

# jane eyre as a gothic novel

Jane Eyre as a Gothic Novel: Exploring the Dark Charms of Charlotte Brontë's Classic

**Jane Eyre as a gothic novel** is a fascinating lens through which to appreciate one of literature's enduring classics. Charlotte Brontë's 1847 masterpiece weaves a tale that goes far beyond a simple love story, embedding elements of mystery, suspense, and eerie atmospheres typical of the gothic tradition. By examining Jane Eyre through this gothic framework, readers can uncover the novel's rich layers of psychological depth, social critique, and emotional intensity, all cloaked in a hauntingly beautiful narrative.

## The Essence of Gothic Literature and How Jane Eyre Fits In

To understand why Jane Eyre is often classified as a gothic novel, it helps to first grasp what defines gothic literature. Originating in the late 18th century with works like Horace Walpole's *\*The Castle of Otranto\**, the gothic genre typically involves dark, mysterious settings, supernatural or eerie elements, and themes of madness, isolation, and the uncanny. It often explores the tension between reason and emotion, the known and the unknown, and societal norms versus individual desires.

Jane Eyre incorporates many of these gothic staples, although it does so with a unique twist. Unlike traditional gothic tales that rely heavily on overt supernatural events, Brontë's novel uses psychological gothic elements that emphasize internal fears, social repression, and emotional turmoil.

## The Gothic Setting: Thornfield Hall

One of the most iconic gothic features in *\*Jane Eyre\** is the setting of Thornfield Hall. The mansion is not just a backdrop but a character in itself, shrouded in mystery and secrets. Its labyrinthine corridors, shadowy rooms, and the eerie atmosphere create a sense of suspense and foreboding. The readers are constantly aware that there is something hidden behind its walls, which turns out to be the madwoman Bertha Mason.

Thornfield encapsulates the gothic fascination with decaying aristocratic estates and the secrets they hide. It symbolizes both physical and psychological confinement, mirroring Jane's struggles with societal expectations and personal freedom.

## The Presence of the Supernatural and the Uncanny

While *\*Jane Eyre\** doesn't indulge in ghosts or vampires, it cleverly uses gothic devices like dreams, unexplained noises, and mysterious occurrences to heighten tension. For example, Jane's encounter with the mysterious laughter, the strange fire in Rochester's room, and the locked attic all contribute to a supernatural aura without ever fully crossing into the realm of fantasy.

These elements tap into the gothic theme of the uncanny—the familiar made strange—which unsettles both Jane and the readers. This subtle use of supernatural hints keeps the narrative suspenseful and emotionally charged.

## **Psychological Gothic: Madness, Identity, and Emotional Turmoil**

One of the reasons *Jane Eyre* stands out as a gothic novel is its focus on psychological horror rather than just external threats. The character of Bertha Mason represents madness and the 'otherness' lurking beneath the surface of Victorian society. Her presence in the attic, hidden away and violently kept secret, symbolizes the repression of women and the darker side of the human psyche.

Jane's own journey is marked by emotional intensity and internal conflict, which are hallmarks of the psychological gothic tradition. Her struggles with identity, morality, and desire unfold against a backdrop of social constraints and personal hardships. This emotional depth adds complexity to the novel's gothic atmosphere.

### **Madness and the 'Madwoman in the Attic'**

Bertha Mason has become an iconic figure in discussions of gothic literature, often described as the archetypal "madwoman in the attic." Her character embodies fear, chaos, and the breakdown of rationality, contrasting sharply with Jane's controlled and moral demeanor. Bertha's madness can be interpreted as a critique of how Victorian society marginalized and silenced women who did not conform.

This theme resonates deeply within the gothic tradition, where madness often serves as a metaphor for suppressed desires or societal ills. Bertha's haunting presence serves as a constant reminder of what happens when individuals are confined and oppressed.

