

Jane Eyre
Chapters 11–20
by Charlotte Brontë
Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice
Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: caprice, conjecture, deluge, extraneous, gregarious, insipid, sagacity, sardonic, stagnation, supercilious

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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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
(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 acted on **caprice**, booking a flight to Spain overnight.

- A. a firm habit
- B. a careful plan
- C. a sudden whim

2. The scientists dismissed his bold claim as **conjecture**.

- A. a careless error
- B. an unproven guess
- C. a deliberate lie

3. Heavy storms **deluge** the valley every spring.

- A. flood or overwhelm
- B. rumble over
- C. drift across

4. The editor cut every **extraneous** detail from the report.

- A. overly technical
- B. unnecessary or irrelevant
- C. false or misleading

5. Her **gregarious** nature made the long bus tours fly by.

- A. sociable and outgoing
- B. curious and observant
- C. calm and patient

6. Critics called the new album **insipid** and soon forgot it.

- A. loud and chaotic
- B. dull and lifeless
- C. short and unfinished

7. The old farmer's **sagacity** saved the harvest through every bad season.

- A. shrewd good judgment
- B. quiet kindness
- C. steady patience

8. His **sardonic** comments made the whole meeting tense.

- A. long and rambling
- B. blunt and tactless
- C. mocking and scornful

9. Critics blamed the company's **stagnation** on its cautious leaders.

- A. sudden collapse
- B. reckless overspending
- C. lack of growth or change

10. She answered the new intern in a **supercilious** tone.

- A. haughty and disdainful
- B. flat and bored
- C. rushed and impatient

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

countenance — a person's face or facial expression

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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

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 "... women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, too absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer ..."

In context, the word "stagnation" emphasizes...

- A. the many duties women must juggle
- B. the calm nature women are praised for
- C. the forced inactivity women endure

2 "She averred they were a mystery to herself, and that what she knew was chiefly from conjecture."

It can reasonably be inferred that Mrs. Fairfax's account of Mr. Rochester's troubles is...

- A. drawn from years of close friendship
- B. confirmed by Mr. Rochester himself
- C. based on guesswork, not certain knowledge

3 "Young lady, I am disposed to be gregarious and communicative to-night."

In the passage, Mr. Rochester characterizes himself as...

- A. sociable and eager for company
- B. talkative but happiest alone
- C. reserved and slow to speak

4 "I heaved them up, deluged the bed and its occupant, flew back to my own room, brought my own water-jug, baptized the couch afresh, and, by God's aid, succeeded in extinguishing the flames which were devouring it."

The author most likely describes Jane as having "deluged the bed" in order to...

- A. show her hesitation before acting
- B. convey how much water she poured on it
- C. stress how gently she tended the sleeper

5 "I have suffered a martyrdom from their incompetency and caprice. I thank Heaven I have now done with them!"

The passage most strongly suggests that Lady Ingram found her governesses...

- A. dull but harmlessly obedient
- B. unpredictable and trying to her temper
- C. cruel and physically harsh

6 "it was from this sagacity — this guardedness of his — this perfect, clear consciousness of his fair one's defects ..."

Which choice best describes Mr. Rochester's attitude toward Blanche, as his "sagacity" reveals it?

- A. nervously unsure about her
- B. coolly critical of her faults
- C. warmly devoted to her

7 "The sarcasm that had repelled, the harshness that had startled me once, were only like keen condiments in a choice dish: their presence was pungent, but their absence would be felt as comparatively insipid."

The author most likely includes the "keen condiments" comparison in order to...

- A. show why she now values his sharp wit
- B. criticize his harsh, biting manner
- C. explain why she first disliked him

8 "Blanche Ingram, after having repelled, by supercilious taciturnity, some efforts of Mrs. Dent and Mrs. Eshton ..."

Which statement is best supported by the passage?

- A. Blanche snubs the ladies out of pride
- B. Blanche would rather play piano
- C. Blanche is simply too shy

9 "I have an inward treasure born with me, which can keep me alive if all extraneous delights should be withheld, or offered only at a price I cannot afford to give."

The passage most strongly suggests that the speaker values...

- A. wealth that brings lasting comfort
- B. company that drives off loneliness
- C. inner strength over outside pleasures

10 "He laughed sardonically, hastily took my hand, and as hastily threw it from him."

Which choice best describes Mr. Rochester's manner as he laughs "sardonically"?

- A. bitterly mocking
- B. playfully teasing
- C. gently reassuring

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	NOTE
1	C	
2	C	
3	A	
4	B	
5	B	
6	B	Character comprehension. Rochester's courtship of Blanche is a performance; his watchful 'sagacity' is critical scrutiny, not love.
7	A	
8	A	
9	C	
10	A	Character comprehension. His bitter laugh reflects the secret torment he hints at here, not playful teasing.

Teacher Context: Chapters 11–20

Jane takes a post as governess at Thornfield Hall, teaching young Adele and gradually drawn to its brooding master, Mr. Rochester. Their guarded talk deepens into mutual fascination even as unsettling events disturb the house, and a glittering house party brings the elegant Blanche Ingram into view. The Thornfield phase is split here at Chapter 21, where Jane leaves the hall, so the second Thornfield arc stays together in the next section.