

Byronic Hero

A character does not have to possess all of these traits to be a Byronic hero. This list should help you decide whether a character could be classified this way.

1. Usually male, usually relatively young
2. A distaste for social institutions and norms
3. An exile, an outcast, or an outlaw
4. Arrogant
5. Cunning and adaptable
6. Cynical
7. "Dark" attributes not normally associated with a hero
8. Disrespectful of rank and privilege
9. Emotionally conflicted, moody
10. High level of intelligence and perception
11. Mysterious, magnetic, and charismatic
12. Seductive, attractive
13. Self-critical and introspective
14. Self-destructive
15. Dominant
16. Struggles with integrity
17. Troubled past – he often regrets a critical decision

Charlotte Bronte wrote *Jane Eyre* during the romantic period. Does Rochester fit the definition of a Byronic hero? Why/why not?