

## BEFORE READING

**1** Look at these pictures of Jane Eyre. Match the correct description to each picture.

- (a) Jane with her cousin in her aunt's home.
- (b) Jane with her friend at boarding school.
- (c) Jane with her pupil when she is a governess.
- (d) Jane with her beloved as an independent woman.



**2** What kind of person do you think Jane Eyre is? Work with a partner and write a list of possible words to describe her.

- 3** Jane Eyre is an orphan. Here is a definition of the word “orphan”.

**orphan** ['ɔrfən]

(noun) a child whose parents are dead.

Look at these groups of different people in the story.  
Use a dictionary to help you with any words you do not understand. Match the correct title to the group of people.

① School

② House

③ Family

- |       |               |                |         |         |       |
|-------|---------------|----------------|---------|---------|-------|
| _____ | (a) aunt      | uncle          | cousin  |         |       |
| _____ | (b) teacher   | superintendent | owner   | monitor | pupil |
| _____ | (c) governess | housekeeper    | servant | ward    | maid  |

- 4** Match the titles from Exercise **3** to the sentences below.

- \_\_\_\_\_ (a) Jane Eyre works as a governess at Thornfield Hall. Her little ward is called Adela. The housekeeper, Mrs Fairfax, is friendly and kind. Jane meets and gradually falls in love with the owner of the house, Mr Rochester.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (b) The only nice teacher at Lowood is the superintendent Miss Temple. The owner, Mr Brocklehurst, is very strict.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (c) When Jane Eyre's parents die she is sent to live with her aunt and uncle and her cousins: the Reed family.

5 Match the words from the story with the pictures.

slates  
advertisement  
stool  
easel  
piano  
drawing  
sewing  
benches



a \_\_\_\_\_



b \_\_\_\_\_



c \_\_\_\_\_



d \_\_\_\_\_



e \_\_\_\_\_



f \_\_\_\_\_



g \_\_\_\_\_



h \_\_\_\_\_

**6** Use each of the words from Exercise **5** to complete the following sentences.

- a** In the library there was an \_\_\_\_\_ for painting.
- b** I wanted to look for a new job so I decided to put an \_\_\_\_\_ in the newspaper.
- c** I was standing on a \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the room and everyone was looking at me.
- d** When Mr Brocklehurst entered the schoolroom everyone stopped writing on their \_\_\_\_\_ and stood up.
- e** I decided to spend the afternoon doing some \_\_\_\_\_ for Adela's lessons the next day so I went upstairs to get some paper and pencils.
- f** Grace Poole does the \_\_\_\_\_ and other jobs.
- g** Girls of all ages were sitting on wooden \_\_\_\_\_ on each side of long tables.
- h** I heard her invite him to sing while she played the \_\_\_\_\_.

- 7 Look at this picture of different kinds of rural Victorian transport. Match these words to the numbers in the picture.

on foot  
open carriage  
coach  
on horse




**8** Read the following text about Victorian Britain.

The Victorian age in British history is named after Queen Victoria, who was Britain's queen from 1837 until 1901. Life in Victorian times was not the same as it is now. There were big differences in homes, schools, jobs and entertainments. No TV, no computers, no central heating. Transport was very different too.



Most people travelled on foot or by coach for longer distances. Only richer people had horses to ride or carriages to go out in. Train travel in the 1840s was still very rare because there weren't many railway lines. There were no cars (until the last few years of Victoria's reign). There was no air travel but only very long journeys on ships.

-  Work with a partner and write a list of the differences between life now and in Victorian times. Discuss with another pair.



## 1. Gateshead Hall



It was raining heavily and very cold outside. My aunt, Mrs Reed, was lying on a sofa in front of the fire in the drawing room<sup>1</sup>. Her three children Eliza, John, and Georgiana were sitting around her but she didn't want me there.

"Jane, you can sit with us when you become more pleasant," she said. "Now go away and be quiet."

I went into the breakfast room and chose a book from the bookcase<sup>2</sup>. Then I climbed into the window seat<sup>3</sup> behind the curtain with it.

Suddenly the door opened.

"Hello!" cried John Reed. Then he paused. He thought the room was empty.

"Where is she?" he continued. "Lizzy! Georgy! Jane isn't here. Tell mama she's gone out in the rain!"

Eliza put her head round the door. "She's behind the curtain, John."

I came out immediately. I didn't want to be pulled out by John.

"What do you want?" I asked.

