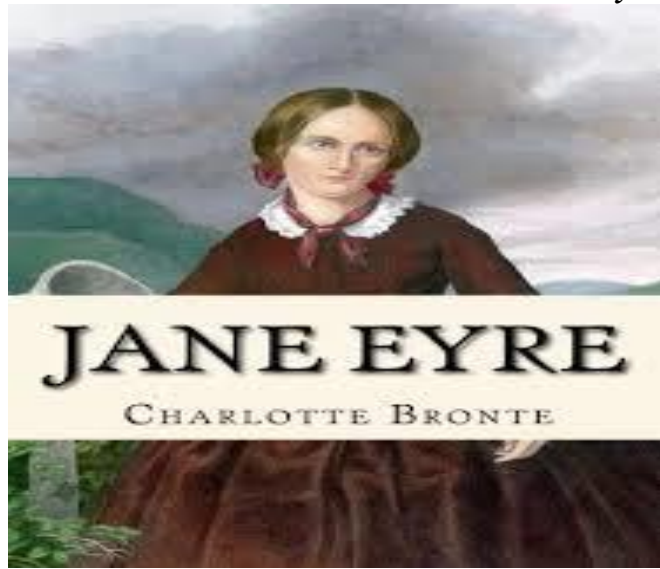


Fiction I
UNIT I - *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Bronte



Characters

Jane Eyre – The protagonist of the novel.

Mrs. Sarah Reed – Widow of Jane's uncle.

Eliza Reed – Oldest daughter in the Reed family.

Georgiana Reed – Youngest daughter in the Reed family.

John Reed – Only son in the Reed family, a bully, Jane's cousin.

Bessie Lee – Servant at Gateshead Hall.

Mrs. Temple – Kind teacher at Lowood School.

Helen Burns – Jane's best friend at Lowood school.

Mr. Brocklehurst – Headmaster at Lowood School.

Edward Fairfax Rochester – Master of Thornfield Hall.

Bertha Rochester - Mad wife of Edward Rochester.

Adèle – Ward of Mr. Edward Rochester, Jane's Pupil at Thornfield.

Mrs. Alice Fairfax – Housekeeper at Thornfield Hall.

St. John Eyre Rivers – Minister of the parish at Morton.

Diana & Mary Rivers - Sisters of St. John Rivers.

INTRODUCTION:-

❖ **Jane Eyre is an orphan with a difficult start in life. She takes on a job as the governess at Thornfield.**

❖ Jane falls in love with Edward Rochester, the master of the house.

❖ *Rochester asks Jane to marry him, but their wedding ceremony is interrupted when Mr. Briggs declares that Rochester wife who is locked away on the third floor.*

Introduction :

Jane Eyre is a novel by English writer Charlotte Bronte, published under the pen name "Currer Bell" published in 1847. All events are told in the past from Jane's point of view. The setting is early 19th Century England. *Jane Eyre* is classified as both a Gothic and a Romantic novel.

Bildungsroman Novel: Bronte describes five specific stages of Jane's growth over the course of the novel:

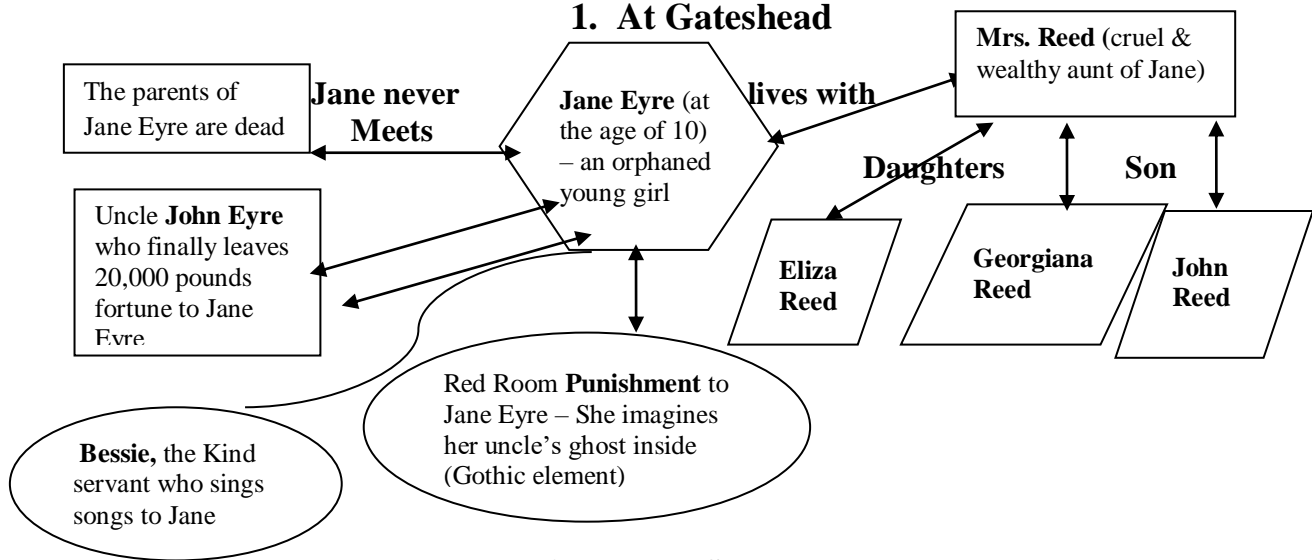
1. her childhood among oppressive relatives (Reed's family, Gateshead, at the age of 10)
2. her time as a student at Lowood School (cruel headmaster Mr. Brocklehurst)
3. her months as a governess at Thornfield Manor (Employer – Rochester)
4. her time with her cousins at Marsh's End
5. finally, her return to Thornfield Manor and marriage to Mr. Rochester

