

## ***Jane Eyre* Reading Questions – Thornfield Part I**

### Chapter 11

1. What did Jane expect to find when she reached Millcote? Why is she concerned?
2. What are Jane's first impressions of Thornfield? How might these impressions be symbolic?
3. How does Jane feel about the way Mrs. Fairfax treats her?
4. Who lives at Thornfield?
5. What does Jane learn about Adela Varens in this chapter?
6. What sense of the house does Jane get in this chapter? Which places are welcoming, and which are chilled?
7. Who is Rochester? Why is Jane surprised to hear of him?
8. Why would Jane be unwilling to spend the night in one of the third-story rooms?
9. What noise surprises Jane toward the end of the chapter? How does Mrs. Fairfax explain this noise?

### Chapter 12

1. How does Jane feel about Adele and Mrs. Fairfax?
2. Read the paragraph beginning "It is vain to say human beings ought to be satisfied with tranquility" very closely. This is the most openly feminist speech of the novel. What is your reaction to it?
3. How does Jane feel about Thornfield at this point?
4. What symbolism do you notice in the description of Jane's walk before she meets the stranger? Remember the fire and ice imagery we are watching for!
5. Who does Jane unexpectedly meet while out for a walk? What does this person look like? What does Jane do for this person?
6. What does Jane think of this person's physical features? Is he particularly handsome?
7. How does Jane feel about reentering Thornfield? It reminds me of Ethan Frome coming home. Why?

### Chapter 13

1. What makes Thornfield so much busier? How does Jane feel about the change of pace?
2. Jane and Rochester's relationship develops over three long conversations in the next two chapters. The first one is here. What do they seem to think of one another?
3. What does Mrs. Fairfax think of the way Rochester and Jane converse?
4. What did Rochester think of when he saw Jane in the lane?
5. What do Jane's watercolors portray?
6. What does Rochester think of Jane's artwork?
7. What does Jane think of Rochester's family history?

### Chapter 14

1. Jane and Rochester's second long conversation takes place at the beginning of this chapter. During their discussion, Jane turns to phrenology to learn more about him. Phrenology was a 19<sup>th</sup> century belief that different sections of the brain dealt with different qualities, and that these could be traced in the shape of the skull. What does she think she learns about Rochester through this technique?
2. How does Rochester feel about children?

3. What does Rochester claim makes him superior to Jane? What makes him inferior?
4. Why has Rochester invited Jane to keep him company?
5. Rochester is very cynical. How can we tell?
6. What does Jane have that Rochester envies?
7. The tone of this conversation changes from playful to reflective. When Rochester complains that remorse is the “poison of life,” how does Jane respond? What does Rochester think of her response?

#### Chapter 15

1. The third and final long conversation in which Jane and Rochester get to know one another takes place here. What explanation does Rochester make regarding Adele? How had he felt about her mother?
2. Who was Celine? What happened to her relationship with Rochester?
3. Why does Rochester take over care of Adele?
4. Brontë’s contemporaries were surprised that Rochester would confide these things to Jane. Why would that be surprising?
5. How do Rochester’s personality, appearance, and company influence Jane?
6. How does Jane rescue Rochester once again?
7. What is Jane’s main impression of this incident? Is she satisfied with Rochester’s explanation?
8. What emotions does Jane feel in her room at the end of the chapter?
9. In the Victorian period, novels were typically published in three volumes. This is the end of volume one. What cliffhangers does Brontë leave readers with here?

#### Chapter 16

1. What explanation does Rochester give about the fire?
2. What does Jane think of Grace Poole? What advice does Grace give?
3. How does Jane think Rochester feels toward her?
4. How long will Rochester be gone? Why is Jane so curious about Blanche Ingram?
5. What exercise does Jane undertake at the end of this chapter? Why?
6. How is Jane and Rochester’s relationship being tested?

#### Chapter 17

1. How does Jane feel toward Rochester at the beginning of the chapter?
2. Why does Jane see the schoolroom as a refuge from the party?
3. How is Thornfield different with visitors around? How does Jane see her position now?
4. How does Jane feel about visiting with these people?
5. Who are the most distinguished ladies in the gathering? Why does Jane pay closest attention to Miss Ingram?
6. How does Rochester treat Jane with these guests around?
7. What does Miss Ingram think of marriage?
8. What does Rochester say to Jane at the end of the chapter? What do you think he was about to say?