

Jane Eyre

Chapters 1–4

by Charlotte Brontë

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: antipathy, caste, consternation, heterogeneous, insuperable, interloper, mutiny, precocious, pungent, reproach

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–4 · Jane's childhood at Gateshead Hall

Section 2 · Chapters 5–10 · Jane arrives at Lowood School

Section 3 · Chapters 11–20 · A governess arrives at Thornfield Hall

Section 4 · Chapters 21–27 · Jane is called away from Thornfield

Section 5 · Chapters 28–35 · Jane finds shelter at Moor House

Section 6 · Chapters 36–38 · Jane sets out to find Rochester

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com).



[verbalworkout.com](https://www.verbalworkout.com)
(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

Jane Eyre

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. She felt a strong **antipathy** toward dishonest people.

- A. a reluctant fascination
- B. a nervous fear
- C. a deep dislike

2. She could never escape the **caste** she had been born into.

- A. a fixed personal temperament
- B. an inherited family fortune
- C. a hereditary social class

3. The sudden power outage caused **consternation** among the guests.

- A. noisy excitement
- B. alarm and dismay
- C. mild annoyance

4. The committee was a **heterogeneous** group drawn from many professions.

- A. recently assembled
- B. made up of varied kinds
- C. highly experienced

5. The young firm faced **insuperable** competition from the giant corporations.

- A. impossible to overcome
- B. completely unexpected
- C. constantly shifting

6. Everyone at the meeting eyed the stranger as an **interloper**.

- A. a traveling merchant
- B. an unwelcome intruder
- C. a long-lost relative

7. The sailors planned a **mutiny** against their harsh captain.

- A. a revolt against authority
- B. a secret escape plan
- C. a formal complaint

8. Teachers were amazed by the **precocious** young pianist.

- A. advanced for one's age
- B. bold and attention-seeking
- C. gifted but undisciplined

9. A **pungent** sorrow gripped him as he read the farewell note.

- A. sharp and keenly felt
- B. quiet and unspoken
- C. slow and lingering

10. There was a clear note of **reproach** in the coach's voice after the loss.

- A. tired resignation
- B. nervous worry
- C. blame or disapproval

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

tabernacle — a sacred, shrine-like enclosure; here, a tall, heavily curtained bed resembles an imposing religious shrine

capitious — apt to find fault; quarrelsome over trifles

ANSWER KEY

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#	KEY
1	C
2	C
3	B
4	B
5	A
6	B
7	A
8	A
9	A
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an antipathy to me.”

As used in the passage, the word “antipathy” shows that John felt toward Jane a...

- A. cool, wary indifference
- B. brief, passing annoyance
- C. deep, settled dislike

2 “I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering ...”

In the excerpt, the phrase “pungent suffering” primarily functions to...

- A. hint the wound was slight
- B. stress a sharp, piercing pain
- C. stress a dull, spreading ache

3 “I was conscious that a moment’s mutiny had already rendered me liable to strange penalties, and, like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved, in my desperation, to go all lengths.”

In the passage, Jane is characterized as...

- A. quietly resentful but obedient
- B. frightened into submission
- C. openly defiant of authority

4 “This reproach of my dependence had become a vague sing-song in my ear: very painful and crushing, but only half intelligible.”

The passage most strongly suggests that Jane had often been...

- A. blamed for her dependence
- B. mocked for her looks
- C. warned about her temper

5 “Unjust! — unjust!” said my reason, forced by the agonising stimulus into precocious though transitory power ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that Jane’s powers of reason were...

- A. fleeting and soon gone
- B. advanced beyond her years
- C. clouded by her anger

6 “What a consternation of soul was mine that dreary afternoon! How all my brain was in tumult, and all my heart in insurrection!”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. stress the depth of Jane’s distress
- B. explain the source of her distress
- C. show her distress fading

7 “... a heterogeneous thing, opposed to them in temperament, in capacity, in propensities ...”

The passage most strongly suggests that, among the Reeds, Jane was...

- A. unlike them in every way
- B. the most gifted of the group
- C. slightly out of step with them

8 “... how could she really like an interloper not of her race, and unconnected with her ...”

Which choice best describes Mrs. Reed’s attitude toward Jane?

- A. resentment of an unwanted outsider
- B. guilt over past neglect
- C. envy of a favored rival

9 “I was not heroic enough to purchase liberty at the price of caste.”

According to the passage, Jane refused to leave the Reeds because it would cost her...

- A. her chance at schooling
- B. her place in social rank
- C. her only hope of love

10 “... her glance, now more than ever, when turned on me, expressed an insuperable and rooted aversion.”

In context, the word “insuperable” emphasizes that Mrs. Reed’s aversion was...

- A. only recently formed
- B. carefully kept hidden
- C. impossible to overcome

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	B	Here 'pungent' is figurative – sharp, piercing pain, not the more familiar smell or taste sense.
3	C	
4	A	
5	B	The distractor 'fleeting' plays on 'transitory' in the excerpt; 'precocious' means prematurely advanced.
6	A	
7	A	
8	A	Character comprehension. Ruling out 'envy' and 'guilt' depends on how Mrs. Reed has been shown across the section, not on the excerpt alone.
9	B	'The price of caste' = what Jane would forfeit in social standing by going to live with poor relations.
10	C	

Teacher Context: Chapters 1–4

Ten-year-old orphan Jane lives unhappily with her aunt Mrs. Reed and cousins at Gateshead Hall, where she is bullied, punished, and terrified during a night locked in the red-room. After she finally rebels against the household, arrangements are made to send her away to school. The section covers the whole Gateshead phase, ending as her departure is settled.