

***Jane Eyre* Project**

The Diary of Bertha Mason

Rationale:

Over the course of this unit we have discussed the use of characterization, symbolism, and conflict. We have seen how Jane's conflicts have mirrored our own.

Task:

You have been able to see the events of *Jane Eyre* through the eyes of Jane herself. In this project, you will be writing a journal from Bertha Mason's perspective. Retell the events of chapters 11 through 27 as Bertha may have seen it. Use key events and details from the story to support your entries.

You must have a minimum of fifteen entries.

Background:

Below are a few examples of events that occur in these chapters. You can include these events in your diary, but don't limit your entries to only these events.

In Chapter 11, Jane arrives at Thornfield Hall to take her new position as governess. From the very beginning, Jane experiences many strange events. For example, the eerie laugh, "the last sound I expected to hear in so still a region, a laugh, struck my ears. It was a curious laugh – distinct, formal, mirthless ... for the laugh was as tragic, as preternatural a laugh as any I ever heard." (p. 110)

In Chapter 12, Jane meets the owner, Mr. Rochester, for the first time. At first, he was just a stranger that she helped after a fall off his horse. When she enters the house, she realizes that the stranger she met was Mr. Rochester.

From here Jane's relationship with Mr. Rochester grows. He admires her ability to draw, her honesty and sincerity. She enjoys his company and complains how boring things seem when he is not around.

In Chapter 23, after teasing Jane with the thought that he was to marry Blanche Ingram, he finally tells Jane that he loves her and asks for her hand in marriage. When Jane realizes that he is sincere, she happily accepts his proposal. Before the end of the chapter, Jane discovers that the great horse-chestnut tree was struck by lightning.

In Chapter 26, Jane is prepared to marry Mr. Rochester, However, at the alter Jane discovers that Mr. Rochester already has a wife – Bertha Mason. "It simply consists in the existence of a previous marriage. Mr. Rochester has a wife now living." (p. 307) It is in this chapter that Jane learns it is Bertha not Grace Poole who has committed the mischievous acts, such as setting Mr. Rochester's bed ablaze and ripping Jane's wedding veil.

After this discovery, Jane flees from Thornfield Hall.

Be creative, use your imagination, but at the same time be accurate to the text!!

Jane Eyre Project

The Diary of Bertha Mason

Rationale:

Over the course of this unit we have discussed the use of characterization, symbolism, and conflict. We have seen how Jane's conflicts have mirrored our own.

Task:

You have been able to see the events of *Jane Eyre* through the eyes of Jane herself. In this project, you will be creating a diary from Bertha Mason's perspective. Retell the events of chapters 11 through 27 as Bertha may have seen it. Use key events and details from the story to support your entries.

You must have a minimum of fifteen entries.

Additional Information:

Remember that you will be writing daily diary entries from Bertha Mason's perspective from the time Jane arrives at Thornfield Hall (Chapter 11) until Jane flees from Thornfield Hall (Chapter 27) after the discovery that Mr. Rochester is married to someone else.

Be creative, use your imagination, but at the same time be accurate to the text!!!