*Jane Eyre* Reading Guide:

*Jane Eyre* is a difficult book to read for many reasons. Here are some tools to help you as you approach each chapter. Some good tools in reading a difficult book are 1)consider some questions before you read 2)skim the chapter for important events and 3)read a summary of the chapter before and/or after reading.

Chapter 1-2: *Introduced to Jane and other main characters. Jane is bullied by her cousins and a fight erupts. Jane receives a scary punishment.*

**Questions to ask yourself before reading:** Who are the main characters in the beginning of the story? How does Jane feel about her situation in life? How does Mrs. Reed, Jane’s aunt, feel about Jane?

Chapter 3: *New characters are introduced. Jane learns about her background and parents.*

**Questions:** What is the difference in the way the servants, Mr. Lloyd and Bessie, treat Jane compared to how Jane’s family (aunt and cousins) treats her? What happened to Jane’s parents?

Chapter 4: *Jane waits to go to school and meets the director of the school.*

**Questions:** How does Jane feel about the director of the school? Is he what she had expected?

**Important quote:** “I was left there all alone – winner of the field. It was the hardest battle I had fought, and the first victory I had gained: I stood awhile on the rug, where Mr. Brocklehurst had stood, and I enjoyed my conqueror’s solitude” (37).

Chapter 5: *Jane travels to Lowood. Jane meets her teachers and makes a friend.*

**Questions:** How do you predict Jane is going to be treated at the school for orphans?

Chapter 6: *Life is harsh at Lowood for many reasons. Jane learns more about her new friend, Helen Burns.*

**Questions:** What do you think of Helen Burn’s character? Why do you think she acts the way she does?

Chapter 7: *Mr. Brockelhurst subjects Jane to punishment for what Mrs. Reed has told him about Jane.*

**Questions:** How does Helen help Jane? Do you agree with Mr. Brockelhurst’s punishment? Do you agree with what Mrs. Reed said about Jane?

Chapter 8: *Mr. Lloyd and Miss Temple help Jane from her humiliation of the punishment.*

**Questions:** What does Jane decide to do as a result of Mr. Lloyd and Miss Temple’s kindness?

**Important Quote:** “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.”

Chapter 9: *The weather gets very bad and many girls become sick. Jane experiences an important moment with Helen Burns.*

**Questions:** What do you think of Helen and Jane’s friendship? What happens to Helen Burns in this chapter?

**Important quote:** “Though I am a defective being, with many faults and few redeeming points, yet I never tired of Helen Burns; nor ever ceased to cherish for her a sentiment of attachment, as strong, tender, and respectful as any that ever animated my heart” (79)

Chapter 10: *This chapter spans 8 years, 6 of which Jane remains at school and 2 of which she becomes a teacher. Jane decides it is time for a change from Lowood.*

**Questions:** Why were the changes made at Lowood?

Chapter11: *Jane arrives at Thornfield. She meets her student as well as the master of the house.*

**Questions:** What is Jane’s first impression of Thornfield and Mrs. Fairfax? Who is Jane going to be tutoring? What is your first impression of the little girl?Who is Grace Pool and what is she like?

Chapter 12: *Jane meets Mr. Rochester. She begins to feel restless at Thornfield.*

**Questions:** How does Jane feel about Thornfield? What do you think of her meeting with Rochester for the first time?

**Important quote:** “It is vain to say human beings out to be satisfied with tranquility: they must have action; and they will make it if they cannot find it. Millions are condemned to a stiller doom than mine, and millions are in silent revolt against their lot.”

Chapter 13: *Mr. Rochester’s past is explained in more detail. Jane gets to know him better.*

**Questions:** What do you think of Mr. Rochester’s demeanor?

**Important quote:** “He went on as a statue would, that is, he neither spoke nor moved. Mrs. Fairfax seemed to think it necessary that some one should be amiable, and she began to talk.”

Chapter 14: *Rochester asks Jane to sit and speak with him for awhile. They have a conversation by the fire and Jane’s interest in Adele’s past is piqued.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Rochester didn’t explain Adele’s past right then? What are some predictions you have about why she is at Thornfield?

What do you think of Jane’s response to Rochester’s question if he is handsome?

Chapter 15: *Jane learns more about Adele’s past. Something strange happens in the middle of the night that awakes Rochesters.*

**Questions:** What do you make of the strange occurrence in the middle of the night? What do you think happened? Who is Grace Poole?

Chapter 16: *The reaction of the servants of the event from the night before is not what Jane expects. Jane starts to become aware of how she feels toward Rochester. A new character, Blanche Ingram, is introduced*

**Questions:**

Chapter 17: *Some guests are brought to Thornfield. Blanche Ingram and Jane interact.*

**Questions:** What do you think about Grace Poole? Why do you think she has a higher salary than the rest of the servants? Why do you think Blanche treats Jane the way she does?”

**Important quotes:** “ ‘Goodnight my –‘ He stopped, bit his lip, and abruptly left me.”

Chapter 18: *Blanche and Rochester continue to spend time together. A strange visitor comes to Thornfield.*

**Questions:** Do you think that Blanche and Rochester really will do what Jane suspects? What do you think of Mr. Mason? Why do you think Blanche reacted the way she did to the gypsy?

