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Jane Eyre

18 Chapters

Day 1-18

W01-W06

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 1: The Orphan at Gateshead

Jane Eyre was a small, thin girl of ten who lived at Gateshead Hall with her aunt, Mrs. Reed. Both of her parents had died when she was a baby, and her uncle, the only one who had been kind to her, had also passed away. Mrs. Reed had promised to raise her, but she never loved her. Jane's cousins, John, Eliza, and Georgiana, were rich, loud, and proud, and they let her know that she was poor and did not belong. One gloomy winter afternoon, while the others sat by the fire, Jane hid behind a curtain in the window seat with a book of pictures about birds of the far north. She loved the lonely islands, the frozen seas, and the great white mountains of ice in the pictures. She preferred them to the company of her cousins. From her perspective, the world was a cold place, yet she believed that books were an essential gift, because they allowed her to travel without leaving the room. Jane did not know how to contribute to a household that disliked her, and her one wish was to establish a place where she would be valued for who she was. The consequence of her loneliness was a strong imagination. It was a significant part of her character, though no one noticed. On the table by the fire lay a plate of mince pies, and the sound of her cousins' laughter drifted through the red curtain. Jane pressed her forehead against the cold glass and watched the rain run down the window, thinking how far away the frozen seas seemed, and how much she wished that some friend, even one, might ask where she was. Nobody came, and she turned another page. ★ Jane was a poor orphan girl.

THINK *Where did Jane live as a child?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 2: The Red Room

John Reed, Jane's fourteen-year-old cousin, was a bully. He loved to push and tease her, and he often told her that she had no right to the books, the house, or the food, because she was a poor dependant. One afternoon he found her in the window seat, snatched the book out of her hand, and threw it at her. It hit her head and cut her brow. For the first time Jane did not stay silent. She told John he was cruel and wicked, and when he rushed at her, she fought back with all her strength. The servants heard the noise and pulled them apart. Instead of punishing John, Mrs. Reed ordered Jane to be shut up in the Red Room, a cold, silent chamber where her uncle had once slept. The room was full of heavy red curtains and a great bed, and it made her shiver. From Jane's perspective the unfairness was almost too hard to bear. She felt it was essential to speak up, for staying silent would establish a pattern of cruelty. The consequence of her anger was a long, frightening hour alone. Even so, the experience had a significant effect: it taught her that she had a voice. She decided that she would contribute to her own rescue. The servants whispered about her in the corridor, and Bessie, the nurse, was the only one who spoke kindly. She brought Jane a little tart afterward and told her gently that she must learn to be quieter. But Jane could not quite believe that silence was the answer to injustice. ★ Jane was a poor orphan treated very unfairly.

THINK *Who bullied Jane?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 3: I Am Not Worthless

In the Red Room, Jane sat very still on a low stool. As evening came, the room grew dark, and she saw a strange gleam of light on the wall. She cried out in fear, and she begged to be let out. Mrs. Reed refused, and Jane at last fainted from fright. When she woke, she found herself in her own bed, with a kind apothecary, Mr. Lloyd, sitting beside her. He asked gentle questions and understood that the child was unhappy. He suggested to Mrs. Reed that Jane be sent to school, which would help her health and spirit. Mrs. Reed agreed, glad to be rid of her. Before Jane left, she had a last talk with her aunt. Mrs. Reed called her a deceitful, ungrateful child, but Jane, now braver, answered in a clear voice. She said that she was not deceitful and that she would never call such a cruel person "aunt." She told her that she would tell the world how she had been treated. It was a significant moment. From her perspective, it was essential to speak the truth. Jane refused to accept that her worth depended on her social position, and she insisted that she would contribute something good to the world. The consequence of her bold words was freedom. She would establish her own place at last. Even the servants looked on with surprise, for nobody had ever heard the little girl speak so boldly. Jane walked from the room with her heart pounding, half proud and half afraid, and she knew that something in her had changed. ★ Jane was a poor orphan treated very unfairly, but she refused to accept that her worth depended on her social position or anyone else's opinion.

