Grade 12 Adv. **Ch. 5 Ties that Bind** **Reading 2**

Student name: _____ **Date:** _____

2 **Thinking critically** Read the introduction to an extract (part) from the famous 19th century novel *Jane Eyre*. In pairs or small groups, answer the multiple choice questions about the personalities of the two main characters, Mr. Rochester and Jane Eyre.

Introduction to *Jane Eyre*



The writer Charlotte Brontë

Jane Eyre is a famous British novel published in 1847. It has been immensely popular ever since and has served as the basis for ballets, musicals, radio adaptations, TV shows, and more than 15 movies (including one in 2011). The story is told in the first person (using "I") as if it were an autobiography, and in fact, some parts really do reflect the true experiences of the author, Charlotte Brontë.

The main character is an orphan (a person whose parents die when he or she is a child) named Jane Eyre, who suffers great difficulties in her childhood from poverty to physical and emotional abuse by relatives and some teachers. Nevertheless, Jane manages to do well in school and gains employment at a wealthy estate called Thornfield Hall as a governess (private female teacher) for a young girl who is being raised by the eccentric owner, a widower named Edward Rochester. The owner does not abuse or look down upon Jane for being poor; instead, he spends time with her, conversing about interesting subjects and sharing ideas and opinions. Jane enjoys this and subsequently falls in love with her employer. Then she finds out something that threatens to change everything!

One reason for the continuing appeal of this novel is the remarkable character of Jane. Jane Eyre burst onto the literary world of the 19th century as a new kind of heroine (female protagonist). Up to that point, female characters in novels were usually damsels in distress: lovely, weak, and helpless creatures in need of rescue by a hero (a tradition that persists today in many adventure movies). In contrast, Jane is strong and self-reliant and speaks her mind. Some critics suggest that Jane Eyre represents an early version of the feminist woman.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. What kind of character is Jane Eyre portrayed as in the introduction?
   - **A** She is selfish and ambitious.
   - **B** She is a smart and straightforward person.
   - **C** She is shy and scared.
2. What appears to have played an important role in forming Jane's character?
   - **A** her job as a governess at Thornfield Hall
   - **B** her love for Mr. Rochester
   - **C** the difficulties she suffered in childhood
3. From his behavior toward Jane, as described in the passage, what kind of person does Mr. Rochester appear to be?
   - **A** He seems arrogant and bad tempered.
   - **B** He seems kind and friendly.
   - **C** He seems snobbish and distant.

LIVEWORKSHEETS