As a classic example of the Germanic Bildungsroman, or novel of formation, the text demonstrates Jane's attempts to define her identity against forces of opposition in each of these five stages.

Gothic Romance Novel: Bronte also employs many elements of the Gothic novel, the popular type of her time. Gothic novel is a type of romance or fiction which contains ghosts, mysterious disappearance and other sensational and supernatural occurrences and violent incidents.

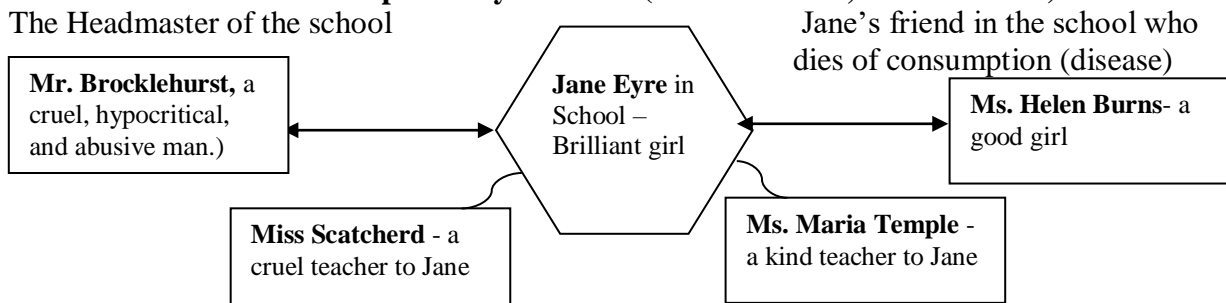
Jane Eyre uses many forms of the *Gothic genre* in order to create emotion and get an audience reaction. The most common Gothic form Bronte uses is Jane's descriptions of the red room, Thornfield Hall the use of supernatural, mysteries, suspense, a ghostly atmosphere, a setting in a castle, the appearances of a fortune-teller etc. Each of these aspects of the novel relate directly to understandings of the Gothic tradition.

1. At Gateshead



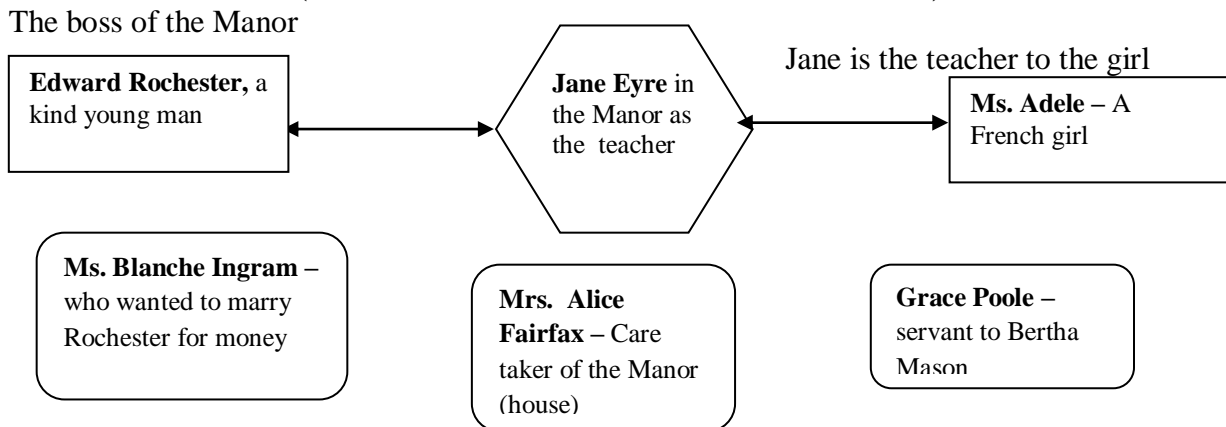
2. At Lowood School

Jane spends 8 years here (6 as a student, 2 as a teacher)



3. At Thornfield (as a governess)

(She meets Edward Rochester as her boss here)