THINK Who suggested that Jane go to school?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 4: The Journey to Lowood

In January, Jane set off on a long, cold coach journey to Lowood, a charity school for orphan girls. It was dark when she arrived, and a kind teacher, Miss Temple, led her inside. The next morning she saw the long, plain classrooms where eighty girls in brown dresses sat in rows. The headmaster, Mr. Brocklehurst, was a tall, stern man with a hard face. He believed that children should be kept hungry and plain so that they would become humble. The food was thin and often burnt, the rooms had no fires, and the rules were strict. At first, Jane found it very hard. She longed for her old, quiet corner, however unhappy it had been. But Jane had a new perspective now: the school was a chance to learn, and learning was essential to a girl who had no money. She resolved to work hard. She made up her mind to establish a good reputation and to do her best in every lesson. Jane suffered at a strict school, but she saw that she could still contribute by being honest and diligent. The consequence of these choices would one day be significant. She felt she was starting a new life. At bedtime she lay under a thin blanket and listened to the wind howling around the stone walls. The girl in the next bed breathed softly, and Jane told herself that tomorrow would be better. She did not yet know that the school would test her far more than she expected, but she was ready to try. ★ Jane suffered at a strict school.

THINK What was Lowood?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 5: A Cold School

Winter at Lowood was bitter. The girls woke in the dark, and the water in the washing jugs was frozen. They walked a mile through snow to church on Sunday in thin shoes, and they ate a cold, tiny lunch. Many suffered from chilblains, and some fell ill. Mr. Brocklehurst visited and scolded the teachers for giving too much bread. In front of all the girls, he pointed at Jane and declared that she was a liar and warned everyone not to speak to her. He made her stand on a high stool for the whole afternoon, and she felt her cheeks burn with shame. She could hardly breathe. A girl named Helen Burns, who had been punished that morning, passed by and gave her a small, kind smile. That smile gave Jane the courage to stay upright. From Jane's perspective, the injustice was unbearable, yet the kindness of a friend was essential to keeping her spirit alive. The consequence of the public cruelty could have been despair. Instead, she resolved to prove the headmaster wrong. She knew that her honest work would contribute to her good name, and in time she would establish the truth. Jane suffered greatly at the cold strict school, but she learned that endurance could be strong. By evening the stool seemed to rise to a great height, and her legs shook with tiredness. Yet she kept her chin up. When she was allowed to come down, Helen pressed her hand and whispered that one cruel word would not change who she was. Jane thought about that all night. ★ Jane suffered greatly at the cold strict school.

THINK What did Mr. Brocklehurst call Jane?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 6: Helen and Miss Temple

Helen Burns became Jane's dearest friend. She was thin and pale, with a calm, thoughtful face, and she believed in patience and forgiveness. When a teacher unfairly punished her, she bore it without complaint. Jane could not understand such quiet strength, and she said that she would fight back. Helen answered gently that hatred did not help anyone, and that life was too short to carry grudges. Jane listened, and the words stayed with her. Miss Temple, the headmistress, was equally kind. She invited Jane and Helen to her room and gave them tea and seed-cake. She listened to Jane's story about the cruel Mrs. Reed and wrote a letter to Mr. Lloyd to check the facts. When the answer came, it proved that Jane had told the truth, and Miss Temple announced it to the whole school. Jane felt as if a heavy stone had rolled off her heart. That spring, a sickness swept through the school, and Helen became gravely ill. Jane remembered her friend's gentle spirit for the rest of her life. The consequence of those hard days was a deeper understanding. From her new perspective she saw that dignity could survive the harshest conditions, and she would establish her own life on that significant lesson. It was essential, she thought, to contribute kindness. Miss Temple often spoke about the beauty of learning, and the girls listened with shining eyes. Jane threw herself into her French and drawing lessons and soon rose to the top of her class. ★ Jane suffered greatly at the cold and cruel school, but the friendships she formed there taught her that dignity could survive even the harshest conditions.

THINK What did Miss Temple give the girls?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 7: A New Position

Jane stayed at Lowood for eight years, six as a pupil and two as a teacher. She had grown into a quiet, capable young woman of eighteen, with plain looks but a steady gaze. When Miss Temple married and left, Jane felt that the school was no longer her home. She decided to find a new position. She placed an advertisement in the newspaper, offering to be a governess. A few days later, she received a reply from a Mrs. Fairfax, who lived at a place called Thornfield Hall, many miles away. The lady offered a small salary to teach one little girl. Jane accepted it at once. She packed her few belongings, said farewell to her friends, and took the coach. As she traveled, she thought hard about the consequence of leaving the only home she had known for so long. She told herself it was a significant step toward independence, and that she would establish a good life, wherever she was. She had learned that work was a way to contribute to the world. Jane became a governess at a mansion, and her heart beat with excitement and fear. Night fell, and the coach rolled along dark country lanes until at last the lights of a large house glowed in the distance. She wrote to Miss Temple, who sent back a loving letter wishing her well. The road ahead was uncertain, yet she felt that she was ready, and she held her head high as the coach rattled past the gates of the school. ★ Jane became a governess at a mansion.

