

## Film Worksheet 2.6

### *Jane Eyre*

#### Knowledge base

1. Review your knowledge of the novel *Jane Eyre*.
  - a. Read the brief summary of the storyline.
  - b. Say in which roles we see Jane during the course of the novel and if the story has a happy ending.

#### Summary

*Jane Eyre* is an orphan who is sent by her cruel aunt to a charity boarding school. Here she suffers a great deal of hardship but eventually leaves the institution with sufficient qualifications to work as a governess. She applies for and obtains a place tutoring a young girl, the ward of a Mr Rochester who is the owner of Thornfield Hall.

Jane is pleased with her position there — the housekeeper, Mrs Fairfax, is friendly and her pupil sweet and willing to learn. Mr Rochester comes home to the Hall and is attracted by Jane's quiet intelligence. He eventually reveals his love for Jane and asks her to marry him. Jane is delighted as she has long loved him in return but, as they are about to exchange their vows in church, a man enters and reveals that Rochester is already married. His wife is mad and dangerously violent and is locked in a garret at the Hall.

Jane refuses to stay with Rochester and runs away, finding refuge with another family of young people and works as a school teacher. She never forgets Rochester and when, one day, she suddenly feels he is calling out to her, she decides to return to Thornfield. She finds the house has burnt down and that Rochester's mad wife who was responsible for the fire died in the flames. Rochester has been blinded as a consequence of the fire and lives in seclusion. Jane finds him, affirms her love for him and they marry.

2. The clip you will watch concerns the moment when Jane meets Rochester for the first time and corresponds roughly to the text on page 216 of your book.

- a. Where and when does Jane have her first encounter with Rochester?
- b. Do they fall in love at first sight?

3. Check the description of Rochester in your book and watch the film clip for the first time.

- a. Does Rochester differ from his description in any way?
- b. Do you think the actor who has been cast as Rochester is suitable? And Jane?

#### First impressions



#### *Jane Eyre*

(see film clip on the Class Video DVD)

#### In more detail

#### Content

4. Work with the script.
  - a. Read through the script with a partner.
  - b. Watch the film clip, following the script at the same time. Note pauses and changes in tone.
  - c. Read the script again, keeping time with the actors on screen.

- JANE: Are you injured Sir? Can I do anything?  
 ROCHESTER: You should stand to one side.  
 JANE: If you're hurt, I can fetch some help.  
 ROCHESTER: Thank you, I shall do. I have no broken bones. Well go on then.  
 JANE: I cannot think of leaving you here, sir, until I see you are able to mount your horse.  
 ROCHESTER: You should be at home yourself. Where do you come from?  
 JANE: There.  
 ROCHESTER: What? Do you mean that house with the battlements?  
 10 JANE: Yes, Sir.  
 ROCHESTER: Whose house is it?  
 JANE: Mr Rochester's.  
 ROCHESTER: Do you know Mr Rochester?  
 JANE: No I've never seen him.  
 ROCHESTER: What is your position there?  
 JANE: I'm the governess.  
 ROCHESTER: Ah! the governess... Hum.

### Shots, composition and montage

5. Why do you think Rochester doesn't tell Jane who he is?

6. Watch the clip again.

- Make notes on the shots, the composition in the frame and continuity.
- Compare your notes with your classmates.

### Conclusions

7. Read the information about the film adapted from *Wikipedia* and answer the questions.

- Who was the film's well-known director?
- Why was Jane played by more than one actress?
- Where was the film's main location?
- Which of its stars received the better reviews? Do you agree?



*Jane Eyre* is a film adaption of Charlotte Brontë's novel of the same name. This 116-minute Hollywood version was directed by Franco Zeffirelli. It features Charlotte Gainsbourg as the adult Jane Eyre, Anna Paquin as the young Jane Eyre, and William Hurt as Rochester.

It was released in April 1996 and was filmed on location in England, particularly at Haddon Hall in Derbyshire which became Rochester's Thornfield Hall.

The film compresses much of the novel's second half, focusing on Jane as a child and on Jane's relationship with Rochester rather than on the time she spends apart from him.

It had a gross revenue of \$5,200,601. Hurt has received praise from critics for his portrayal of Rochester while Gainsbourg has had more lukewarm reviews.