your thoughts and comments.
 - Decide how much you know about Rochester's situation.
 - Write another letter after the second proposal.
- ❖ **Critical task:** Rochester proposes to Jane twice.
 - Compare these two occasions and explain what the two incidents show about the relationship between Jane and Rochester in the novel.
 - Since students will have assembled the information already, they can concentrate on the process of essay-writing. ( *Jane Eyre* > Critical approaches to *Jane Eyre* > Analysing a passage)
- ❖ **Extension task:** Consider:
 - The kind of marriage the two characters would have had if the first attempt at a wedding had succeeded.
 - The nature of the eventual marriage.
 - Why is the latter more likely to be successful than the former?
 - Compare Rochester's proposals with the one Jane receives from St John Rivers.