



Story Grammar

Story: *Jane Eyre*

Author: Charlotte Brontë

Plot: The love story of Jane Eyre, a plain yet spirited governess, and her employer, Mr. Rochester, whose arrogant brooding hides a painful past.

Themes: death, loss, betrayal, neglect, loyalty, integrity, love, self-worth, passion, marriage

Setting: English countryside, mid-1800s

Characters: Jane Eyre (protagonist, orphan, governess); Mrs. Reed (Jane's widowed aunt); Eliza, John and Georgiana Reed (Mrs. Reed's children); Miss Temple (teacher at Lowood School); Helen Burns (Jane's classmate and dearest friend); Mr. Rochester (Jane's employer, master of Thornfield Hall); Mrs. Fairfax (housekeeper at Thornfield); Adèle (Mr. Rochester's ward and Jane's pupil); Bertha Mason (Mr. Rochester's first wife); Reverend St. John Rivers and sisters

Chain of Events:

Initiating Event: In the midst of the wedding ceremony between Jane and Mr. Rochester, a witness arrives to reveal that Mr. Rochester has a wife yet living, though raving mad, whose existence renders the marriage illegal and impossible.

Internal Response: Jane's integrity will not allow her to remain at Thornfield and she leaves immediately, nowhere to go and unable to forget the life and the man she left behind.

Attempt/Outcome: Jane attempts to recreate her life in the company of the Reverend St. John Rivers and his kind sisters. The Reverend proposes to Jane, offering a purely spiritual and ascetic companionship.

Resolution: Jane declines the reverend's offer so as not to betray her abiding love and loyalty to Mr. Rochester and decides to return to Thornfield and offer her friendship and companionship to him. She finds Mr. Rochester alone and blind, free at last of Bertha and Thornfield. They marry, adopt Adèle, have a son, and find matrimonial bliss.

Reaction: The novel *Jane Eyre* paints a portrait of a strong-willed, intelligent, virtuous and perseverant woman who overcomes her past and class barriers to win equal stature with the man she loves.