THINK How many years did Jane stay at Lowood?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 8: Thornfield Hall

Thornfield Hall was a great gray house with battlements and a rookery of black birds in the trees. Mrs. Fairfax, the kind, round-faced housekeeper, welcomed Jane warmly. She explained that the master of the house, Mr. Rochester, was away on business, and that Jane's pupil was a little French girl named Adèle, whom he had adopted. Adèle was lively and fond of pretty dresses, and she chattered in French. Jane quickly began to teach her English. In the first weeks, Jane felt comfortable. She walked through the long halls, admired the polished staircase and the old family portraits, and enjoyed the quiet library. Mrs. Fairfax showed her the third floor, with its low black doors and narrow windows. As Jane stood there, she heard a strange, low laugh echo along the corridor. Mrs. Fairfax said it was only Grace Poole, a servant who sewed upstairs. But Jane's perspective on the house changed. She wondered about the consequence of living with a puzzle. She set out to establish a calm routine, yet something about the laugh made her uneasy. Jane became a governess at the mysterious Thornfield Hall, and as the days passed, she grew curious. It was a significant mystery, though she knew it was not her place to ask too many questions. At night she lay awake and looked at the moon through her window, listening for the sound again. The silence that followed only made the mystery more tempting, and she wondered how long it would take to learn the truth. ★ Jane became a governess at the mysterious Thornfield Hall.

THINK Who was Jane's pupil?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 9: Strange Noises at Night

One January afternoon, Jane was sent to post a letter in the nearby village of Hay. On her way back she heard hoofbeats. She stepped aside to let the rider pass, but his horse slipped on a patch of ice, and the man was thrown to the ground. Jane helped him up. He was dark and broad-shouldered, with a frowning face. He thanked her gruffly. She did not know that this was Mr. Rochester, the master of Thornfield. Back at the house, she learned that the master had returned, and that he had arrived with a hurt ankle. Over the next few weeks, Jane noticed strange things. At night she heard odd sounds from the upper floors: a low laugh, then a murmur, and sometimes footsteps along the passage. Mrs. Fairfax and Grace Poole said nothing. Jane's perspective on the house was uneasy, but she knew that curiosity was not part of her duty. She decided to establish a polite distance. From her room, she tried to ignore the noises, but they nagged at her. Jane's wish was to understand, and it seemed that someone or something was being carefully hidden from her. The winter wind howled over the roof, and Jane drew her shawl close. She resolved to be patient and observant, and she wrote down her thoughts in a small notebook every night before sleep, hoping that the answers would come in time. ★ Jane became a governess at the mysterious Thornfield Hall, where strange noises at night hinted that someone or something was being carefully hidden from her.

THINK Where did Jane post the letter?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 10: The Master of Thornfield

The following evening Mr. Rochester sent for Jane and Adèle. He sat in a deep armchair by the fire, his foot on a stool, and his black brows and strong jaw made him look stern. He did not smile or stand to greet them. He looked Jane up and down, asked who she was, and told her bluntly that she was no beauty. He asked her to show her drawings and play the piano. Jane answered every question honestly and plainly. She did not flatter him, and he seemed to like it. He was a man who changed moods quickly: sometimes he was warm and jesting, and sometimes he turned moody and distant. Jane found him a puzzle. Her perspective on the dark, moody master was cautious yet curious, and she soon realized that the consequence of meeting him was that Thornfield felt less empty. Still, she could see that he hid some sorrow. She tried to establish a dignified, respectful way of speaking, neither frightened nor foolish. It was a significant meeting, for neither of them was like the other people in their lives. Rochester had been used to being flattered, and he was surprised by the plain, direct young governess. Adèle, bored by the grown-ups' talk, played with a doll in the corner. When Jane rose to go, Rochester said gruffly that he had not told her she might leave, but then he softened and bade her good night. She went upstairs thinking that she had never met anyone quite like him. ★ Jane met the dark and moody Rochester.