### **Jane's Inner Conflict and Moral Struggle**

Jane's character arc is profoundly gothic in its exploration of selfhood and resilience amid adversity. The novel delves into her psychological battles—her fight for independence, her moral decisions regarding love and integrity, and her resistance against the limitations imposed by class and gender.

This internal gothic is less about external monsters and more about the haunting fears and desires within the human soul. Jane's journey from orphaned child to self-assured woman reflects a gothic quest for identity and freedom.

## **Social Critique Wrapped in Gothic Framework**

Another fascinating aspect of viewing *Jane Eyre* as a gothic novel is recognizing how Brontë uses

gothic conventions to critique Victorian society. The novel challenges rigid class structures, gender roles, and moral hypocrisy, all shrouded in the dark, mysterious atmosphere typical of gothic storytelling.

## **Class and Gender Oppression**

The oppressive social hierarchy of 19th-century England is made palpable through the gothic lens. Jane's low social status and her struggle for equality with Rochester highlight the tensions between social classes. The gothic setting of Thornfield Hall, a grand estate hiding dark secrets, mirrors the façade of a society that appears polished but is rife with injustice.

Similarly, the novel addresses gender oppression through Jane's refusal to be subservient or passive. Her fierce independence and moral conviction challenge the expected submissiveness of women during the era. The gothic themes of entrapment and escape parallel Jane's fight against the constraints imposed by patriarchal norms.

## **Religion and Morality as Gothic Themes**

Religion plays a complex role in *Jane Eyre*, often intersecting with gothic ideas of sin, punishment, and redemption. Characters like Mr. Brocklehurst embody a harsh, judgmental religious authority that imposes suffering and shame, echoing gothic themes of guilt and repression.

Jane's own spiritual journey is marked by questioning and self-reflection rather than blind faith, which adds a psychological dimension to the novel's gothic atmosphere. This interplay between faith and doubt deepens the emotional and moral complexity of the story.

## **Why Jane Eyre Continues to Captivate Readers as a Gothic Novel**

More than 170 years after it was published, *Jane Eyre* remains a compelling exploration of gothic themes that resonate with modern readers. Its blend of romance, mystery, and psychological depth offers a nuanced portrayal of a woman forging her path in a restrictive world.

The timeless appeal lies in how Brontë masterfully balances the eerie and the emotional, the social and the supernatural, creating a novel that invites readers to explore the shadows within human nature and society.

If you're diving into *Jane Eyre* for the first time or revisiting it with a gothic perspective, pay close attention to the atmospheric descriptions, the psychological complexity of characters, and the symbolic use of settings like Thornfield Hall. These elements enrich the reading experience and reveal why the novel is a cornerstone of both Victorian literature and gothic fiction.

In the end, *Jane Eyre as a gothic novel* is not just about ghosts or gloomy castles—it's about the haunting realities of identity, love, and freedom. This enduring gothic spirit continues to inspire

readers and writers alike, proving the lasting power of Charlotte Brontë's visionary storytelling.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What elements make Jane Eyre a Gothic novel?**

Jane Eyre incorporates key Gothic elements such as a mysterious mansion (Thornfield Hall), secrets, supernatural occurrences, intense emotions, and a dark atmosphere that contribute to its classification as a Gothic novel.

### **How does the setting of Thornfield Hall contribute to the Gothic atmosphere in Jane Eyre?**

Thornfield Hall, with its isolated location, gloomy rooms, hidden corridors, and eerie occurrences, creates a mysterious and suspenseful atmosphere typical of Gothic novels.

### **In what ways does the character of Bertha Mason embody Gothic themes?**

Bertha Mason, the hidden madwoman in the attic, represents the Gothic themes of entrapment, madness, and the uncanny, adding to the novel's dark and suspenseful mood.

### **How does Jane Eyre explore the theme of madness in the context of Gothic literature?**

The novel explores madness through Bertha Mason's character, whose insanity is portrayed as both frightening and tragic, highlighting themes of confinement and the blurred line between sanity and insanity common in Gothic literature.

