



Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë

A fireside classic about a quiet governess with an unshakeable inner compass, perfect for slow, heartfelt conversation on a chilly evening.

Reading level: Moderate

Best for: A club that loves long evenings, classic novels, and tea with their conversation

Discussion

WARM-UP

1. Where did you do most of your reading of Jane Eyre, and did any spot feel especially right for it?
2. What was the first scene or image that made you settle in and feel, okay, I'm in this book now?

DIGGING IN

1. Thornfield can feel both grand and lonely. Which rooms or corners of the book felt the coziest to you, and which felt the most unsettling?
2. Jane finds little pockets of comfort (a fire, a book, a kind word). What were your own favorite small comforts in the story?
3. When Jane talks directly to the reader, how did that feel? Did it make her seem like a friend, a confidante, someone else?
4. The novel cares a lot about what makes a place feel like home. What did home end up meaning to you while reading this?

GOING DEEP

1. Jane holds onto her sense of self even when it costs her dearly. Was there a moment that moved you, or reminded you of a time you had to do the same?
2. Without giving anything away, how did you feel when you closed the book? Comforted, restless, wistful, something else?

On the table

Warm seeded brown bread with salted butter

A nod to the simple, sustaining meals Jane is grateful for at Lowood and Moor House

Cottage pie in little ramekins

Homey English comfort food, easy to make ahead and serve from the oven

Sticky treacle tart with cream

An old-fashioned Yorkshire pudding-hour kind of dessert, sweet and nostalgic

To sip

A proper pot of English breakfast tea (no alcohol)

The drink Jane would reach for; serve with milk, sugar, and honey

Spiced apple cider, warmed on the stove (no alcohol)

Nonalcoholic and snug, perfect for a damp Yorkshire-style evening

Mulled red wine with orange and clove

Fireside warmth in a glass for those who want something stronger

Run of show

7:00 Arrivals and tea

Greet guests with a warm mug as they come in. Soft music, lamps on, overheads off.

7:15 Settle in with snacks

Bread, butter, and small bites while everyone catches up. No book talk yet.

7:35 Warm-up questions

Use the two warm-up prompts to ease into the book gently.

8:00 Main course and theme questions

Serve the cottage pie and move through the theme questions at a relaxed pace.

8:45 Dessert and deep questions

Bring out treacle tart and let the conversation deepen by candlelight.

9:20 Scorecards, bookmarks, and goodbyes

Hand out bookmarks to take home, fill in scorecards, and send everyone off cozy.

HOST TIPS

- Lean into low light: lamps, candles, and maybe a fire or a fireplace video on a screen.
- Have soft throws or shawls available; cozy bodies make cozy conversations.
- Let silences breathe. This is a slow book and it deserves a slow night.

Playlist

Hushed pianos, soft strings, and folk voices that sound like rain on a windowpane

01 Comptine d'un autre été - Yann Tiersen

03 Down to the River to Pray - Alison Krauss

05 Wuthering Heights - Kate Bush

07 Gabriel's Oboe - Ennio Morricone

02 The Wexford Carol - Yo-Yo Ma and Alison Krauss

04 Nuvole Bianche - Ludovico Einaudi

06 Song for the Asking - Simon and Garfunkel

08 The Parting Glass - The Wailin' Jennys

Trivia

1. Under what pen name was Jane Eyre originally published in 1847? (Currer Bell)
2. How many Bronte sisters published novels? (Three (Charlotte, Emily, and Anne))
3. In which English county is the Bronte family's village of Haworth located? (Yorkshire)
4. What was Charlotte Bronte's profession before becoming a successful novelist? (Governess (and teacher))
5. What is the subtitle of Jane Eyre on its original title page? (An Autobiography)
6. Which novel by Charlotte's sister Emily was published the same era and is often paired with Jane Eyre? (Wuthering Heights)
7. What kind of school does young Jane attend early in the novel? (A charity boarding school (Lowood))
8. What is the name of Mr. Rochester's country estate? (Thornfield Hall)

Rate the book

Coziness ☆☆☆☆☆

Heart ☆☆☆☆☆

Atmosphere ☆☆☆☆☆

Characters to root for ☆☆☆☆☆

Lingered with me ☆☆☆☆☆

One word for how this book made me feel: _____

A scene I'd happily reread by the fire: _____

Something I'll carry with me from Jane: _____

YOU'RE INVITED

An evening at Thornfield (minus the drafts)

Bring your slippers and your thoughts on Jane Eyre. There will be tea, cottage pie, and a warm corner waiting for you.



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