

## **Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte** **Chapters 1-5**

## **FYI Allusions & Older Vocabulary**

1. Moreen – a kind of strong woolen or cotton fabric
2. *Bewick's History of British Birds* – first published in 1797 and 1804, containing engravings by Thomas Bewick (1753-1828)
3. “Where the Northern Ocean . . . Hebrides” – an allusion to “Autumn” (1730), a poem by James Thompson (1700-48)
4. vignettes – snapshots; illustrations used at the beginnings or ends of chapters; Jane is referring to the engravings accompanying the text in Bewick's book.
5. *Pamela* the title of a novel by Samuel Richardson (1689-1761), published in 1740-41
6. *Henry, Earl of Moreland* – title of a book by John Wesley (1703-91), published in 1781
7. *Goldsmith's History of Rome* – book by Oliver Goldsmith (c. 1730-74), published in 1769; the Roman emperors Nero and Caligula are famous for their cruelty
8. Ligature – a thing used in tying or binding
9. Marseilles – a strong cotton cloth with a raised weave, originally made in Marseilles, France
10. Bourne – goal; objective
11. Fagging – hard and tiring work, such as that done by a servant
12. Convolvuli – twisting vines
13. *Gulliver's Travels* - famous satiric novel by Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), published in 1726; Lilliput and Brobdingnag are two of the fantastic lands that Gulliver visits.
14. Guy Fawkes – an infamous conspirator (1570-1606) who was executed for attempting to blow up the king and both houses of Parliament in 1605
15. Doat – dote; to be excessively fond
16. Parterre – a garden in which the flower beds form a pattern
17. Poltroon – coward
18. Ruth – pity
19. *Sotto voce* – in a very low voice, so as not to be overheard
20. *Onding on snaw* – on the verge of snowing
21. Pelisse – an overcoat resembling a long cloak
22. L\_\_\_\_\_0 possibly Leeds, a city in northern England; Bronte passed through Leeds when she herself was sent away to school at Cowan Bridge.
23. Stuff frocks – dresses made of woolen cloth
24. Collect – a short prayer suited to a particular day or occasion
25. Babel – city mentioned in Genesis 11:1-9, where “the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth”
26. Organ of veneration – term used in the supposed science of phrenology; phrenologists believed that the shape and bumps of the skull indicate a person's character and faculties; the novel contains several allusion to phrenology.
27. Front – brown; forehead
28. Frieze – a kind of heavy woolen cloth with a shaggy nap on one side
29. Mullioned – having panes divided by vertical bars
30. *Rasselas* – title of a didactic romance by Samuel Johnson (1709-84), published in 1750; in it the main character thinks that “sure happiness is somewhere to be found” but can find it nowhere.

## **Chapters 6-12**

31. Ewer – a large water pitcher
32. Charles I – King of England from 1625- 1649, beheaded after Oliver Cromwell overthrew the monarchy
33. Felix – allusion to Acts 24:25; Felix was a Roman governor who “trembled” when he heard St. Paul teach about righteousness, temperance, and judgment
34. Northumberland – northernmost county in England, bordering Scotland
35. Cumbrous – cumbersome
36. Cumberland - area of England near the Scottish border
37. Hebdomadal – weekly
38. Moiety – a half portion
39. The fifth . . . St. Matthew – the portion of the New Testament recounting Christ's Sermon on the Mount

40. Eutyclus – allusion to Acts 20; Eutyclus fell asleep while St. Paul was preaching, fell from the loft where he was seated, and was presumed dead.
41. Surtout – a kind of long, close fitting overcoat
42. Chemises – plain, short-sleeved undergarments
43. Tuckers – detachable collars tucked in at the neck opening of a dress
44. If ye suffer . . . happy are ye – Brocklehurst is paraphrasing part of Christ’s Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:6) but is perverting its meaning
45. Rubicon – any point at which turning back becomes impossible; the allusion is to the Rubicon River that Julius Caesar’s army crossed in 49 B. C., thereby beginning a civil war.
46. Brahma . . . Juggernaut – the names of two Hindu gods
47. Bethesda – a pool in Jerusalem believed to have healing properties; it is ironic that Brocklehurst compares Lowood to Bethesda since his school offers none of the hope of physical well being that Bethesda did.
48. Phylactery – a small leather case containing slips inscribed with passages from the Scriptures, worn by Jewish men during prayer
49. Barmecide supper – a pretended meal at which no food is actually served, so named after a prince in *The Arabian Nights* who served such a meal to a starving beggar
50. Cuyp-like – as in the landscapes of the Dutch painter Aelbert Cuyp (1620-1691)
51. Pastille – a small lump of aromatic paste, burned to fumigate or disinfect a room
52. Beck – a little rocky stream
53. ‘ing’ and holm – low, flat land along a river
54. effluvia – invisible outflowing particles
55. *Resurgam* – Latin for “I shall rise again”
56. Debarressed – relieved
57. Thirty pounds – The British pound was worth about 5 U.S. dollars at the time for the novel [thus, \$150]
58. *En regle* – French for “in order”
59. Millcote . . . on the banks of the A\_\_\_\_\_ - Millcote is a fictional name; Bronte probably had Leeds in mind, a city in northern England on the banks of the River Aire.
60. Plucked – British slang – rejected after having failed an examination
61. Madeira – Portuguese island in the Atlantic off the coast of Northern Africa, famous for a sherrylike wine that bears its name
62. Negus – drink made of hot water, wine, lemon juice, honey, and spices
63. Cuirass – an armored breastplate
64. Rookery – a roost for rooks, a crowlike bird
65. Tyrian-dyed – purple
66. Parian – made of fine, white marble from Paros, Greece
67. Cachination – loud, excessive laughing
68. *Par parenthese* – French for “by means of parenthesis”
69. Pretercanine – unlike what one would expect of a dog