### **What role does the supernatural play in Jane Eyre as a Gothic novel?**

Supernatural elements in Jane Eyre are subtle, such as Jane's visions and premonitions, which enhance the novel's eerie and mysterious tone without overtly introducing supernatural entities.

### **How does Charlotte Brontë use symbolism to reinforce the Gothic nature of Jane Eyre?**

Brontë uses symbols like the red-room (representing oppression and fear), fire and ice (passion and repression), and the divided self (Jane's struggle for identity) to deepen the Gothic themes of the novel.

### **Why is Jane Eyre considered a Gothic novel rather than just a**

## **romance?**

While Jane Eyre contains romantic elements, its inclusion of Gothic tropes such as a dark, suspenseful setting, secrets, psychological complexity, and themes of entrapment and madness classify it as a Gothic novel.

## **How does the theme of isolation in Jane Eyre contribute to its Gothic classification?**

Isolation is a key Gothic theme portrayed through Jane's experiences at Gateshead, Lowood, and Thornfield, emphasizing loneliness, alienation, and the struggle for self-identity in a hostile world.

## **In what ways does Jane Eyre challenge traditional Gothic conventions?**

Jane Eyre challenges Gothic conventions by presenting a strong, morally upright female protagonist who asserts her independence, contrasting with the often passive or victimized women in traditional Gothic novels.

## **How does the use of first-person narration affect the Gothic elements in Jane Eyre?**

The first-person narration allows readers to experience Jane's inner thoughts and emotions intimately, intensifying the psychological depth and suspense that are characteristic of Gothic fiction.

## **Additional Resources**

Jane Eyre as a Gothic Novel: An In-Depth Exploration of Charlotte Brontë's Masterpiece

**jane eyre as a gothic novel** presents a fascinating lens through which to examine Charlotte Brontë's enduring classic. While often celebrated for its pioneering feminist themes and complex character portrayals, Jane Eyre also embodies many of the defining features of the Gothic literary tradition. This dual identity enriches the narrative, imbuing it with atmospheric tension, psychological depth, and symbolic complexity. By exploring Jane Eyre through the Gothic genre framework, one gains a more nuanced understanding of the novel's thematic resonance and stylistic choices.

## **The Gothic Roots of Jane Eyre**

Gothic literature, emerging prominently in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, is characterized by its emphasis on mystery, horror, and the supernatural, often set against dark, foreboding landscapes or decaying estates. Jane Eyre, published in 1847, incorporates many of these elements but reinterprets them within a Victorian context, blending Gothic tropes with realism and social critique. This hybridization allows Brontë to explore psychological and emotional complexity alongside traditional Gothic motifs.

## Atmosphere and Setting

One of the most striking features of *Jane Eyre* as a gothic novel is its use of setting to create mood and tension. Thornfield Hall, the primary locus of the story's middle section, epitomizes the Gothic mansion archetype. Its vast, gloomy corridors, hidden rooms, and looming presence contribute to an atmosphere thick with suspense and mystery. The physical architecture of Thornfield is inseparable from the novel's psychological landscape, symbolizing both repression and hidden secrets.

The moors surrounding the estate further enhance this Gothic ambiance. Their wild, untamed nature mirrors the protagonist's internal struggles and the novel's recurring motifs of isolation and freedom. The bleakness of Lowood School at the story's outset also echoes Gothic conventions, with its harsh, oppressive environment casting a shadow over Jane's formative years.

## The Supernatural and the Uncanny

While *Jane Eyre* is grounded in realism, it skillfully incorporates supernatural elements typical of Gothic fiction. The mysterious laughter echoing through Thornfield, the unexplained noises, and the eerie presence of Bertha Mason—the “madwoman in the attic”—all contribute to a sense of otherworldliness. These elements evoke fear and uncertainty, key to Gothic storytelling, yet they are often ambiguous, inviting psychological interpretation rather than literal supernatural belief.

