

Jane Eyre

Chapter One

Jane is ten years old. She lives with her aunt, Mrs Reed, and her three cousins. Their names are Eliza, John and Georgiana. They don't like Jane and make her life very unpleasant. Bessie, a servant, is always telling her off.

Jane likes stories and books. She finds a book called 'Bewick's History of British Birds' and starts to read it. She likes the descriptions and drawings of cold places where there is snow and ice. For a few minutes she feels happy.

Suddenly she hears John's voice. He is looking for her. He can't find her. His sister Eliza knows she is sitting behind a curtain. She comes out from behind the curtain.

Cousin John is sitting in a chair. He says 'I want you to come here' John is fourteen years old and he is a bully. He is spoilt by his mother. He is not at school because he pretends he is not well.

Jane walks up to John and he hits her. Jane nearly falls over. He calls her a rat. Then he picks up the book and throws it at her. She hits her head on the door and she starts bleeding.

Jane shouts 'You are like a murderer.' He runs at her and gets hold of her hair. Jane fights back and hits John. Mrs Reed comes into the room and Jane and John are separated. Everyone, except Jane, believes that it is Jane's fault.

Mrs Reed calls out. 'Take her away to the red room and lock her in there.'

Questions. Write the answers or say them out loud.

1. How old is Jane?
2. What is the name of her aunt?
3. How many cousins does Jane have?
4. What does Jane like doing?
5. What is the title or name of the book she is reading?
6. What does Jane like about this book?
7. Look up the book title on Google. Write any facts you find about 'Bewick's History of British Birds.'
8. Why do you think Jane likes this book?
9. John is called a bully by Jane. Can you explain what a bully is?
10. Which room is Jane taken to?