<sup>1</sup> drawing room 客廳

<sup>2</sup> bookcase 書櫃

<sup>3</sup> window seat (窗檻下的)窗座







"Say, 'What do you want, Master Reed?'" John answered. He sat down in an armchair and continued, "I want you to come here."

John Reed was fourteen—four years older than me and he bullied<sup>1</sup> me continually. I was very afraid of him. No one in the house took my side<sup>2</sup>. The servants<sup>3</sup> were too afraid and his mother, Mrs Reed, didn't notice. I was completely alone.

I came up to his chair and he stuck out his tongue at me.

I knew that he wanted to hit me. As I looked at him I thought, "How ugly you are."

Maybe he knew what I was thinking because he suddenly lifted his hand and hit me hard. I fell back a step or two from his chair.

"That is for being rude to my mama," said John, "and for hiding behind curtains, and for looking at me in that way—you rat!"

I was sure he wanted to hit me again.

"What were you doing behind the curtain?" he demanded<sup>4</sup>.

"I was reading."



- 1 bully ['bulɪ] (v.) 霸凌；欺侮
- 2 take my side 站在我這邊
- 3 servant ['sɜːvənt] (n.) 僕人
- 4 demand [dɪ'mænd] (v.) 查問



"Show me the book."

I returned to the window seat and picked up the book.

"You have no right<sup>5</sup> to take our books. You aren't part of our family. You have no money. Your father left you nothing. You have no right to live here with gentlemen's children like us and eat the same meals that we eat and wear clothes that our mama buys for you. I'll teach you to take my books! Because they are mine. Everything in this house will be mine in a few years. Go and stand by the door."

I did and John threw the book at me. I fell and hit my head. It started to bleed<sup>6</sup> and was very painful. Suddenly I felt angry.

"Wicked<sup>7</sup> and cruel boy!" I said. "You are like a murderer! You are like the Roman emperors!"

"What! What!" he cried. "Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? I'll tell mama!"

He ran towards me, grabbed<sup>8</sup> my hair and shook me. I fought back furiously<sup>9</sup>.

"Rat! Rat!" he shouted.

Eliza and Georgiana ran to find Mrs Reed. They came back with Bessie the nurse<sup>10</sup> and Miss Abbot the maid<sup>11</sup> behind them.

"Can you believe it? She attacked Master John!" I heard someone say.

5 have no right 沒有權利

6 bleed [bli:d] (v.) 流血 (動詞三態：  
bleed; bled; bled)

7 wicked ['wɪkɪd] (a.) 壞的；缺德的

8 grab [græb] (v.) 攫取；抓取

9 furiously ['fjʊəriəsli] (adv.) 憤怒地

10 nurse [nɜ:s] (n.) 奶媽

11 maid [meɪd] (n.) 侍女

## 作者簡介

夏綠蒂·勃朗特 (Charlotte Brontë, 1816–1855) 出生於 1816 年，父親是一位牧師，住在位於約克郡一個小村子哈華斯的牧師公館裡。母親在夏綠蒂五歲時便過世，家中的兄弟姊妹由姨媽所帶大。她和兩個姊姊瑪麗雅、依麗莎白以及妹妹艾蜜莉，曾經上過學校一陣子，然而在 1825 年，瑪麗雅和依麗莎白死於結核病，夏綠蒂於是和艾蜜莉離開學校，由父親在家教導她們和哥哥布倫威爾。

夏綠蒂在英格蘭當過一陣子的家庭教師，後來前往布魯塞爾學習法文，之後留在那裡教書。夏綠蒂返回約克郡後，想和妹妹艾蜜莉、安一起在哈華斯開辦學校，不過因為過於地處偏僻，學校開不成，三姊妹便轉而開始寫作。

1846 年，夏綠蒂說服妹妹們，三人共同出版了《庫瑞、艾里斯和亞克頓·貝爾的詩集》，三姊妹都使用了筆名，因為當時女性的作者並不多見。這本書出版之後，銷售淒慘，不過夏綠蒂在 1847 年出版的《簡愛》，旋即洛陽紙貴。

1854 年，夏綠蒂和牧師尼可拉斯結婚，卻於隔年去世，得年僅 39 歲。

## 本書簡介

《簡愛》(1847 年出版) 的時空背景設定在英國維多利亞時代的約克郡谷地，在那個時代，這本小說並非常規小說，不過一出版就受到讀者的喜愛，至今不墜。

《簡愛》的故事在講述成長、勇氣和愛，小說描述一位命運悲慘的孤兒女孩，她在成長過程中經歷各種環境，慢慢型塑出簡愛的性格。讀者們可以看到孩提時代個性激烈的簡愛，逐漸變得理性，蛻變為一位成熟、獨立的女性。也因為這個原因，這本小說被視為是教育小說。