Bertha Mason herself serves as a Gothic symbol of the uncanny, embodying repressed desires and social taboos. Her secret confinement and wildness challenge the Victorian ideals of femininity and sanity, adding layers of complexity to the narrative's Gothic dimension.

## Psychological Depth and Gothic Characterization

The Gothic genre often focuses on characters grappling with inner turmoil, madness, and moral ambiguity. *Jane Eyre*'s protagonist exemplifies this through her intense self-awareness and emotional resilience amid adversity. Unlike many earlier Gothic heroines who appear passive or victimized, Jane exhibits agency and intellectual vigor, setting the novel apart within the tradition.

## Jane Eyre as a Gothic Heroine

Jane's experiences—ranging from the cruelty of her aunt's household and the harshness of Lowood School to the enigmatic atmosphere of Thornfield—place her in situations rife with Gothic tension. Her steadfast morality and quest for identity contrast with the dark, often threatening world around her, highlighting a central Gothic theme: the struggle between light and darkness, reason and irrationality.

Moreover, Jane's encounters with Rochester evoke the archetypal Gothic romance, blending passion with danger. Rochester himself is a quintessential Byronic hero—brooding, mysterious, and flawed—whose secrets underpin the novel's suspense and emotional intensity.

## **The Madwoman in the Attic: Bertha Mason's Role**

Bertha Mason is arguably one of the most emblematic Gothic figures in *Jane Eyre*. Her portrayal as a “monstrous” and “violent” woman locked away in the attic reflects Victorian anxieties about madness, colonialism, and gender roles. Bertha’s character operates symbolically within the Gothic framework, embodying the repressed unconscious and the destabilization of social order.

This dynamic between Jane and Bertha also invites psychoanalytic readings, with some critics interpreting Bertha as a manifestation of Jane’s darker impulses or the constraints imposed by society. The Gothic novel’s fascination with the divided self and hidden madness finds potent expression in this relationship.

## **Gothic Themes and Symbolism in Jane Eyre**

Beyond setting and character, *Jane Eyre* incorporates a variety of Gothic themes that enrich its narrative texture. These motifs resonate throughout the novel, enhancing its emotional and intellectual impact.

### **Isolation and Entrapment**

Isolation is a pervasive theme in Gothic literature, and Jane’s journey is marked by physical and emotional solitude. From her childhood as an orphan to her adult life at Thornfield and beyond, Jane repeatedly confronts loneliness and alienation. Thornfield itself functions as a prison for both Jane and Bertha, symbolizing different forms of entrapment—social, emotional, and psychological.

### **Secrets and Revelations**

The Gothic tradition thrives on secrets hidden behind locked doors and concealed identities. *Jane Eyre*’s plot is propelled by gradual revelations, most notably the existence of Bertha Mason and Rochester’s morally ambiguous past. These secrets generate suspense and challenge the protagonist’s moral compass, compelling readers to navigate the murky terrain between truth and deception.

### **Madness and the Unconscious**

Madness, a staple of Gothic fiction, manifests most vividly in the character of Bertha Mason but also permeates the novel’s atmosphere. The tension between sanity and insanity, order and chaos, reflects broader Victorian concerns and adds psychological complexity. Jane’s own moments of emotional upheaval underscore the fragile boundary between reason and passion.

# Comparative Perspectives: Jane Eyre and Other Gothic Novels

To fully appreciate Jane Eyre as a gothic novel, it is useful to compare it with contemporaneous works in the genre. Unlike Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* or Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, which emphasize supernatural terror and external threats, Jane Eyre internalizes Gothic elements, focusing on psychological realism and social critique.

Compared to Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*, another Gothic classic, Jane Eyre offers a more hopeful resolution and a protagonist who actively shapes her destiny. However, both novels share a fascination with wild landscapes, intense emotions, and the blurring of rational and irrational impulses.

