

'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.

Oliver Twist: Knowledge Organiser

Plot breakdown

Oliver is born in the workhouse. When he is a bit older he is nominated to ask for more food because the boys are starving.

He is kicked out of the workhouse and sold to the Sowerberry family to be an undertaker's apprentice. He's bullied by Noah, they fight and he is locked up.

Oliver runs away to London, meets Dodger and is introduced to Fagin's gang.

Oliver is taken out with the gang and is horrified to see Dodger steal a gentleman's handkerchief. Oliver is wrongly arrested for the theft.

The gentleman, Mr. Brownlow, takes pity on Oliver and takes him in. The gang plot to get him back in case he reveals information about them.

Oliver is abducted by the gang whilst running an errand for Mr. Brownlow.

Oliver is used by Sikes in a burglary. They fail and Sikes runs away. Oliver is left behind but the people who live there feel sorry for him and look after him. They are called Fred and Rose Maylie.

When Bill and Fagin realise what has happened, they plot to catch Oliver again. Nancy overhears and visits Mr. Brownlow to warn him.

Fagin tells Bill about Nancy's betrayal and Bill murders her. Fagin is discovered and sent to prison and Bill dies trying to run away.

Oliver discovers who his parents were and joins Mr. Brownlow and the Maylies to live happily ever after.

Key words

morality – a code of right and wrong. People who try to be good can be called **moral** and people who do bad things can be called **immoral**.

vulnerable – in a situation in which you could be easily harmed. People living on the streets are **vulnerable**.

brutal – very violent or cruel.

corrupt – a word used to describe a person who uses their power in a dishonest or illegal way in order to make life better for themselves.

villain – a 'baddie' who harms other people or breaks the law to get what they want.

malicious – meant to hurt or upset someone.

victim – someone who has been harmed, often by other people.

naïve – If someone is naïve if they don't have experience of how complicated life can be and therefore trust people too much.

society – the people who live in a certain area. This could be a country, town or small group.

workhouse – a place where people who couldn't support themselves were sent to live and work.

Background information

'Oliver Twist' was written in 1837-39.

It was written by Charles Dickens.

It was published chapter by chapter in a periodical (magazine).

Charles Dickens had to work in harsh conditions as a child when his father was sent to prison.

Dickens wanted to criticise a new change to The Poor Law which happened in 1834 and created more workhouses and show how hard life was for poor people.

Characters

Oliver

He is a 'pale, thin' orphan who is treated badly by almost everyone he meets. He tries his best to be a good person and experiences 'horror and alarm' whenever he sees crimes being committed.

Mr. Bumble

The man who runs the workhouse and gives Oliver his name. He is 'a fat man' who enjoys power and doesn't care about the people beneath him.

Noah Claypole

A 'malicious and ill-conditioned' boy who bullies Oliver at the undertakers. He eventually runs away to London and joins the same gang as Oliver.

Fagin

An old man who runs the gang of pickpockets. He seems kind but his 'villainous-looking and repulsive face' reflects his selfish nature as he gets young boys to do his dirty work for him.

Jack Dawkins (The Artful Dodger)

A young boy who introduces Oliver to Fagin's gang who has 'all the airs and manners of a man'. He's confident and cunning.

Bill Sikes

A 'rough man' who has been a criminal for many years. He beats his dog viciously and brutally kills his girlfriend, Nancy.

Nancy

Bill's girlfriend who risks her life to help Oliver escape from the gang. She loves Bill even though he treats her abusively and she feels guilty about the life of crime she has led.

Mr. Brownlow

A wealthy older gentleman who takes Oliver in and looks after him. He believes in Oliver's goodness even when it looks like Oliver has stolen from him and eventually finds out the truth about Oliver's parents.