THINK *Where did Rochester sit?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 11: A Complicated Man

As the weeks passed, Jane learned more about Mr. Rochester. He liked to talk to her in the evenings, and she found that he was clever, well-read, and often sad. He had traveled far and seen much, but he did not speak of his past. At times he was gentle and kind, joking with Adèle and listening to Jane's views. At other times he was dark and gloomy, as if a storm had passed over him. Jane did not fear his moods. She treated him with the same plain courtesy whether he was cheerful or cross. One evening he asked her whether she thought him handsome, and she answered honestly that she did not. Instead of being angry, he laughed. He said that he liked her because she did not flatter him. From her perspective, Rochester was neither an angel nor a villain, but a complicated man. Jane saw that kindness lay beneath his roughness, and she began to feel that she could be a friend to him. The consequence of this growing friendship was that she looked forward to their talks. It was a significant change for a girl who had known so little warmth. She wished to establish an honest bond, one that would never need pretending. Sometimes Jane felt that his roughness was a mask, a shield held up against a world that had hurt him. She said little, but she listened, and in her listening she showed a quiet respect that no flattery could match. Neither of them noticed how much they had come to value those evenings. ★

Jane met the dark and complicated Rochester.

THINK *What did Rochester ask Jane?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 12: Spoken as an Equal

One quiet evening, the talk between Jane and Rochester grew deep. He asked her whether she thought it was right that a rich man should be served by a poor governess. Jane answered that to her mind, a person's value did not depend on wealth, name, or status. When he ordered her to stay and listen, she said with spirit that she was not a machine but a human being with a free will. Then she said something that she would remember all her life. She said that they stood equal before God, even though she was poor and plain and little, and that if God had given her a measure of beauty and wealth, she would have made it as hard for him to leave her as it was for her to leave him. Rochester looked at her with astonishment and respect. Jane's perspective that a woman could speak as an equal to a man was rare in her time. She chose to establish this principle by her honest tone. The consequence was a deeper trust between them. It was a significant moment, and from that day Rochester treated her with a new gentleness. Jane walked up to her room that night with her heart beating fast. She knew she had said more than a governess was supposed to say, and yet she felt no regret. It was a freedom she had never known. ★ Jane met the dark and complicated Rochester, and unlike most women of her time, she spoke to him as an equal rather than as a servant or a social inferior.

THINK What did Jane say she was, not a machine?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 13: A Secret Unfolds

In the spring, Mr. Rochester's guests came to Thornfield, and Jane saw him with a lovely lady named Blanche Ingram. She feared that he would marry the beauty and forget her. Late one night, she was woken by a terrible laugh outside her door. She found smoke seeping from Mr. Rochester's room and the bed curtains in flames. She dashed in, poured water on the fire, and woke him just in time. He was astonished and grateful and told her to keep the matter secret. Months later, to her surprise, Rochester told her that he loved her and asked her to marry him. Jane accepted with tears of joy. In the weeks that followed, she was happy and also uneasy. The night before the wedding, a strange woman in her room tore her bridal veil in two. In the morning, Rochester told her that it had been a bad dream, but the torn veil lay before her. From her perspective, the household secret was beginning to grow too large. She felt that honesty was essential for a marriage, and she would not contribute to a lie. The consequence of the mystery was a feeling of dread. A shocking secret destroyed her happiness. Jane lay awake until dawn, wondering if she had made a mistake in trusting him. Every shadow seemed to move, every sound seemed to carry a warning, and she wished for the courage to ask for the truth that would set her mind at ease. ★ A shocking secret destroyed her happiness.