## Why Jane Eyre Remains a Compelling Gothic Novel

Jane Eyre's enduring appeal as a Gothic novel lies in its ability to transcend genre conventions while remaining firmly rooted in them. Charlotte Brontë's innovative blending of Gothic motifs with themes of gender, class, and identity creates a rich narrative tapestry that continues to captivate readers and scholars alike.

The novel's atmospheric settings, complex characters, and exploration of dark, often taboo subjects contribute to its status as a seminal work within the Gothic tradition. Moreover, Jane Eyre's nuanced portrayal of psychological conflict and moral ambiguity enhances its literary depth, offering insights into human nature that resonate beyond the confines of genre.

In examining Jane Eyre as a gothic novel, one uncovers layers of meaning that enrich the reading experience and highlight Charlotte Brontë's mastery of storytelling. The novel's interplay of light and shadow, reason and passion, freedom and constraint ensures its place not only in Gothic literature but also in the broader canon of English literature.

## Jane Eyre As A Gothic Novel

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Jane Eyre By Charlotte Brontë "The Annotated Classic Edition" A Gothic Romance Novel** Charlotte Brontë, 2020-11-11 Charlotte Brontë's romantic gothic novel, featuring one of literature's most memorable heroines. Jane Eyre is the story of passionate love between the courageous orphan Jane Eyre and the brilliant, brooding, and domineering Rochester. The loneliness and cruelty of Jane's childhood strengthens her natural independence and spirit, which prove invaluable when she takes a position as a governess at Thornfield Hall. But after she falls in love with her sardonic employer, her discovery of his terrible secret forces her to make a heart-wrenching choice. Jane Eyre has enthralled every kind of reader, from the most critical and cultivated to the youngest and most unabashedly romantic. It lives as one of the great triumphs of storytelling and as a moving and unforgettable portrayal of a woman's quest for self-respect.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Jane Eyre** Charlotte Bronte, 2021-11 Gothic fiction written in

times before the morrow, sophisticated in a way modern gothic fiction lacks. Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte is a book of gothic fiction novel first published in 1847 United Kingdom. A true book of worth, a classic that lives in an era of timeless distinction. Early books emit an excellence unlike any from modern times. You will not be dissatisfied with this works, gothic fiction at its finest. Sneak Peak I was glad of it; I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed. The said Eliza, John, and Georgiana were now clustered round their mamma in the drawing-room: she lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside, and with her darlings about her (for the time neither quarrelling nor crying) looked perfectly happy. Me, she had dispensed from joining the group, saying, She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation that I was endeavouring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner--something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were--she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy little children. Synopsis Jane Eyre is an epic Gothic fiction coming of age book. Written by Charlotte Bronte the novel is a first-person narrative from the perspective of the title character. Its setting is somewhere in the north of England, late in the reign of George III (1760-1820). It has five distinct stages: Jane's childhood at Gateshead Hall, where she is emotionally and physically abused by her aunt and cousins; her education at Lowood School, where she gains friends and role models but suffers privations and oppression; her time as governess at Thornfield Hall, where she falls in love with her mysterious employer, Edward Fairfax Rochester; her time in the Moor House, during which her earnest but cold clergyman cousin, St. John Rivers, proposes to her; and ultimately her reunion with, and marriage to, her beloved Rochester. Throughout these sections, it provides perspectives on a number of important social issues and ideas, many of which are critical of the status quo. These include but are not limited to believe in heaven, and mental health for adults. Throughout the years this novel about a governess romance in the English countryside is remained a true classic and has captured the hearts of readers of all ages. We take every step possible to ensure the original integrity of this book has been upheld to its highest standard. This means that the texts in this story are unedited and unchanged from the original authors publication, preserving its earliest form for your indulgence. This title is one of the best gothic fiction novels, of all time, words strung together with such romantic precision, gothic fiction novels that you just do not see in the modern age. This title will make an excellent gift to the gothic fiction buff in your life or a fantastic addition to your current collection. We are ready to ship this book off to you today at lightning speed, so you will find yourself indulging in this title without delay. Title Details Jane Eyre Gothic Fiction 7 x 10 Inches Matte Cover White Paper

