Name: _____ Date: _____

CHARLOTTE BRONTË



Read the biographical passage about Charlotte Brontë and answer the questions.

Charlotte Brontë (1816 – 1855) was an English novelist and poet, renowned for her novel "Jane Eyre," a classic of English literature that challenged the social norms of her time. Born in Thornton, West Yorkshire, Charlotte was the third of six children in the Brontë family. Despite facing personal tragedies, including the death of her mother and two elder sisters in childhood, Charlotte's resolve to write and express herself through literature remained undeterred.

Charlotte's journey as a writer began at a young age, crafting stories and poems with her siblings in the isolated parsonage they called home. These early experiences not only honed her literary skills but also cultivated a rich imagination that would later define her work. "Jane Eyre," published under the pseudonym Currer Bell in 1847, emerged from her desire to articulate a woman's quest for identity and freedom against the constraints of Victorian society.

"Jane Eyre" broke new ground by exploring themes of class inequality, gender roles, and personal integrity through the eyes of its strong, morally courageous protagonist, Jane Eyre. Charlotte's ability to imbue her characters with depth and emotional complexity won her widespread acclaim, challenging contemporary notions of femininity and the role of women in literature.

Beyond "Jane Eyre," Charlotte's contributions to literature include other notable works such as "Shirley" and "Villette," which further explore themes of social criticism and personal identity. Despite her relatively short life, Charlotte Brontë's impact on English literature is profound, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire readers and writers alike.

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1 What is Charlotte Brontë best known for, and under what pseudonym was this work initially published?

2 How does "Jane Eyre" challenge Victorian social norms and explore themes of gender and class?

3 How did Charlotte's personal experiences influence her writing and the themes she explored?

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