THINK Who woke Rochester when his bed was on fire?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 14: The Wedding Day

The wedding morning came, and Jane and Rochester walked quietly to the little church near Thornfield. Only the clergyman, the clerk, and two strangers stood in the pews. The clergyman began the service and asked if anyone knew of any reason that the two should not be joined. At that moment a clear voice from the back of the church said, "The marriage cannot go on. I declare the existence of an impediment." Everyone turned. A man named Mr. Briggs, a lawyer, stepped forward and said that Mr. Rochester already had a wife, who was living at Thornfield Hall. A second man, Mr. Mason, spoke to confirm it. Jane's blood ran cold. She looked at Rochester and saw that his face was pale and fierce but did not deny it. He said only, "Come with me to the house, and you shall see." Jane felt as though her whole world had come crashing down. The consequence of the concealed truth was deep pain. From her new perspective, she saw why the hall had been so full of secrets. It was essential to know the whole story, but she could not contribute to a marriage built on a lie. The shock was significant and nearly broke her. A terrible secret came to light on her wedding day. The sun shone brightly through the church window, which only made the scene seem more unreal. Jane could hardly breathe. She stared at the floor, where a patch of colored light lay across the stones, and she held on to the one thing she knew for certain: that she must not lie to herself. ★ A

terrible secret came to light on her wedding day.

THINK *Who interrupted the wedding?*

Read the story. Then think about each question.

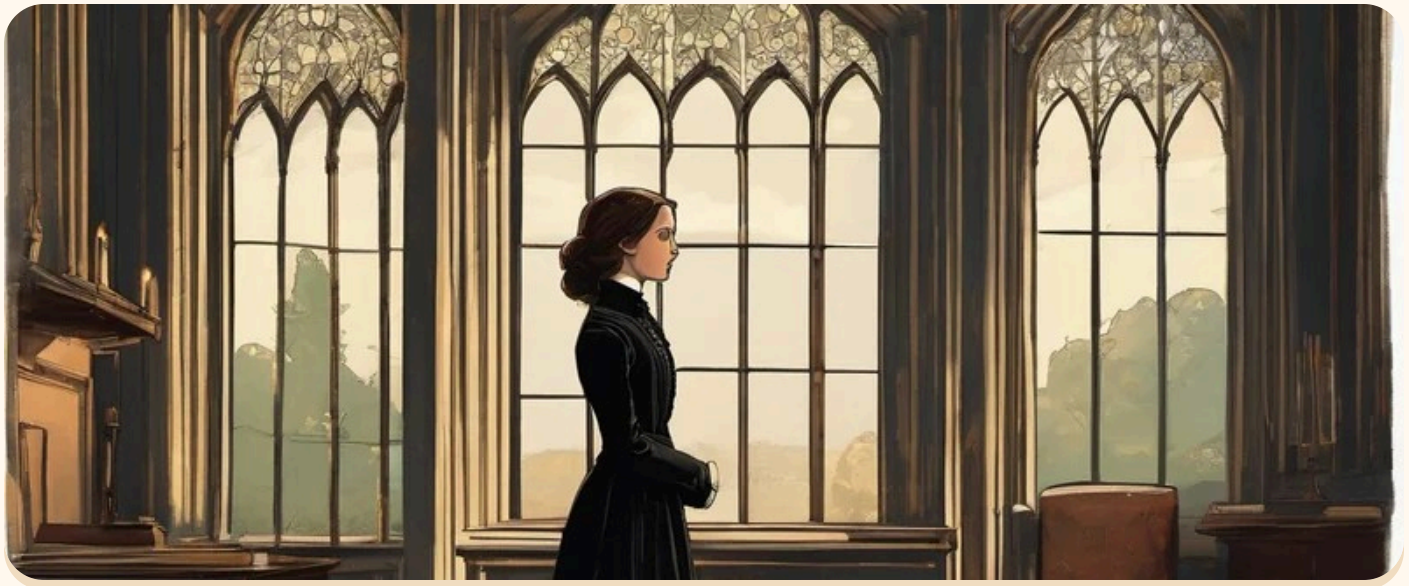


Chapter 15: The Woman in the Attic

Back at Thornfield, Rochester led them all to the third floor and unlocked a low door. In a dim room, a woman was moving about, murmuring and laughing. She was Bertha Mason, Rochester's first wife, whom he had married long ago in Jamaica. She had become very ill in her mind, and Rochester had brought her to England and kept her hidden in the attic, with Grace Poole as her attendant. Everyone left the room in silence. Rochester sat with Jane and told her the whole story. He had been young and foolish. He said that he had never meant to hurt her, and that he had hidden the truth only because he wished to be happy. He asked her to stay with him as his companion, even though they could never be married. Jane was in anguish. She loved him deeply, but she could not forget what she believed was right. The consequence of her choice would shape her whole life. From her perspective, the truth was essential, and she would not contribute to a life of falseness. She asked herself what she valued most. Jane felt the weight of her love and her principles, and she had to establish, in her own heart, which she could not abandon. She walked slowly down the stairs afterward, feeling as if the whole house had grown colder. In the hall, the clock ticked loudly, and every tick seemed to say that her life was about to change. **★ A terrible secret came to light on her wedding day, forcing Jane to choose between the love she deeply wanted and the moral principles she could not bring herself to abandon.**