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** The Meaning of Mystery and Suspense in "Jane Eyre" Thomas Schachtebeck, 2011-01-20 Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 2,0, Free University of Berlin (Fachbereich Englisch), course: Surveying English Literatures II , language: English, abstract: Gothic Elements in the Victorian Novel - The Meaning of Mystery and Suspense in Jane Eyre 1 Introduction Undoubtedly, Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre was one of the most successful and influential novels published during the era of Victorian England, which lasted from 1837 until 1901 , and even today, Jane Eyre is regarded as one of the most important masterpieces in the history of world literature. Although Brontë's novel primarily fulfills features of the romance novel - certainly a very popular and widespread genre among Victorian writers - Jane Eyre can be accounted a hybrid of three literary genres, which not only shares romantic elements, but also characteristics of the Bildungsroman and the Gothic novel. However, Brontë's novel basically follows "two traditional plot lines" (Heller 1993: 49) of Victorian women writing. On the one hand, Jane Eyre comprises a love story between a man and a women, represented by the relationship between Jane and Rochester, which clearly corresponds to romance elements, whereas, on the other hand, the story of Jane's personal and psychological development, which is expressed by her different encounters with the external world over a large range of time,

corresponds to the female Bildungsroman. Nevertheless, in Jane Eyre, both plots are strongly interrelated with each other, what makes each plot rather complex and difficult to analyse (cf. Heller 1993: 49). Moreover, Charlotte Brontë repeatedly utilised several mysterious and horrific incidents - which are clear indicators for a Gothic influence - throughout the whole novel. The question may be raised, how and for what purpose did Brontë implant Gothic elements in her novel, although the period of 'classic' Gothic writing had already come to an end in the early 19th century. Was it just for the cause of catching the reader's attention and making the story more interesting to read, or was there even more behind it? In order to find a suitable answer to that question, this essay will first point out a couple of striking and important scenes which represent typical Gothic features in Jane Eyre, and then, it will try to analyse the causes for the application of these Gothic elements and their effect on the novel's message which is aimed to be delivered.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Females Depicted in Gothic Fiction** Talia Baskaya, 2020-02-04 Seminar paper from the year 2018 in the subject Literature - Comparative Literature, grade: 10,0, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, language: English, abstract: It may seem questionable to analyze the depiction of women in two novels, both classified as completely different genres from different time spans - "Jane Eyre" as the so-called "Bildungsroman" in England 1847 in contrast to "Christine" published in the USA 1983. Yet there are communalities concerning their writing elements that both utilize. They have overlaps with the Gothic genre, using Gothic Fiction elements in their novels and in consequence, offer a great opportunity to become objects of investigations for this term paper. Initially, I will give a brief overview on the subject matter of females being depicted in Gothic fiction. Then "Jane Eyre" will be put into context by shortly elaborating the women's role in the Victorian Age to consider the historical and socio-economic aspects of the novel. Afterwards, I will conduct the text analysis and in the second main part I will work with the same structure on "Christine". In the end, I intend to prove in the conclusion that it is clear as bell how the two authors' depiction of women differ although they both write Gothic novels.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Jane Eyre (Heavy Metal Edition)** METALit, Charlotte Brontë, 2021-08-18 Don't judge this book by its cover! Charlotte Brontë's classic gothic novel, now featuring new cover art inspired by your favorite MASTERS OF METAL! Jane Eyre is an orphan, penniless and plain, but full of courage and spirit. She has endured incredible hardship to secure her humble status as a governess in the household of her brooding employer, Mr. Rochester. Jane's sharp wit and defiant nature meet with Rochester's sardonic temperament. The two become enmeshed in a deep, intense bond. But Rochester has a terrible secret--a remnant from his past that could threaten any hope of happiness with his only love. For those about to read--we salute you!

