

Name :- Dr Madhvi Kumari

College :- H.D. Jain College  
English department

Subject :- English (Sem-2, CC-9) M.A

Topic :- 'Jane Eyre'

\* A critical appreciation of "Jane Eyre" as the leading character of the novel.

= Charlotte Bronte is one of the famous female novelist of the early Victorian age. However till that time the no of female novelists ~~are~~ is ~~very~~ rare and in her short span of life Charlotte Bronte has written only four novels. Among them 'Jane Eyre' is one of the most popular novel.

Charlotte Bronte was essentially the novelist of passion and intense life. She was not interested in defining a life without passions. Before Charlotte love means sensuality, blind attraction between man and woman but Charlotte gave a new dimension to love. Her novels do not exhibit various aspects of human life but are mainly concerned with the instincts of and passions of woman. on

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that ground 'Jane Eyre' is a true picture of such woman character.

Charlotte beautifully and skillfully revealed a woman's heart and soul. Her female characters are more convincing than her male characters. She inaugurated a new conception of the heroine in English fiction, as a woman of vital strength and passionate feeling.

Jane Eyre is the heroine of the novel "Jane Eyre" but she is not a conventional heroine of Victorian era. She demonstrates a new era of heroine - who is vigorous, active, energetic and full of zest for life. In the beginning of the novel she is not rich or too beautiful but she is small, plain and simple. She is an orphan child of ten years age but as the story progresses we observe her as a teacher, governess and lover.

In the very beginning of the novel we find Jane as 10 year old orphan child, living with her Aunt Mrs Reed and her children. Neither Mrs Reed nor her children like her. Even they torture her also. Often she was locked in the red-room in which her uncle died.

Soon we find that Jane is a revolutionary by nature. When she was not able to tolerate the torture given to her, she rebelled against it and pour out her

anger and pain against Mrs Reed and her cousins.

She was sent to Lowood school as her wish to study in school. Here again she found herself in a new environment. Though she faced some hardship but her desire to learn new things motivated her and like a dedicated and sincere student she learnt French and drawing. Soon after completing her studies, she becomes a teacher at Lowood school, where she was earlier a student.

Jane was a very hardworking girl and adventurous also. She left the Lowood school for better opportunity, she becomes a governess at Thornfield Hall. ~~She~~ and afterward she learnt German and little Hindustani. Jane was a lover of books also. In the very beginning of the novel we find her reading a book and as the story moves on we find her often with books. She was a lover of nature also; many times ~~we~~ in the novel we find Jane lost in the beauties of nature. This shows her love for life also.

Jane even after facing so many odds of life, has deep faith in life and love. When her school friend Helen burns ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> at the verge of death due to typhus fever, she reflected "How sad to be lying now on a sick bed and to be in danger of dying! This world is pleasant - it would be dreary to be called from it, and to

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have to go, who knows where?" When Mr Brocklehurst asked her if she would like to die to go to hell she answered that she did not like to die. Her faith in life has saved her from all the difficulties of life.

Jane has a loving and kind nature also. It is due to that at Lowood school, Miss Temple take care of her ~~as~~ when she <sup>comes to</sup> know about her painful life. At Thornfield Hall she is happy and satisfied ~~with~~ under the love and care of Mr Rochester. At the Moor-house her cousins and aunt all loved and care for her. Both Mr Rochester and John Rivers wanted to marry her due to her loveful nature. Jane has sympathy even for her ~~to~~ tormentors - Mrs Reed and her children. Though she has promised not to see her again but when she is called there and comes to know about her <sup>aunt's</sup> illness and her son's death, she went back to Gateshead Hall and stays there at her cousin's request.

Jane's love for Rochester is true and great. ~~But when~~ Though Mr Rochester has cheated her, he does not tell her about his first marriage and wants to keep her as his mistress, she is unable to forget him and out of her deep love and sympathy for him she finds him and

knowing that everything is burnt to ashes and Rochester is a blind and a cripple, she accepts him as her husband and is very much happy with him. She defined her love life as, "No woman was ever nearer to her mate than I am." She even called herself blessed, "she said, "I hold myself supremely blest - blest beyond what language can express; because I am my husband's life as fully as he is mine. The following lines shows her true dedication and passionate love.

Really the character of Jane Eyre, the heroine of the novel is drawn with great skill. Once she told her sisters Anne and Emily that they were "morally wrong in adopting the conventional heroine. I will show you a heroine as plain and small as myself, who shall be as interesting as any of yours." She gave birth to such a heroine in "Jane Eyre." She is really small, plain and simple but full of ~~life~~ charm. We meet her as a child and see her as a teacher, governess, a lover and a wife through the advancement of the novel. In all these forms she continuously attracts our attention. We admire her and love her for her strong will, honest mind, loving heart and peculiar personality.