小說以主人翁簡愛來作第一人稱敘述，透過這種方式，讀者可以直接觸及簡愛，以及簡愛的心理與行為。簡愛是一個充滿勇氣的女孩，她努力工作，改善自己的條件。

在離開佳慈賀府邸冷酷無情的舅媽之後，簡愛進入羅霧寄宿學校，她學習讓自己成為一位家庭教師，她的第一份工作是在頌芙府邸。不久，簡愛和主人羅哲思德墜入愛河。這份感情顯得糾葛，一方面是因為她的身分是家庭教師，但另一個重要的原因，是頌芙府邸閣樓上出現的神祕幽靈。

簡愛並未斬斷這份情緣，不過她也想當一個有尊嚴的獨立女性。簡愛在整部小說中所做出的各種抉擇，在在顯現出她是當時代一位堅強的現代女子，也是文學上最早出現的女性主義典範。小說中處理了許多主題，包括女性在社會、家庭、階級以及寬恕中的角色。

## 第一章 佳慈賀府邸

### P.15

外面大雨滂沱，天氣冷冽。舅媽瑞德夫人躺在客廳壁爐前的沙發上，她的三個兒女伊萊澤、約翰和喬吉安娜，就圍坐在她旁邊，而她不要我待在那裡。

「簡，等你變得討人喜歡了，再來跟我們坐在一起。」她說：「你現在走開，不可以吵！」

我走進早餐室，從書架上抽下一本書，然後拎著書爬上窗簾後面的窗檯上。

這時，房門突然打開。

「有人在嗎？」約翰·瑞德大叫道。他停了一下，心想房間裡沒有人。

「跑哪裡去了？」他繼續喊道：「麗茲！喬吉！簡不在這裡！跟媽媽說，她跑去外面淋雨啦！」

房門探進來了伊萊澤的頭，「約翰，她躲在窗簾後面。」

我不想被約翰拖出來，便趕緊現身。

「什麼事？」我問。

### P.16

「你要說，『瑞德少爺，有什麼事嗎？』」約翰回答。他在一張手扶椅上坐下，繼續說道：「你給我過來！」

約翰·瑞德十四歲，他大我四歲，一直欺負我，我很怕他。在這房子裡，沒有人站在我這邊，僕人們也很怕他，他的母親瑞德夫人視若無睹，我孤立無援。

我朝他的椅子走過去，他對我吐出舌頭。

我知道他想修理我。我盯著他看，心想：「你怎麼這麼醜啊！」

他大概看穿了我的心思，隨即舉起手，狠狠地朝我打下去，我一個踉蹌，從他的椅子前倒退了一、兩步。

「賞你這一下，是因為誰教你對我媽無禮，還有誰教你躲在窗簾後面，而且還這樣瞪著我看——你這個畜牲！」

我知道他想再揍我。

「你幹嘛躲在窗簾後面？」他質問道。

「我在看書。」

### P.19

「把書拿來。」

我走回窗檯旁，把書拿了過來。

「你不是我們家的人，不應該動我們的書。你爸什麼都沒有留給你，你沒有錢，根本沒有資格和我們這種紳士人家的小孩一起住在這裡，跟我們吃一樣的飯，穿我媽買給你的衣服。你拿我的書，我得好好教訓你一下，這些書都是我的。再過不了幾年，這房子裡的所有東西都會變成我的。你現在去門邊站著！」

我照做，結果他把書對準我，丟了過來，我應聲倒下，撞到了頭。我的頭開始流血，因為很痛，我霎時被氣到了。

「惡毒又殘暴的人！你跟殺人犯一樣，跟羅馬暴君一樣！」

「什麼！什麼！伊萊澤、喬吉安娜，你們聽到她說什麼沒？我要去跟我媽講！」

他衝向我，揪住我的頭髮，把我搖來搖去，我憤怒地向他回擊。

「畜牲！畜牲！」他大喊道。

伊萊澤和喬吉安娜跑去找瑞德夫人，等他們回來時，後面還跟了保姆蓓詩和女僕亞伯特小姐。

「你們相信嗎？她竟然攻擊約翰少