

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte				Vocabulary	Historical and social context
Summary	Jane Eyre is the story of a ten year old, orphaned girl who lives with her aunt and cousins, the Reeds, at Gateshead Hall. Mrs. Reed hates Jane and allows her son John and the servants to torment the girl. Jane rises up against this treatment and tells them all exactly what she thinks of them. She's punished by being locked in "the red room," the bedroom where her uncle died, and she has a hysterical fit when she thinks his ghost is appearing. After this, nobody knows what to do with her, so they send her away to a religious boarding school for orphans—Lowood Institute.			benefactress	Charlotte Bronte lived in Yorkshire. As a child, two of her sisters died of tuberculosis while attending a religious school run by an Evangelical minister.
				undertaker	
				casket	
				thwart	
Literary devices	Themes	Other texts:	precocious	Jane is threatened with going to the Poor House. These were also workhouses where families were kept apart in gender segregated groups of workers. No one wanted to go there.	
			consternation		
First person narrative: written from the point of view of one person (I, me, myself).	Isolation	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	<i>Emily Bronte</i>	tumult	
	Class and position	<i>The Tenant of Wildfell Hall</i>	<i>Anne Bronte</i>	insurrection	
vengeance	Character			Her remaining sisters, Emily and Anne, all wrote poems and novels and got them published under male names. Charlotte's pen name was Currer Bell. Only when the literary set in London praised the novels and poems, did the sisters reveal they were female surprising everyone and overturning the myth that women could not write.	
Unreliable narrator: The reader cannot trust what they are being told is absolutely true as first-person viewpoint is narrow and biased, or often mistaken.		Bitterness and hatred	<i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>		<i>Robert Louis Stevenson</i>
	Forgiveness and tolerance				tarried
Literary context	Religious fervour	Jane Eyre - an orphan who is quick-tempered and fiery, often feeling bitter when she is misused.			brooded
	Gothic fiction, which is largely known by the subgenre of Gothic horror, is a genre or mode of literature and film that combines fiction and horror, death, and at times romance. The name Gothic refers to the (pseudo)-medieval buildings, emulating Gothic architecture, in which many of these stories take place. This extreme form of romanticism was very popular in England and Germany.	Helen Burns - a hard working, forgiving and tolerant student who befriends Jane at Lowood school.			aversion
Jane Eyre follows the literary tradition of the Gothic horror story. It became popular in England in the late eighteenth century, and it generally describes supernatural experiences, remote landscapes, and mysterious occurrences, all of which are intended to create an atmosphere of suspense and fear.	Mrs Reed - wife to Jane's deceased uncle, she is spiteful and intolerant of Jane and often quick to punish her for perceived ills.			chastisement	
	Mr Brocklehurst - the religious, strick head of Lowood School.			audacious	
The plot of <i>Jane Eyre</i> follows the form of a Bildungsroman, which is a novel that tells the story of a child's maturation and focuses on the emotions and experiences that accompany her growth to adulthood.	John Reed - only son of the Reeds, who bullies Jane and gets away with it.			coherently	
				habitat	
				instigate	
				elated	
				browbeat	
				revile	
				fetid	
				preternatural	
				catechism	
				contrived	
				In the novel, Jane attends a charity school, Lowood. Victorian schools were fee paying schools, so charity schools were for those who could not afford the fees. Classrooms were often crowded and one teacher would teach 100 pupils with strict discipline. Pupils used slates instead of paper and The Bible and moral tales were used as core texts. Dunces' caps were used to humiliate pupils whose work was sub-standard. Corporal punishment was usual practice.	