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Females Depicted in Gothic Fiction** Talia Baskaya, 2020-01-07 Seminar paper from the year 2018 in the subject Literature - Comparative Literature, grade: 10,0, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, language: English, abstract: It may seem questionable to analyze the depiction of women in two novels, both classified as completely different genres from different time spans - Jane Eyre as the so-called Bildungsroman in England 1847 in contrast to Christine published in the USA 1983. Yet there are communalities concerning their writing elements that both utilize. They have overlaps with the Gothic genre, using Gothic Fiction elements in their novels and in consequence, offer a great opportunity to become objects of investigations for this term paper. Initially, I will give a brief overview on the subject matter of females being depicted in Gothic fiction. Then Jane Eyre will be put into context by shortly elaborating the women's role in the Victorian Age to consider the historical and socio-economic aspects of the novel. Afterwards, I will conduct the text analysis and in the second main part I will work with the same structure on Christine. In the end, I intend to prove in the conclusion that it is clear as bell how the two authors' depiction of women differ although they both write Gothic novels.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: Plots and Proposals** Karen Tracey, 2000 Boy meets girl. Boy proposes to girl. Girl refuses proposal. Then what? This provocative scenario provides the frame for a significant countertradition in popular nineteenth-century women's novels: the double-proposal plot, in which the heroine rejects and later accepts proposals from the same suitor. Exploring the

American wing of this movement through the novels of Carolyn Hentz, Augusta Evans, Laura J. Curtis Bullard, E. D. E. N. Southworth, and Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Karen Tracey investigates how each of these writers is constrained by her historical circumstances and how she uses her fiction to critique those circumstances. Pioneered in Britain by Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the double-proposal plot dislodges the myth of Mr. Right and questions the all-powerful notions of true love and happily-ever-after. When the heroine rejects her suitor's initial proposal, she opens up the possibility of renegotiating the terms of the relationship and exploring alternative roles. By considering two possible marriages between the same set of partners, the double-proposal plot interrogates the role of middle-class women in courtship and in public life as well as the quality of married life and the influence a woman potentially brings to it. Tracey charts the genre's evolution from novels that seek answers within renegotiated marriages to those that challenge the efficacy of marriage itself. Reconstructing some of the cultural circumstances that would have influenced the writing, publishing, and reading of the novels, *Plots and Proposals* examines how changing notions of love and romance both inform and are critiqued by this renegade fiction.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel: A Study Guide (New Edition) for Charlotte Bronte's "Jane Eyre"** Gale, Cengage, A Study Guide (New Edition) for Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Novels for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Novels for Students for all of your research needs.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Brontë, 2017-01-04 Jane Eyre accepts a position as governess at Thornfield Hall and meets Mr. Rochester, the moody and cynical master of the manor. Growing up an unwanted orphan, Jane has known very little love in her life, but in spite of this, she has always been thoughtful and kind. Jane's and Rochester's apparent differences attract them to each other, but little does Jane know that something far more damaging than social statuses will keep them apart. 'Jane Eyre' (1847) is a love story that holds up over time, and it is no wonder that it has been adapted so many times. Ruth Wilson from 'The Affair' (2014) starred as Jane in 2003, and before he was James Bond, Timothy Dalton took on the role as the complicated Mr. Rochester. 2011 saw the most beautiful adaptation yet with Mia Wasikowska and Michael Fassbender in the leading roles. Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855) was an English novelist and poet, most known for her classic novel 'Jane Eyre' (1847) about a governess who falls in love with the master of the mansion. She was the older sister to novelists Emily and Anne Brontë, whose work is also widely read today.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** Charlotte Brontë: Jane Eyre Florian Rübener, 2010-12-29 Seminar paper from the year 2006 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,2, University of Duisburg-Essen (Department of Anglophone Studies), course: 19th century novels, language: English, abstract: 1. Introduction 1.1 Preface „Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre has often been described as a gothic novel, but the type of fantasy which is more obviously responsible for its plot structure and character development is the fairy tale.“<sup>1</sup> When I read Jane Eyre I just couldn't help myself but feeling that some aspects of the story seemed strangely familiar. A poor orphan girl that has to live with two unpleasant sisters and a wealthy but cruel aunt and suffers from domestic violence. This very beginning of Jane Eyre of course resembles the universally known fairy tale Cinderella and it seems that this is not the only reference to a fairy tale within Charlotte Brontë's novel. Traces of Beauty and the Beast can be found as well as other significant fairy tale elements. The purpose of this term paper is to reveal some of the fairy tale elements to be found in Jane Eyre and to discuss if the novel as a whole can be understood as some sort of modern fairy tale.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** *Gilbert and Gubar's The Madwoman in the Attic after Thirty Years* Annette R. Federico, 2011-01-25 When it was published in 1979, Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar's *The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination* was hailed as a pathbreaking work of criticism, changing the way future scholars would read Jane Austen, Mary Shelley, the Brontës, George Eliot, and Emily Dickinson. This

