

Chapters 13–16

Vocabulary:

Define the underlined word as it is used in each sentence below. Then write down the grammatical function or part of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb) of that word.

1. . . . harsh caprice laid me under no obligation; on the contrary, a decent quiescence, under the freak of manner gave me the advantage. Besides, the eccentricity of the proceeding was piquant: I felt interested to see how he would go on.

caprice

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

piquant

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

2. . . . but fortune has knocked me about since: she has even kneaded me with her knuckles, and now I flatter myself I am hard and tough as an India-rubber ball; pervious, though, through a chink or two still, and with one sentient point in the middle of the lump.

pervious

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

Jane Eyre

sentient

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

3. “. . . Oh yes, I had forgotten the salary! Well then, on that mercenary ground, will you agree to let me hector a little?”

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

4. “I have plenty of faults of my own: I know it, and I don’t wish to palliate them, I assure you. . . .”

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

5. “How was your memory when you were eighteen, sir?” “All right then; limpid, salubrious: no gush or bilge water had turned it to fetid puddle.”

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

6. “The human and fallible should not arrogate a power with which the divine and perfect alone can be safely entrusted.”

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

Jane Eyre

7. “. . . I keep it and rear it rather on the Roman Catholic principle of expiating numerous sins, great or small, by one good work.”

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

8. I started wide awake on hearing a vague murmur, peculiar and lugubrious, which sounded, I thought, just above me.

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

9. But he still retained my hand, and I could not free it. I bethought myself of an expedient.

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

10. To much confabulation succeeded a sound of scrubbing and setting to rights. . . .

Definition:

Part of Speech: _____

Questions:

1. How would you describe Mr. Rochester’s first conversation with Jane in chapter 13? What seems to be the purpose of his questions?

Jane Eyre

2. What feelings or themes are evoked by Jane's watercolor paintings? What, if anything, do they reveal about Jane's character?

3. What does Jane learn about Mr. Rochester from her conversation with Mrs. Fairfax at the end of chapter 13? What mysteries are introduced by this conversation?

4. Mr. Rochester offers Jane more information about himself in chapters 14 and 15. Briefly, what is the explanation for Adele's presence at Thornfield?

5. At the end of chapter 15, what strange event occurs in the middle of the night? Who seems responsible for this event?

6. How do Mr. Rochester's feelings for Jane appear to have changed by the end of chapter 15? How have Jane's feelings for Mr. Rochester changed?

Jane Eyre

7. *Foreshadowing* is a literary device by which an author gives the reader clues or hints about events that will happen later in the story. At the end of chapter 15, Jane has a troubled sleep:

Till morning dawned I was tossed on a buoyant but unquiet sea, where billows of trouble rolled under surges of joy. I thought sometimes I saw beyond its wild waters a shore, sweet as the hills of Beulah; and now and then a freshening gale, wakened by hope, bore my spirit triumphantly towards the bourne: but I could not reach it, . . .

What might the author be foreshadowing with this image?

8. Why is Jane startled when she discovers Grace Poole cleaning up Mr. Rochester's room the following morning?
9. Over tea with Mrs. Fairfax, Jane is told that Mr. Rochester has left for a party at the Leas. What particular aspect of this news disturbs Jane? What does Jane realize about herself at this point?
10. What does Jane do at the end of chapter 16 to punish herself for her wild, foolish thoughts?

Jane Eyre

Analysis:

11. Mr. Rochester speaks in a tone of command through habit, but he claims only such superiority as results from what two things? On what condition does Jane allow that he may hector her a little? Do you agree with Jane? Why or why not?

12. In chapter 15, Rochester pauses in his tale to gaze up at Thornfield:

Lifting his eye to its battlements, he cast over them a glare such as I never saw before or since. Pain, shame, ire—impatience, disgust, detestation—seemed momentarily to hold quivering conflict in the large pupil dilating under his ebon eyebrow.

Explain Rochester's struggle with his "destiny," as revealed in this scene. What do you think it is about Thornfield that Rochester abhors?

Dig Deeper:

13. What, in part, does Mr. Rochester blame for his faults?

14. What does Jane say is the "cure" for remorse? Does Rochester agree? According to him, what is its cure? What does he intend to do about it?

Jane Eyre

15. Read 2 Corinthians 7:8–11. According to these verses what is the benefit of Godly sorrow or remorse? What did Godly sorrow produce in the church at Corinth?

Define *repentance*. Does Mr. Rochester seem repentant of his past deeds? Explain your answer.

16. In this passage Paul talks about “Godly sorrow” and “worldly sorrow.” What is the difference? Do you think Mr. Rochester is suffering from Godly sorrow or worldly sorrow? Explain your answer. Is Jane right about the cure?
17. Mr. Rochester says, “Since happiness is irrevocably denied me, I have a right to get pleasure out of life: and I *will* get it, cost what it may.” Read Ecclesiastes 2. What does the writer of Ecclesiastes conclude about this kind of philosophy?