

**"JANE EYRE" BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE: A TALE OF RESILIENCE,
INDEPENDENCE, AND PASSION**

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Abstract: "Jane Eyre" by Charlotte Bronte is a pioneering work of English literature that uses the experiences of its strong-willed protagonist, Jane Eyre, to explore issues of independence, morality, and love. The work, which is set in Victorian England, combines Gothic elements with a progressive feminist viewpoint to attack moral quandaries, social class differences, and restrictions placed on women. The story traces Jane's development from an abandoned orphan to a governess and, at the end, to a self-reliant lady who defies social expectations. The novel is a great source for feminist and postcolonial interpretations because of how it depicts a woman's struggle for equality and autonomy and how it handles complicated characters like Mr. Rochester and Bertha Mason. "Jane Eyre" has drawn criticism for its problematic portrayal of race and colonialism, especially in relation to Bertha Mason, despite its feminist leanings. This essay examines "Jane Eyre's" dual legacy as a feminist classic and a window into Victorian imperialist beliefs, looking at the book's enduring impact on both literature and popular culture.

Key Words: "Jane Eyre", Charlotte Bronte, feminism, independence, Gothic literature, social class, gender roles, Victorian England, postcolonial critique, Bertha Mason, proto-feminism, autonomy, morality, patriarchy, colonialism, adaptations.

Charlotte Bronte's 1847 novel "Jane Eyre" is a classic work of literature that appeals to readers far outside its Victorian setting. The work, which follows the life of the title heroine, Jane Eyre, from her orphaned infancy to her complex adulthood, is a classic of both romance and Gothic literature, fusing deep human passion with social critique. "Jane Eyre" is really a story about morality, independence, and the pursuit of equality in a society that often rejects women.

The story starts with a young Jane Eyre who was mistreated by her cousins and raised as an orphan by her harsh aunt, Mrs. Reed. Despite experiencing emotional maltreatment in her early years and being sent to the strict charity school Lowood School, she exhibits quiet strength. Although Jane faces harsh circumstances at Lowood, she also makes lasting friendships, especially with her friend Helen Burns, whose untimely death significantly altered Jane's perspective.

Jane leaves Lowood to pursue independence. She works as a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she meets the mysterious and moody Mr. Rochester. Despite coming from different socioeconomic classes, Jane and Rochester grow to have a close emotional bond. The revelation of Rochester's secret that his mentally ill wife, Bertha Mason, is sequestered in Thornfield's attic - compromises their marriage, though. Jane is forced to decide between her love for Rochester and her moral integrity after learning this information.

One of the most important decisions Jane makes in the book is to leave Thornfield because she values her dignity more than her feelings. After setting out on a voyage of self-discovery, she eventually finds family, wealth, and a fresh sense of self. Ultimately, following a fire at Thornfield, Jane returns to Rochester, now blind and degraded. When they reunite, it is with equal

emotional and moral respect, indicating that Jane's pursuit for independence and love on her own terms has come to an end.

Major themes in this novel:

1. Self-reliance and dignity: The journey of Jane Eyre is one of freedom and self-reliance. Jane has always stood her ground in the face of hardship, whether it is in her interactions with her harsh aunt or later on in her romance with Rochester. The book delves on Jane's recurrent decision to choose her integrity before obedience. For example, even though she loves Rochester, she declines to be his mistress when given the chance. Brontë highlights that love needs self-respect in order to be meaningful.

2. Roles of Gender in Feminism: Despite being written in the 1800s, "Jane Eyre" presents a progressive assessment of the restrictions imposed on women. Jane's quest for equality has influenced her entire existence, both personally and professionally. Whether it's through marriage or following social norms, she refuses to submit to males. Her ambition for financial autonomy, demonstrated by her decision to work as a governess rather than to rely on men, highlights her feminist nature. This passage in the book relates to Brontë's larger criticism of a patriarchal

3. Social Class and Mobility : Class is a pervasive issue in "Jane Eyre". As an orphan and later as a governess, Jane occupies an ambiguous social position. She is neither a servant nor an equal to her employer. Brontë explores the rigid class structure of Victorian England and the limitations it imposes on individual freedom. The love between Jane and Rochester is particularly fraught because of the disparities in their social standing. However, by the end of the novel, Jane's personal fortune allows her to meet Rochester on equal terms, challenging the era's conventional class boundaries.

4. Passion and Love: Psychedelic and intense, the romance between Jane and Rochester is one of the novel's most captivating aspects. Although they have a passionate connection, there are moral and social issues that arise. Their love story is unique since it centers on the concepts of respect for one another and emotional candor. He comes to regard Jane as an equal when she chooses not to let her passion for Rochester consume her. Their eventual union is based on equality and understanding rather than being a classic Victorian romance.

5. Morality and Religion: "Jane Eyre" is wife with religious allusions, and it delves into various manifestations of spirituality and ethical rectitude. One of Jane's strongest traits is her moral compass; she constantly tries to do the right thing, even if it hurts her. While St. John Rivers and Helen Burns provide as examples of many facets of Christian morality, Jane is guided by her own, well-rounded sense of ethics. Brontë takes aim at fanatical religious devotion, particularly in the case of St. John, whose dogmatic conviction stands in stark contrast to Jane's more empathetic and humanistic outlook.

Numerous media adaptations of "Jane Eyre" have been produced, each presenting a unique take on the topics found in the book. More than 20 movies have been made based on this tale, including the Orson Welles and Joan Fontaine-starring 1943 version and the Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender-starring 2011 version. Every adaptation highlights different facets of the narrative, from its Gothic mood to its feminist implications, while giving the characters and places greater depth. In addition to film, "Jane Eyre" has been adapted for television, radio, theater, and even as a ballet. The novel's enduring popularity is a testament to its timeless themes of love, morality, and independence. Its influence can also be seen in other literary works, including Daphne du Maurier's "Rebecca" and the "Twilight" series, which borrow elements of Brontë's Gothic romance and character dynamics.

In conclusion, readers are still enthralled by Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre" because of its Gothic aspects, deep emotional depth, and examination of concepts like morality, love, independence, and social class.

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