

Name and Form

Date

### GCSE Coursework Assignment Prose Study

How does Charlotte Brontë engage the reader's sympathy for Jane Eyre in the opening two chapters of the novel?

#### Introduction

Use the first 2 pages of your booklet to write  $\frac{1}{2}$  side about Charlotte Brontë's life and times?

#### Next

Focus on Chapter 1 of Jane Eyre. Sympathy of reader engaged at start by

1. Use of FIRST PERSON NARRATOR "...I was glad of it: I never liked long walks." [Page 1] By using 'I', the writer ensures that we see things and feel things from Jane's point of view. We have empathy with her.
2. Jane is made to feel isolated when the Reeds sit together and exclude her [Page 1] "...The said Eliza, John and Georgiana were now clustered round their mama in the drawing-room..." We feel sympathy for her.
3. Also, we feel sympathy when Aunt Reed talks to her and tells her that she doesn't want Jane to mix with her own children. [Page 1]

#### Next

4. Reader's sympathy is engaged again when Jane goes to the breakfast room alone. Jane spends time escaping into books. Detailed description of book. [Page 2]
5. Reader is completely on Jane's side when John Reed verbally and physically abuses her. [Plenty of quotes on pages 3-5]

#### Next

6. Jane fights back and the reader is completely on her side. John is bigger physically. Write about your reactions to what she does and what had driven her to it. [Page 5 for quotes]

#### Next

7. Again, our sympathy for Jane is reinforced when so many of the household come to 'rescue' John Reed from Jane! No one is on her side, including the servants.

Next

8. The sheer injustice of Jane's circumstances gets our sympathy. No one accepts her version of events, even though Mrs. Reed herself is aware that John has been bullying Jane [Page 4]. "...the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject: she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me..."

Next

9. Again, the reader's sympathy is engaged for Jane when we hear that Bessie will tie Jane to a stool in the Red Room. This is a complete over-reaction. Jane is only a small ten year old girl!
10. Abbott and Bessie talks about their opinions of Jane in front of her. [Page 6-7] Use some of the quotes about Jane being inferior to the Reed children.

Next

11. [Page 7-8] Jane describes the Red Room. Very grand but cold. Also, not frequented by people much because Mr. Reed had died there nine years ago. Jane's childish imagination is engaged when she realizes she has been locked into this forbidding room. Sees herself in the mirror - ghostly. Jane remembers Bessie's stories about phantoms. Superstition is with Jane.

Next

12. We now hear Jane's opinions about her unfortunate situation. The reader's sympathy is with her as we hear her side of the story. [Page 9 for quotes] Gives her opinion about the Reeds.

Next

13. Jane feels a huge sense of injustice. [Page 9 near end] Jane wants to run away. Lives in a grand house, but very unhappy. [Page 10] Towards last 1/3 of page "Daylight began to forsake the red room..." Jane then loses courage. Feels very sorry for herself but the reader's sympathy is still with her.