'Jane Eyre' 1-10: Knowledge Organiser

Chapter breakdown

1	On a bitter day, Jane is curled up with a book when her cousin, John Reed, discovers her and hits her. She fights back and is sent to the red-room.
2	Jane is locked in the red-room. She sits in turmoil until she hears and sees something odd. She begs to be let out. She faints.
3	Jane wakes up in the nursery. Bessie and Mr Lloyd are there. Jane is miserable. Mr Lloyd talks to Jane about going to school.
4	Jane is visited by Mr Brocklehurst, the headteacher at Lowood School. After his visit, Jane and Mrs Reed argue. Jane says she will never call her 'aunt' again.
5	Jane travels to Lowood School. She meets Miss Temple, the kind teacher, and Helen Burns, another pupil.
6	Helen is thrashed for having dirty hands. Later, she talks with Jane and explains that it is better to forgive and be patient than to get angry and seek revenge.
7	Mr Brocklehurst visits Lowood School. He calls Jane to the front of the classroom and calls her a liar in front of all the teachers and pupils. Helen smiles at Jane, bringing Jane hope.
8	Afterwards, Jane and Helen visit Miss Temple. Miss Temple says she believes that Jane is not a liar. Jane listens to Miss Temple and Helen's fascinating conversations. Miss Temple hears from Mr Lloyd that Jane is not a liar, and tells the school.
9	Jane enjoys the area around Lowood in the spring. Typhus breaks out at Lowood School. Lots of girls get sick. Many die. Helen Burns dies of tuberculosis.
10	Eight years pass. Jane has become a teacher at Lowood School. Mr Brocklehurst had his power removed when his treatment at the school was discovered. Jane applies to be a governess for a family at Milcote.

Locations

Gateshead Hall
Home of Mrs Reed, John, Georgiana, and Eliza Reed. Jane grows up here. Jane is locked in the red-room.

Lowood School
Jane is sent to Lowood by Mrs Reed. Mr Brocklehurst is the headteacher. Conditions are harsh and strict. The girls receive brutal punishments and are fed poorly. A typhus outbreak kills many of the girls.

Characters

Jane Eyre The main character. A young, intelligent, and passionate orphan. "*You think I have no feelings, and that I can do without one bit of love or kindness; but I cannot live so*"

Mrs Reed – Jane's aunt She neglects and abuses Jane and is glad to send her away to Lowood School. "*Guard against her worst fault, a tendency to deceit*"

Mr Brocklehurst – The governor of Lowood school A cruel and hypocritical Christian. He believes in driving evil from children through harsh discipline. "*Punish her body to save her soul*"

Helen Burns – Jane's friend A kind and forgiving Christian. She inspires Jane to be more patient and accepting. She dies of tuberculosis at 14. "*Love your enemies; bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you and despitefully use you.*"

Miss Temple The kind and understanding teacher at Lowood. Offers care and affection to Jane and Helen. "*You shall be publicly cleared from every imputation: to me, Jane, you are clear now.*"

Key words

orphan – a child whose parents have died.

dependent – someone who relies on another person to support them financially. Jane is a **dependent** because she relies on Mrs Reed to feed, clothe and house her.

oppress (vb.) – to treat a group of people in an unfair way, often by limiting their freedom.

juxtaposition – a literary technique where a writer places very different things or people close to each other. This helps to show how the things are similar or different.

thesis – the main idea that you want to discuss throughout an essay.

humiliate (vb.) – to make someone feel stupid or ashamed. If something makes you feel stupid or ashamed, you could describe it as **humiliating.**

hypocrite – someone who says one thing, but does the opposite at another time.

comeuppance – when a villain receives some form of punishment for what they did.

Victorian attitudes to childhood

1	A child is a blank slate and can be trained to develop into a rational being.
2	A child is born completely **innocent** and **pure**. They are only contaminated by contact with corrupt forces.
3	The child is born evil and must therefore be controlled and punished in order to submit to the rules of God and society.

Biographical information

1	'Jane Eyre' written in 1847 by Charlotte Brontë.
2	Parts of 'Jane Eyre' were influenced by Brontë's experiences at school and as a young woman.
3	'Jane Eyre' was unusual when it was published because it is written in the first-person from a female perspective.