

MASCULINITY IN JANE EYRE

TOMMY GE

KEVIN KIM

AADITYA MEHTA



INTRODUCTION

MASCULINITY CAN BE CONSIDERED A MAJOR THEME IN THE NOVEL “JANE EYRE” BY CHARLOTTE BRONTE...

THE VICTORIAN ERA HAD SHIFTS IN THE STEREOTYPE OF A TYPICAL MAN. THERE WERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEN.

WOMEN BEGAN TO TAKE MORE RESPONSIBILITY AS SHOWN THROUGH THE POWER STRUGGLES WITH JANE.

THESIS

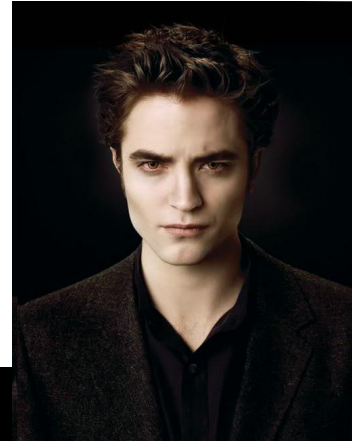
IN JANE EYRE, CHARLOTTE BRONTË ATTEMPTS TO PORTRAY THE DIFFERENT STEREOTYPES OF MEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA THROUGH POWER STRUGGLES AND THE BYRONIC HERO. THROUGH ROCHESTER AND OTHER MALE CHARACTERS, READERS SEE THAT A MAN CAN BE DESCRIBED AS SOMEONE CHARMING WITH EXTRAVAGANT WEALTH OR AN OVERCONFIDENT AND MYSTERIOUS FIGURE.

WHAT IS A BYRONIC HERO?

- TERM DEVELOPED BY LORD BYRON IN THE 19TH CENTURY
- BYRONIC HEROES ARE:
 - A VARIATION OF A ROMANTIC HERO
 - NOT LIKE TRADITIONAL HEROES
 - PSYCHOLOGICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY COMPLICATED
 - ARROGANT AND ILL TEMPERED
 - STRONG AFFECTIONS, SENSUAL, AND HATRED

Modern Byronic Heroes

- Batman
- Jack Sparrow from *Pirates of the Caribbean*
- Anakin Skywalker from *Star Wars*
- Christian Grey from *50 Shades of Grey*



MALE CHARACTERS IN JANE EYRE

- EDWARD ROCHESTER
- JOHN REED
- HOUSE PARTY GUESTS (COLONEL DENT, MR. ESHTON, HENRY AND FREDERICK LYNN, ETC.)
- MR. BROCKLEHURST
- ST. JOHN

ROCHESTER

IS HE A BYRONIC HERO?



- ROCHESTER FITS THE STEREOTYPE OF THE BYRONIC HERO BECAUSE HE IS PORTRAYED AS “ROUGH” AND ARROGANT.
- ROCHESTER IS OFTEN FRUSTRATED BY JANE
- HAUNTED BY HIS MISTAKE OF MARRYING BERTHA, IMPULSIVE
- STRONGLY ATTACHED TO JANE AND GIVES IN TO RELATIONSHIP
- JANE FINDS SOMETHING CHARMING ABOUT HIM

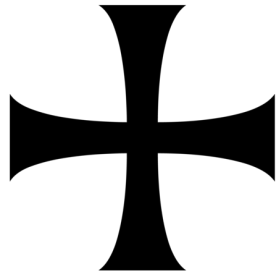
ROCHESTER QUOTES

“MR. ROCHESTER CONTINUED BLIND FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS OF OUR UNION: PERHAPS IT WAS THAT CIRCUMSTANCE THAT DREW US SO VERY NEAR.” (432)

“AND IT IS YOU, SPIRIT-WITH WILL AND ENERGY, AND VIRTUE AND PURITY-THAT I WANT: NOT ALONE YOUR BRITTLE FRAME” (303)

“AND HE GREW SAVAGE-QUITE SAVAGE ON HIS DISAPPOINTMENT: HE NEVER WAS A MILD MAN, BUT HE GOT DANGEROUS AFTER HE LOST HER.” (409)

SAINT JOHN



THE WONDERWORKER

- PORTRAYED AS A VERY HANDSOME MAN
- DISCIPLINED
 - RELIGION + DUTY > SELF
 - GOES TO INDIA
 - WANTS JANE TO MARRY FOR DUTY
- OPPOSITE OF BYRONIC HERO
 - DOES NOT HAVE EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT TO JANE
 - AUSTERE IN PERSONALITY
 - PRINCIPLE > SELF-DESIRE
 - JANE PICKED OVER ROSAMUND

ST. JOHN'S ROLE

ST. JOHN SERVES AS A FOIL TO ROCHESTER. HE GIVES SHELTER AND WELCOMES JANE TO HIS HOME, THE SEEMINGLY OPPOSITE REACTION ROCHESTER HAD TO HER. ALSO, WHEREAS ROCHESTER WAS MYSTERIOUS TO JANE. JOHN HAS NOTHING TO HIDE, AND IS AN OPEN BOOK. JOHN IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN RELIGION AND FOLLOWS DUTY OVER PASSION, AGAIN THE OPPOSITE OF ROCHESTER. ROCHESTER CHOOSES TO MARRY JANE OVER STAYING LOYAL TO HIS WIFE AND JANE MENTIONS HE WAS STANDING IN THE WAY OF HER RELIGION. HIS VALUES, CONTRASTING WITH ROCHESTER'S, ALLOW FOR JANE TO COMPARE THE TWO PATHS SHE CAN FOLLOW.