Chapter 19: *Jane has her fortune read by the gypsy. She discovers something about the gypsy.*

**Questions:** What is it the Jane finds out about the gypsy? Why was Blanche in a bad mood after talking to her?

Chapter 20: *Another strange occurrence happens in the middle of the night. Rochester confides in Jane and asks her for help with something.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Rochester gives the instructions about Mason to Jane that he gives her? What do you think the meaning of Rochester’s “hypothetical” story is? Do you think Rochester really loves Blanche?

Chapter 21: *Jane has strange dreams. Due to some sad circumstances, Jane returns to Gateshead to visit Mrs. Reed and her cousins.*

**Questions:** Do you think Jane’s dreams are a bad omen? What is your reaction to the letter Mrs. Reed gives Jane?

Chapter 22: *Jane stays at Gateshead for awhile longer and then returns to Thornfield and Mr. Rochester.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Rochester bought the carriage?

**Important quote:** “I am strangely glad to get back to you’ and wherever you are is my home – my only home.”

Chapter 23: *Jane and Rochester take a walk in the garden and discuss some important upcoming events. Jane and Rochester tell each other their true opinion of each other and Rochester asks Jane an important question.*

**Questions:** What is your reaction to Jane and Edward’s conversation in the garden?

**Important quote:** “I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will; which I now exert to leave you.”

“Do you think, because I am poor, obscure, plain, and little, I am soulless and heartless? You think wrong! – I have as much soul as you, – and full as much heart!”

Chapter 24: *Jane and Rochester make preparations for their upcoming event. Mrs. Fairfax treats Jane poorly because of what she saw between Jane and Edward.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Mrs. Fairfax is so against Jane’s decision? How do you interpret Jane’s feelings when she hears herself referred to the different name? What do you think about the role money plays in Jane and Rochester’s relationship? Do you think it’s different than how money plays a role in relationships of today’s world?

Chapter 25: *Jane continues to have odd dreams and premonitions. Rochester tells her that he will explain more about the odd happenings in Thornfield in one year’s time.*

**Questions:** What do you think of Jane’s odd dreams? Do you think they are significant? What do you think Rochester is hiding?

Chapter 26: *Jane and Rochester’s big day arrives. A stranger stops the event and reveals a secret about Rochester’s past.*

**Questions:** Did the truth about Rochester and the odd happenings in Thornfield surprise you?

Chapter 27: *Rochester further explains his past in detail. He asks Jane to make an alternate decision to their original plan.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Jane does not want to do things the way Edward wants to? Why is she so adamant about leaving?

Chapter 28: *Jane leaves Thornfield and travels with limited supplies and in bad conditions. She wanders upon a house and meets some new people.*

**Questions:** Why do you think Jane says her name is Jane Elliot?

Chapter 29: *Jane gets to know the Rivers and recuperates from her long journey.*

**Questions:** What is your impression of Diana and Mary? What about St John?

Chapter 30: *Jane furthers her friendship with Diana and Mary. St John finds a new job for Jane.*

**Questions:** What is St John’s ultimate goal?

Chapter 31: *Jane begins working as a teacher but has mixed feelings about it.*

**Questions:** What do you think of Rosamond Oliver? What does Jane suspect based on how Rosamond and St. John act around each other?

Chapter 32: *Jane’s students grow to love her. Jane shares her drawings with St. John and she confronts him about his feelings for Rosamond.*

**Questions:** Why does St. John pull off the corner of Jane’s drawings? What do you think this means? Do you agree with what St. John said about Rosamond as a missionary’s wife?

Chapter 33: *St. John approaches Jane with a very interesting story. As he tells her, Jane begins to comprehend and has some important questions. Jane and St. John discover something life-changing for both of them.*

**Questions:** Do you agree with what Jane wants to do with her new gift?

Chapter 34: *Jane spends more time with the Rivers and is convinced by St. John to study Hindustani with him. St. John asks Jane a very important question.*

**Questions:** Why is St. John so adamant about the plan he proposed to Jane? Why does he think it’s the only way?

Chapter 35: *St. John does not give up on his plan and continually urges Jane to comply with it.*

*In the middle of the night, Jane hears a familiar voice.*

**Questions:** Do you think Jane will give in to St John’s plan? Why do you think she so adamantly refuses?

**Important quote:** “But as his wife – at his side always, and always restrained, and always checked – forced to keep the fire of my nature continually low, to compel it to burn inwardly and never utter a cry, though the imprisoned flame consumed vital and vital – this would be unendurable.”

Chapter 36: *Jane, perturbed by her experience hearing the voice the night before, travel to Thornfield. She learns something important that happened at Thornfield during her absence.*

**Questions:** What do you think Jane will find when she goes to Ferndean?

Chapter 37: *Jane reunites with an old friend.*

**Questions:** Why didn’t Jane tell Rochester about hearing the voice?

Chapter 38: Just read it. ☺