

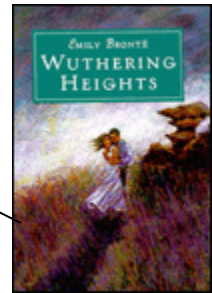
West Indies & foreigners (1st a prequel)



British class system & social issues



C.B.'s biography, written by her contemporary

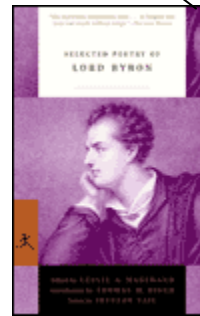


Similar gothic novel by her sister, Emily Brontë

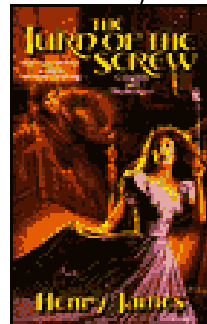
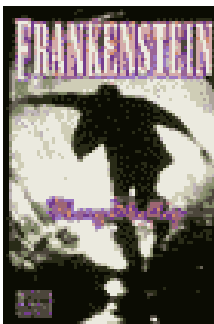
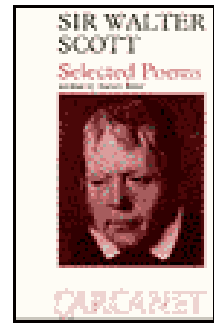
Thematic Unit for Jane Eyre



Comparisons—see www2.sbbs.se/hp/cfalk/bronteng.htm



Romantics poets that influence and are mentioned in the novel



Elements of horror and madness

Websites and films

See next page for detailed list



Bibliography for Jane Eyre

BOOKS

Austen, Jane. *Emma*. New York: Random House, 1991.

This novel examines issues of class and social rank and could be used in examining similar themes in Jane Eyre, especially if students are familiar with the Gwyneth Paltrow/ Jeremy Northam film.

Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992.

Fanny Price, the protagonist in this novel, is treated by her cousins much as Jane is by hers. Her social position in the house is much as Jane's at Thornfield Hall, but most interestingly, it illustrates the idea of wealthy British families entering into trade in the West Indies and the perils they encounter there. The West Indies is presented as wild, dangerous, and mysterious, much as it is in Jane Eyre.

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. New York: Oxford UP, 1995.

This novel, written by Charlotte's sister, is also a Gothic novel, with a style very similar to Jane Eyre. It would perhaps be beneficial to compare the two, especially in light of Charlotte's childhood background.

Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron. *Selected Poems*. London: Oxford UP, 1936.

Jane refers to the romantic poetry of Lord Byron in the novel. It would perhaps shed some light on her character and her thoughts to read some selections of his poetry to see what influenced her mind (as well as Charlotte's).

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. New York: Dutton Children's Books: 1998.

There is a very interesting series of articles, essays and activities relating Carroll's book to Jane Eyre. Most students are familiar with the Alice story and these materials would be a helpful insight into the themes of the novel.

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. New York: Norton, 1999.

This novel would be another helpful comparison of social and class-related themes, one to perhaps allude to or refer to, especially if students are familiar with the Ethan Hawke/ Gwyneth Paltrow film.

Gaskell, Elizabeth Cleghorn. *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*. New York: Oxford UP, 1996.

This book, considered the best biography of Charlotte Brontë, would be very insightful to consider while doing a background unit on the author's life.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *The Yellow Wallpaper and Other Fiction*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1980.

This story contains elements of horror and madness found in Jane Eyre. A discussion of the cause of the protagonist's madness in comparison with Bertha's madness might be pertinent, as well as a projection of what students think will happen to the protagonist in the time that follows the story's conclusion. Will she and should she end up like Bertha?

Grimm, Jacob. *Brothers Grimm Fairy Tales*. Morris Plains, NJ: Unicorn Pub. House, 1993.

It would be useful to compare Jane Eyre to fairytales that the students are familiar with, perhaps Beauty and the Beast or Cinderella. How is Jane's story like theirs and what are some common archetypal images found in both?

James, Henry. *Turn of the Screw*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.

This is another story containing elements of horror and madness found in Brontë's novel, with the additional similarity of the protagonist being a governess at a large estate.

Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. London: Deutsch, 1966.

This novel was written as a prequel to Jane Eyre and covers Mr. Rochester's experience in the West Indies. A very useful addition to a study of Brontë's novel, both presenting and answering questions readers might have about Rochester's former life and how exactly he ended up with Bertha.

Scott, Walter, Sir. *The Poetical Works of Sir Walter Scott*. New York: C.S. Francis, 1853.

Sir Walter Scott's romantic poetry is alluded to in the novel and seems to be much of an influence on Jane's mind. Reading some selections may give insight into Jane's character and her ideas about the world.

Shelley, Mary Wollstonecraft. *Frankenstein, or, the Modern Prometheus*. New York: Modern Library, 1993.

This novel contains some elements of madness and horror found in Jane Eyre. Effective comparisons of gothic style may be made using these two novels.

FILMS

Jane Eyre. Dir. Robert Stevenson. Perf. Joan Fontaine, Orson Welles. 20th Century Fox, 1944.

Jane Eyre. Dir. Julian Amyes. Perf. Timothy Dalton, Zelah Clarke. BBC, 1983.

Jane Eyre. Dir. Zeffirelli. Perf. Anna Paquin, Charlotte Gainsbourg, William Hurt, Joan Plowright. Miramax, 1996.

Jane Eyre. Dir. Robert Young. Perf. Samantha Morton, Ciarán Hinds. A&E, 1997.

Emma. Dir. Douglas McGrath. Perf. Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeremy Northam, Toni Collette. Miramax, 1996.

Mansfield Park. Dir. Patricia Rozema. Perf. Frances O'Connor, Jonny Lee Miller, Alessandro Nivola. Miramax, 1999.

WEBSITES

Jane Eyre—direct link to Gaskell's biography and a PowerPoint skide show
http://www.way.peachnet.edu/faculty/tstrick/00Spring/Jane_Eyre.html

The Victorian Web: Jane Eyre—most extensive list of critical essays
<http://landow.stg.brown.edu/victorian/bronte/cbronte/eyreov.html>

A Jane Eyre Discussion Board—enter a threaded discussion devoted to the novel and the author
<http://www.insidetheweb.com/mbs.cgi/mb226432>

The Brontë Sisters—provides links offering comparisons between *Jane Eyre* and several other texts, such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*
<http://www2.sbbsw.se/hp/cfalk/bronteng.htm>

Jane Eyre Appreciation Page—offers movie posters, movie stills and pictures from productions
<http://members.tripod.com/~Athenalris/jane.html>

Victoria Turvey's Jane Eyre Page—offers various links and looks at 1983 BBC production
<http://www.vturvey.freemove.co.uk/JaneEyre.htm>

CliffsNotes—all the insight of the printed version of CliffsNotes online plus additional links
<http://www.cliffsnotes.com>