THINK Who was Bertha Mason?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 16: Jane Chooses

That night, Jane could not sleep. She sat by her window, thinking. Rochester came to her door and begged her to change her mind. He told her that he loved her, that nobody else would care for her as he did, and that she could be his in all but name. Jane's heart ached. She wished with all her strength to say yes. But a quiet voice inside her said, "I care for myself. The more solitary, the more friendless, the more unsupported I am, the more I will respect myself." This was her dilemma: if she stayed, she would have to compromise her integrity. She could be happy for a time, but she would never be able to look at herself without shame. Jane thought about her childhood and everything she had endured. She had refused to give up her honor to Mrs. Reed and to Mr. Brocklehurst, and she would not give it up now, even to the man she loved. Her perspective was clear. The consequence would be a harsh loss, but it was essential to follow her conscience. Early the next morning, with a few coins and a small bundle, she tiptoed down the stairs and out of the door. It was a significant decision, and it would establish her as a woman who never betrayed herself. The dawn was gray and quiet. Jane did not look back at the house, for she was afraid that if she did, she would not be able to leave. The road ahead was long, but she felt strangely light, as if she had at last put down a heavy burden of doubt. ★ Jane chose her own path.

THINK What did Rochester say Jane could be?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 17: Alone on the Moor

Jane took a coach as far as her coins would carry her and then left it, without even a bag. She walked for days across a lonely moor, hungry and cold, sleeping on the heath and eating a crust of bread. At last, in the rain, she saw a light in a window of a lonely house. She knocked, but the servant turned her away. Jane sank on the doorstep in despair. A clergyman named St. John Rivers found her there and carried her in. His two sisters, Diana and Mary, fed her and put her to bed. Over the next days they nursed her back to health, and Jane told them as much of her story as she dared. She gave them a false name, Jane Elliott, so that Rochester could not follow her. The Rivers family was poor but warm, and Jane felt grateful. From her perspective, even in hardship, kindness was essential. She tried to contribute by helping around the house, and St. John found her a post teaching village girls at a small school. The consequence of her decision to leave was a lonely life, yet she found peace. It was a significant step. Jane left Rochester rather than lose herself, and she began to establish a new life. Each evening she watched the sun go down behind the hills and thought of the house she had left, and of the man who might be missing her. Yet she never wished to return to a life of shame, and the quiet work of teaching filled her days. ★ Jane left Rochester rather than lose herself.

THINK Who found Jane on the doorstep?

Read the story. Then think about each question.



Chapter 18: Reader, I Married Him

Months passed. One day, St. John learned that Jane was heiress to a fortune of twenty thousand pounds left by an uncle, and that the Rivers were her cousins. Jane insisted on sharing the money equally with them, because she wanted a family more than wealth. St. John, a serious missionary, asked her to marry him and go to India. Jane said she would go as his helper but not as his wife, for she did not love him. As she considered her dilemma one still night, she seemed to hear Rochester's voice calling "Jane! Jane! Jane!" across the miles. She decided to go back and find out how he was. At Thornfield, she found only a blackened ruin: the house had burned, and Rochester had been hurt in the fire and had lost his sight. He was living in a quiet manor, Ferndean. Jane went to him, and he wept for joy. She told him she was independent and rich now and would be his companion forever. They married quietly. Jane left Rochester rather than compromise her self-respect, proving that a person's inner dignity matters more than wealth, love, or social acceptance. The consequence of her integrity was a happiness she could trust. From her perspective, honesty was essential, and her significant choices helped her establish a true home. In the soft evening light, Jane took Rochester's hand and led him through the garden at Ferndean. He smiled, for he could feel her presence, and she knew that she had never been happier. ★ Jane left Rochester rather than compromise her self-respect, proving that a person's inner dignity matters more than wealth, love, or social acceptance.

THINK What did Jane inherit?