



My Plain Jane

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Tome Society It List Discussion Guide



Pre-reading questions:

1. What are your opinions/assumptions about England in the mid-1800's?
2. A character in this novel, Charlotte, wants to write a novel. She bases her stories from events happening in her life. What are some interesting topics going on today that would make an interesting subject for a story?
3. Ghosts are a prominent part of this book. When you think of ghosts, what immediately comes to your mind? Are they always angry, evil, or scary? Are they always from older dates, such as the mid-1800's (when this novel is set)?
4. If you could see ghosts, would you use this ability to relocate them and keep them away from humans or would you interact with them in a friendly manner? Why?
5. When you think of the "ideal" Victorian men and women, how would you describe them? What are their skills, jobs, or daily routines? How would you feel living in their society?

Post-reading questions:

1. How do you feel about modern language being used in a historical book? Do you think that the authors successfully mixed the modern telling with the historically accurate social behaviors?
2. Would you work for the Society for the Relocation of Wayward Spirits? Do you agree with the way the members capture the spirits and force them to move on?
3. Who do you believe published the advertisement for a governess at Thornfield Hall? Do you believe it was Mrs. Fairfax (looking for an actual governess), Mr. Rochester (looking specifically for Jane), or the Duke of Wellington (planning for the next Beacon to work near Rochester)?
4. Where do you think Mr. Rochester was going on his multiple trips away from Thornfield Hall?
5. *Spoiler alert* Do you believe that Mr. Rochester was going to marry Blanche Ingram or was he just using her to bait Jane into falling in love with him?
6. Jane wanted to stay at Thornfield Hall even when offered a large salary. If you were in her position, would you have stayed at Thornfield Hall or taken the job with the Society for Relocation of Wayward Spirits?
7. *Spoiler alert* Many of the employees in Thornfield Hall, such as Mrs. Fairfax, hide Mrs. Rochester from Jane, even though they were not possessed as Mr. Rochester was. Why do you think they hid her from Jane?

Post-reading Activities

1. Come up with a different way of dealing with wayward spirits (rather than capturing them and forcing them to pass on).
2. The original author of Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë, used Currer Bell as her pseudonym when first publishing the novel. Research how Brontë came up with that name and create a pseudonym for yourself.

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