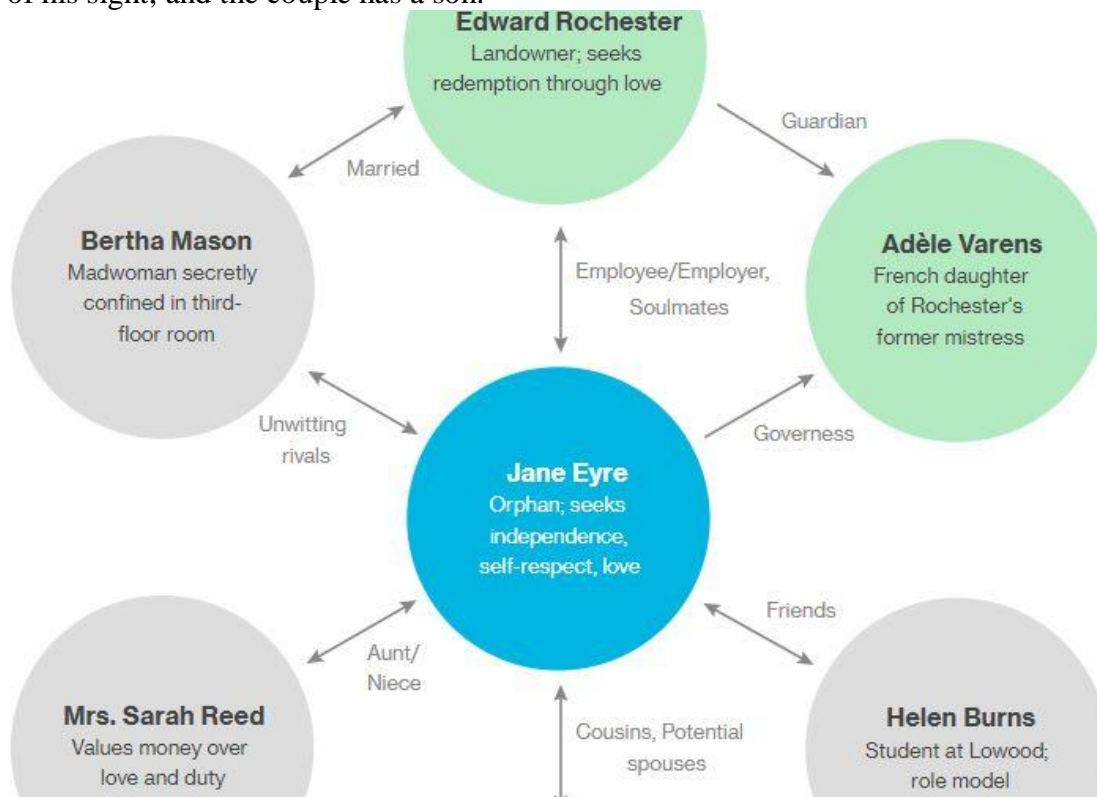
An Outline of the Story :

When the novel begins, the title character (Jane Eyre) is a 10-year-old orphan who lives with her uncle’s family; her parents had died of typhus. Other than the nursemaid, the family ostracizes Jane. She is later sent to the austere Lowood Institution, a charity school, where she and the other girls are mistreated; “Lowood,” as the name suggests, is the “low” point in Jane’s young life. In the face of such adversity, however, she gathers strength and confidence.

In early adulthood, after several years as a student and then teacher at Lowood, Jane musters the courage to leave. She finds work as a governess at Thornfield Hall, where she meets her dashing and Byronic employer, the wealthy and impetuous Edward Rochester. At Thornfield Jane looks after young Adèle, the daughter of a French dancer who was one of Rochester's mistresses, and is befriended by the kindly housekeeper Mrs. Alice Fairfax. Jane falls in love with Rochester, though he is expected to marry the snobbish and socially prominent Blanche Ingram.

Rochester eventually reciprocates Jane's feelings and proposes marriage. However, on their wedding day, Jane discovers that Rochester cannot legally marry her, because he already has a wife, Bertha Mason, who has gone mad and is locked away on the third floor because of her violent behaviour; her presence explains the strange noises Jane has heard in the mansion. Believing that he was tricked into that marriage, Rochester feels justified in pursuing his relationship with Jane. He pleads with her to join him in France, where they can live as husband and wife despite the legal prohibitions, but Jane refuses on principle and flees Thornfield.

Jane is taken in by people she later discovers are her cousins. One of them is St. John, a principled clergyman. He gives her a job and soon proposes marriage, suggesting that she join him as a missionary in India. Jane initially agrees to leave with him but not as his wife. However, St. John pressures her to reconsider his proposal, and a wavering Jane finally appeals to Heaven to show her what to do. Just then, she hears a mesmeric call from Rochester. Jane returns to Thornfield to find the estate burned, set on fire by Rochester's wife, who then jumped to her death. Rochester, in an attempt to save her, was blinded. Reunited, Jane and Rochester marry. Rochester later regains some of his sight, and the couple has a son.



Question : *Jane Eyre* as a Gothic novel / Gothic Romance