██████████

“HAD HE BEEN A HANDSOME, HEROIC LOOKING
YOUNG GENTLEMAN, I SHOULD NOT HAVE DARED
TO STAND THUS QUESTIONING HIM AGAINST HIS
WILL, AND OFFERING MY SERVICES UNASKED.”
(105)

"MY BRIDE IS HERE," HE SAID, AGAIN DRAWING
ME TO HIM, "BECAUSE MY EQUAL IS HERE, AND
MY LIKENESS. JANE, WILL YOU MARRY ME?" (242)

“HAD HE BEEN A STATUE INSTEAD OF A MAN, HE
COULD NOT HAVE BEEN EASIER” (329).

“ST. JOHN, NO DOUBT, WOULD HAVE GIVEN THE
WORLD TO FOLLOW, RECALL, RETAIN HER, WHEN SHE
THUS LEFT HIM; BUT HE WOULD NOT GIVE ONE
CHANCE OF HEAVEN, NOR RELINQUISH, FOR THE
ELYSIUM OF HER LOVE, ONE HOPE OF THE TRUE,
ETERNAL PARADISE” (351).

JOHN REED



- Bullies Jane, power struggle between the two
- Dependent on his mother
- Expects wealth, commits suicide after poor decisions and a different life than expected

JOHN REED QUOTES

“THERE WERE MOMENTS WHEN I WAS BEWILDERED BY THE TERROR HE INSPIRED...THE SERVANTS DID NOT LIKE TO OFFEND THEIR YOUNG MASTER BY TAKING ANY PART AGAINST HIM...”(4)

“HE GOT INTO DEBT AND INTO JAIL: HIS MOTHER HELPED HIM OUT TWICE, BUT AS SOON AS HE WAS FREE HE RETURNED TO HIS OLD COMPANIONS AND HABITS. HIS HEAD WAS NOT STRONG: THE KNAVES HE LIVED AMONGST FOOLED HIM BEYOND ANYTHING I EVER HEARD.” (209)

HOUSE PARTY GUESTS



- THE GUESTS THAT VISIT ROCHESTER'S HOUSE ARE DESCRIBED AS CHARMING AND HANDSOME IN COMPARISON TO ROCHESTER.
- THE GUESTS DIFFER FROM ROCHESTER'S BYRONIC HERO FIGURE

HOUSE PARTY GUESTS QUOTES

“WHAT WAS THE GALLANT GRACE OF THE LYNNS, THE LANGUID ELEGANCE OF LORD INGRAM-EVEN THE MILITARY DISTINCTION OF COLONEL DENT, CONTRASTED WITH HIS LOOK OF NATIVE PITH AND GENUINE POWER?” (164)

“I COULD IMAGINE THAT MOST OBSERVERS WOULD CALL THEM ATTRACTIVE, HANDSOME, IMPOSING; WHILE THEY WOULD PRONOUNCE MR. ROCHESTER AT ONCE HARSH FEATURED AND MELANCHOLY LOOKING.” (164)

MR. BROCKLEHURST



Who:
Lousy supervisor
of Lowood.

What:
Starves girls, and
thinks God's cool with
it.

- DISHONEST
 - STOLE MONEY FROM GOVERNMENT TO ENRICH HIMSELF
- CALLS HIMSELF CHRISTIAN - IRONIC
- RUDE
 - MEAN TO CHILDREN
 - FIRST MEETING WITH JANE
- NOT A BYRONIC HERO
 - SHIFTY
 - DOES NOT HAVE REDEEMING QUALITIES

MR. BROCKLEHURST QUOTES

"NATURALLY! YES, BUT WE ARE NOT TO CONFORM TO NATURE: I WISH THESE GIRLS TO BE THE CHILDREN OF GRACE: AND WHY THAT ABUNDANCE? I HAVE AGAIN AND AGAIN INTIMATED THAT I DESIRE THE HAIR TO BE ARRANGED CLOSELY, MODESTLY, PLAINLY" (56)

"...STOOD THE SAME BLACK COLUMN WHICH HAD FROWNED ON ME SO OMINOUSLY FROM THE HEARTHrug OF GATESHEAD. I NOW GLANCED SIDWAYS AT THIS PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE. YES, I WAS RIGHT: IT WAS MR. BROCKLEHURST" (54)

ROCHESTER'S TRANSFORMATION

- ROCHESTER BECAME HUMBLER AFTER LOSING HIS SIGHT AND A HAND IN A FIRE
- LESS ARROGANT, SOLVED PROBLEMS OF POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN HIM AND JANE
- HAPPINESS WITH JANE LEADS HIM AWAY FROM HIS BYRONIC HERO ROLE



CONCLUDING REMARKS

- MALE CHARACTERS IN JANE EYRE WERE NOT BASED ON THE TYPICAL STEREOTYPE OF HONOR, LOYALTY, AND WEALTH
- EACH MALE PRESENTED HAS A FLAW WHETHER THAT BE GREED, ARROGANCE, DISHONESTY, ETC.
- THE TITLE OF A MAN WAS BASED ON MORALITY RATHER THAN WEALTH

Works Cited

BRONTE, CHARLOTTE. *JANE EYRE*. NEW YORK: RANDOM HOUSE, 1943. PRINT.

LANDOW, GEORGE P. "GENDER MATTERS: ISSUES OF VICTORIAN MASCULINITY." *GENDER MATTERS: ISSUES OF VICTORIAN MASCULINITY*. N.P., 7 JULY 2014. WEB. 25 JAN. 2017.

FORINA, MARYBETH (2014). EDWARD ROCHESTER: A NEW BYRONIC HERO. *UNDERGRADUATE REVIEW*, 10, 85-88.