**Chapters 13-24**

70. Lustre – chandelier
71. Nonnette – little nun
72. Hector – to bully
73. Hôtel – in France, the mansion of a rich person
74. Dentelles – lace clothing
75. Habergeon – a coat of armor
76. A chicken in the pip – that is, a chicken suffering from pip, an infectious disease of fowl
77. Beulah – a Hebrew name meaning “married”; the allusion is to Isaiah 62:4
78. Chimeras – impossible or foolish fancies; in Greek mythology, the Chimera was a fire breathing monster.
79. Abigails – ladies’ maids, so named after a character in *The Scornful Lady* (1610), a play by Beaumont and Fletcher
80. *Minois chiffonne* – attractive, but in an unusual way
81. Dian – Diana, Roman goddess of the moon and hunting
82. Incubi – oppressive burdens [probably coming from demons by the same name]
83. *Tant pis* – French for “so much the worse”

84. Rizzio of so divine a Mary – David Rizzio (c. 1533-66), an Italian singer and musician who became a favorite of Mary, Queen of Scots; he was assassinated by Mary's second husband, lord Darnley.
85. Bothwell – James Hepburn (c. 1536-78), fourth Earl of Bothwell; he married Mary, Queen of Scots, after having her second husband murdered.
86. Corsairs – pirates who sailed the coast of North Africa; the allusion is to Lord Byron's popular poem *The Corsair* (1814), whose main character is a typical Byronic hero.
87. Paynim - designating a non-Christian, especially a Moslem
88. Bridewell – sixteenth century London hospital, subsequently a place of detention and correction for vagrants and immoral women, rebuilt in 1802
89. Girandoles – branched candleholders
90. *Le cas* – French for “the thing to do”
91. Sybil – fortune teller
92. Diablerie – diabolical behavior; witchcraft
93. Blackaviced – having a dark complexion
94. Ariel – in Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, a spirit of the air
95. Cairngorm – a kind of quartz found in Scotland, used as a gem
96. Quiz – an awkward or eccentric person
97. The Rubric – the directions in a prayer book for conducting a religious service, often printed in red
98. Queen Boadicea – queen of the Iceni in ancient Britain, who led an unsuccessful revolt against the Romans in 61 A. D.
99. Midsummer-eve – June 23, the day before the feast of St. John near the summer solstice; in European folklore it was believed that witches and evil spirits performed rites on this night to renew their supernatural powers; people customarily locked themselves into their houses to avoid becoming the target of these powers.
100. Organ of Adhesiveness – another of Bronte's many references to the pseudoscience of phrenology; this organ was supposedly located at the back of the head.
101. Mustard-Seed – one of the fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*
102. Aerial – like air; note the similarity of the word's sound to *Ariel* and *Eyre*
103. Ahasuerus – allusion to the Book of Esther; Ahasuerus was a wealthy Persian king who made the Jewish woman Esther his queen and promised her half of his kingdom
104. Bairn – (Scottish) child
105. Tyne (Scottish) lose
106. Suttee – former Hindu custom in which a widow threw herself onto her husband's funeral pyre

**Chapters 25-28**

107. D.V. – abbreviation for *Deo volente*, Latin for “God Willing”
108. Blonde – a type of lace, so called because of its flaxen color
109. Funchal – capital of Madeira
110. Puck out you right eye; yourself cut off your right hand – an allusion to the sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:27-30); it foreshadows Rochester's fate.
111. Achan – an allusion to Joshua 7:19-26; Achan was stoned by the Israelites for having hidden an “accursed thing” in his tent
112. Upas-tree – a Javanese tree that yields a poisonous fluid; thus, anything harmful or deadly in its influence
113. Will-o'-the-wisp - wandering spirit that supposedly haunts marshes; any delusive hope
114. Grafinnen – countesses
115. Messalina's attribute – Messalina, wife of the Roman emperor Claudius, was notorious for her promiscuity.
116. My solitary way – an allusion to the conclusion of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, describing Adam and Eve's expulsion from Paradise

**Chapters 29-38**

117. Coruscating – sparkling; flashing
118. Peri – in Persian mythology, an elf or fairy
119. *Lusus naturae* (Latin) a freak of nature
120. Mammon – personification of riches and greedy pursuit

## ***Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte**

## **FYI Allusions & Older Vocabulary**

121. “Marmion” – long narrative poem by Sir Walter Scott, published in 1808. Critics, citing Jane’s referring to this book as “a new publication,” sometimes use this allusion to date the action of the novel; other allusions, however, such as Blanche’s reference to Byron’s *The Corsair*, refute the assertion that Bronte specifically had the first decade of the nineteenth century in mind.
122. *Cui bono?* - Latin for “whose benefit?”
123. *Paysannes* and *Bauerinnen* – French and German words respectively for “female peasants”
124. Him of Macedonia – allusion to Acts 16:9
125. The vice of Demas – allusion to II Timothy 4:10; Deams, “having loved this present world,” deserted Paul
126. Hierophant – priest
127. Nebuchadnezzar in the fields – allusion to Daniel 4:33; Nebuchadnezzar was a Babylonian king who was made to live like a beast until he acknowledged the dominion of God
128. Cicatrized – scarred
129. High-lows – high boots laced up the front, considered unfashionable
130. Scrag – [slang] the human neck
131. Greatheart. . . Apollyon – allusion to characters in the famous allegorical tale *The Pilgrim’s Progress* (1678) by John Bunyan