



List of Characters

Jane Eyre – the protagonist and narrator of the novel

Edward Rochester – Jane's employer, master of Thornfield; falls in love with Jane and desires to marry her.

St. John Rivers (pronounced "Sinjin") – A distant relative who helps Jane after she runs away from Thornfield. He also desires to marry Jane and serves as a foil to Edward Rochester.

Mrs. Reed – Jane's cruel aunt, who raises her at Gateshead Hall until Jane is sent away to Lowood School the age of ten.

Bessie Lee – The maid at Gateshead; the only person in Jane's childhood who treats her kindly.

Mr. Lloyd – The Reeds' apothecary, who suggests that Jane be sent away to school. He writes a letter confirming Jane's story about her abusive childhood, thus clearing Jane of Mrs. Reed's charge that she is a liar.

Georgiana Reed – Jane's cousin, one of Mrs. Reed's two daughters. She treats Jane cruelly when they are children, but later befriends her.

Eliza Reed – Jane's cousin, also one of Mrs. Reed's daughters. She devotes herself to the church, eventually becoming the Mother Superior of a convent in France.

John Reed – He is Jane's cousin, Mrs. Reed's son, and brother to Eliza and Georgiana. Appallingly cruel, he falls into a life of drinking and gambling.

Helen Burns – Jane's close friend at the Lowood School. She dies of consumption (tuberculosis) in Jane's arms, having endured her miserable life with a dignity that Jane does not understand.

Mr. Brocklehurst – The cruel and hypocritical master of the Lowood School. He preaches self-deprivation while stealing from the school to support his own luxurious lifestyle.

Maria Temple – a kind teacher at Lowood who treats Jane and Helen with respect and compassion

Miss Scatcherd – Jane's sour and vicious teacher at Lowood; behaves especially cruelly toward Helen.

Alice Fairfax – Alice Fairfax is the housekeeper at Thornfield Hall.

Bertha Mason – Rochester's secret wife; formerly beautiful and wealthy Creole woman, she has become insane and violent.

Grace Poole – Grace Poole is Bertha Mason's keeper at Thornfield.

Adèle Varens – She is Jane's pupil at Thornfield. Although Rochester assumed responsibility for the girl after she was abandoned by her mother—his French mistress—he does not believe himself to be Adèle's father.

Sophie – Adèle's French nurse at Thornfield

Richard Mason – Bertha's brother.

Mr. Briggs – Attorney to Jane's uncle, John Eyre; he helps Richard Mason prevent Jane's wedding to Rochester when he learns that Rochester is already married to Bertha.

Blanche Ingram – She is a beautiful socialite who hopes to marry Rochester for his money.

Diana Rivers – Sister to St. John and Mary

Mary Rivers – Sister to St. John and Diana

John Eyre – Jane's uncle; leaves her a fortune of 20,000 pounds.

Uncle Reed – Mrs. Reed's late husband, brother to Jane's late sister and, thus, Jane's uncle.