thirtieth-anniversary collection adds both valuable reassessments and new readings and analyses inspired by Gilbert and Gubar's approach. It includes work by established and up-and-coming scholars, as well as retrospective accounts of the ways in which *The Madwoman in the Attic* has influenced teaching, feminist activism, and the lives of women in academia. These contributions represent both the diversity of today's feminist criticism and the tremendous expansion of the nineteenth-century canon. The authors take as their subjects specific nineteenth- and twentieth-century women writers, the state of feminist theory and pedagogy, genre studies, film, race, and postcolonialism, with approaches ranging from ecofeminism to psychoanalysis. And although each essay opens *Madwoman* to a different page, all provocatively circle back—with admiration and respect, objections and challenges, questions and arguments—to Gilbert and Gubar's groundbreaking work. The essays are as diverse as they are provocative. Susan Fraiman describes how *Madwoman* opened the canon, politicized critical practice, and challenged compulsory heterosexuality, while Marlene Tromp tells how it elegantly embodied many concerns central to second-wave feminism. Other chapters consider *Madwoman*'s impact on Milton studies, on cinematic adaptations of *Wuthering Heights*, and on reassessments of Ann Radcliffe as one of the book's suppressed foremothers. In the thirty years since its publication, *The Madwoman in the Attic* has potently informed literary criticism of women's writing: its strategic analyses of canonical works and its insights into the interconnections between social environment and human creativity have been absorbed by contemporary critical practices. These essays constitute substantive interventions into established debates and ongoing questions among scholars concerned with defining third-wave feminism, showing that, as a feminist symbol, the raging madwoman still has the power to disrupt conventional ideas about gender, myth, sexuality, and the literary imagination.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte, 2015-09-20 This famous Gothic romance novel by Charlotte Bronte is bold and intriguing. It was first published in 1847 in London, and it continues to be read throughout the world to this day. It follows the experiences of the heroine through childhood, schooling, and her relationship with Mr. Rochester. Her emotions and strong moral character shine like a bright star. This edition is formatted to allow for easy reading and for convenient study.

**jane eyre as a gothic novel:** *The Vampire in Nineteenth Century English Literature* Carol A. Senf, 2013-02 Carol A. Senf traces the vampire's evolution from folklore to twentieth-century popular culture and explains why this creature became such an important metaphor in Victorian England. This bloodsucker who had stalked the folklore of almost every culture became the property of serious artists and thinkers in Victorian England, including Charlotte and Emily Brontë, George Eliot, Charles Dickens, Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels. People who did not believe in the existence of vampires nonetheless saw numerous metaphoric possibilities in a creature from the past that exerted pressure on the present and was often threatening because of its sexuality.

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