

# Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

SCAN READ  
& LISTEN

16

UPPER INTERMEDIATE B2

## GLOSSARY

- 1 **despite:** nonostante
- 2 **humble:** umile, modesto
- 3 **to challenge:** sfidare
- 4 **plain:** semplice, insignificante
- 5 **well-behaved:** ben educata
- 6 **to please:** compiacere
- 7 **to apply:** candidarsi
- 8 **governess:** governante, istitutrice
- 9 **hall:** sala
- 10 **brooding:** pensieroso
- 11 **looks:** aspetto

**J**ane Eyre is Charlotte Brontë's most-loved novel. Published in 1847 under the pseudonym Currer Bell, it tells the story of a young woman in Victorian Britain who shows extraordinary virtue and resilience despite<sup>1</sup> her humble<sup>2</sup> background. The novel challenges<sup>3</sup> the notion of male privilege and power and is a study of childhood trauma, isolation, morality and the unpredictability of love.

## A QUIET READ

The novel opens when Jane is a ten-year-old orphan who lives with her uncle's family. Small and "plain"<sup>4</sup>, Jane is well-behaved<sup>5</sup>, but can do nothing to please<sup>6</sup> her aunt, Mrs. Reed. Jane is lonely and constantly bullied by young John Reed, especially when he finds her reading:

*"You have no business to take our books; you are a dependent, mamma says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mamma's expense."*

*"— Non hai diritto di prendere i nostri libri. Sei una dipendente, dice la mamma. Non hai denaro; tuo padre non te ne ha lasciato. Dovresti andar per elemosina, e non vivere con i ragazzi di famiglia signorile come noi, né mangiare, né vestire a spese della nostra mamma."*



Clockwise from left: Orson Welles as Edward Rochester and Joan Fontaine as Jane Eyre in the 1943 adaptation of Brontë's novel directed by Robert Stevenson; Mia Wasikowska as Jane in the 2011 adaptation directed by Cary Joji Fukunaga; Welles as Mr. Rochester, Fontaine as Jane Eyre with Margaret O'Brien as her pupil Adèle Verans; an illustration of Charlotte Brontë.

