Study Guide: Jane Eyre

\*\*\* REMINDER: You are required to PRINT and HANDWRITE your responses \*\*\*

# SECTION 1: Background Research

The better you understand the Victorian era, the deeper your understanding of Jane’s experiences (and Brontë’s themes) will be. BEFORE READING, use the space below to guide your pre-reading research of the novel. Record your notes in the space provided.

# Women’s roles and rights in Victorian England:

**Class structure in Victorian England:**

**Education and the lives of children in Victorian England:**

**Biographical Information about the Author**

**SECTION 2: Character development**

Track Jane’s development as she travels through the five primary settings in the novel. From each setting, select at least two quotations which demonstrate a significant development or change in Jane’s character, and explain the significance of each.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Gateshead*** | **Quotations w/page numbers** | **Significance** | |
| 1.  2. | | 1.  2. |
| ***Lowood*** | 1.  2. | | 1.  2. |
| ***Thornfield*** | 1.  2. | | 1.  2. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **M*oor House*** | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |
| ***Ferndean*** | 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |

# SECTION 3: Exploring Foils

In literature, a foil is a character who is similar to another character in some significant way and yet whose ***differences*** highlight, emphasize, or enhance the distinctive qualities of that other character. Several characters in *Jane Eyre* can be seen as foils for others. Identify three such pairs of characters and discuss the significance of this relationship.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Character’s name**: | **Foil’s name**: |
| **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** | **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** |
| **Thematic significance of contrast between two characters** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Character’s name**: | **Foil’s name**: |
| **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** | **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** |
| **Thematic significance of contrast between two characters** | |
| **Character’s name**: | **Foil’s name**: |
| **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** | **Characteristics significant to foil relationship** |
| **Thematic significance of contrast between two characters** | |

# SECTION 4: Connecting Settings and Characters

Identify the one character most intimately connected with the significant qualities of each of the novel’s five major settings. For each character, identify two major traits that relate to the setting, and demonstrate those traits in the character with quotations from the text.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Character** | **Characteristic** | **Quotations w/page numbers** |
| **Gateshead** | 1. | 1. |
|  | 2. | 2. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lowood** | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |
| **Thornfield** | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |
| **Moor House** | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |
| **Ferndean** | 1.  2. | 1.  2. |

# SECTION 5: Connecting to Background

Review the notes you took in section 1. How does Brontë’s writing reflect and respond to each of the areas you explored?

**Women’s roles and rights in Victorian England:**

**Class structure in Victorian England:**

**Education and the lives of children in Victorian England:**

**Biographical Information about the Author**

# Section 6: Reflection

It is easy to criticize the social missteps of the past, secure in the knowledge that we have advanced and are ever so much more enlightened than our predecessors…but can you do the much more difficult task of turning that critical eye on your own society? What aspect of our CURRENT society deserves comment? You need not focus on class and gender, but you certainly may. Identify your topic and briefly explain your concerns.