

Summer Reading Assignment for British Literature
and AP English Literature and Composition
Mead Hall Episcopal School; Mrs. Mary Dickey

Read the novel Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte and complete the following study guide questions. Answer the questions in complete sentences using no sources other than the novel and your own brain. (That means no Spark Notes, Cliff Notes, etc. That would be cheating.) I will take up this assignment on the first day of school for your first grade.

Ch. 1-10:

1. Briefly identify each of the following characters: Mrs. Reed, John Reed, Bessie, Helen Burns, Mr. Brocklehurst, Miss Temple, Jane Eyre.
2. Describe the conditions at Lowood School.
3. Why do the conditions at Lowood improve? What does Jane gain from her 8 years there?

Ch. 11-20:

4. Describe Mr. Rochester. Why do you think Jane is attracted to him?
5. What strange sound does Jane hear at Thornfield, and who or what does she think is responsible?
6. Explain how Jane saves Rochester's life.
7. Who is Mason, and what does his relationship to Rochester seem to be?
8. How does the author create a sense of suspense, tension, and uncertainty in this section of the book?

Ch. 21-27:

9. Describe the events that occur when Jane revisits Gateshead. What are Jane's feelings towards Mrs. Reed now? Why?
10. When Jane returns to Thornfield, what revelation does Rochester make to her? Did you find this surprising?
11. Who is Bertha, and how does Jane find out about her?

Ch. 28-35:

12. Name and briefly describe the members of the Rivers family. How does Jane come to be with them?
13. What question does St. John ask Jane? What is her answer, and why?

Ch. 36-38:

14. What has happened at Thornfield in Jane's absence?
15. How has Rochester changed? Has the relationship between Rochester and Jane changed? Explain.
16. How does the novel conclude? Did you find the ending satisfactory? Why, or why not?