Unlike others who judge based on affluence, Jane forms character evaluations based on their behaviour and receptiveness to her - although still acknowledges their wealth.

But she is aware of her own class status - would rather stay with the wealthy but tormenting Reed family → ‘I should not like to belong to poor people’

In marrying Rochester after inheriting £20,000, she ‘comes to have power over Rochester’ → Eagleton suggests this is a form of revenge and intense social commentary from Bronte - the servant has become the master, reversal of bourgeoisie and proletariat.

Jane oscillates between social class but retains the same depth of character throughout - highlights the ultimate benignity of the class system.

‘Millions are in a silent revolt against their lot’ → human impotence, injustice of circumstance.

Jane’s thoughts regarding relationship with Rochester are bound up with awareness of social position.

Jane

- Embodies the transitional Victorian period, pursuit of discovery - socially and individually. Contextual dichotomies of the widely projected view of self-sacrificing, angelic, domestic woman vs. those agitating for greater rights and individualism in society.

- Struggle against oppression is representative of many contemporary women.

- Deeply unconventional yet deeply moral.

- Economically devalued and socially marginalised because of her gender.

- Jane works not only to survive but to be recognised as equal with men, that she is just as deserving as they.

- Content during her time at Lowood; as pupil and teacher, with the maternal then companion presence of Miss Temple. After she leaves, Jane is left lonely but grows excited to ‘seek real knowledge of life amidst its perils’. Grown tired of her repetitive routine and ‘for liberty I gasped’.

- Journeying nature, but too formulaic? - it would imply that Jane matures and develops at each stage - ‘moving inexorably through personal development towards happiness in the closure of marriage’ - Jane herself actually feels displaced.

- Her progress is idiosyncratic rather than symbolic.

- Gulliver’s Travels reading → yearn for exploration. It acted as her ‘transient stimulus’. Shared notion of facing opposing. Where she once yearned after fairytale illusion and its magic, after her time in Red-Room she identifies instead with Gulliver, as the wandering soul, rootless. Displaced, an outsider. Her punishment marked the end of her childhood.

- Jane is confronted with image of passive femininity, as well as masculine independence, but neither are desired or accessible. Her life is far from a paradigm, thus driving her need for self-actualisation.

- She is defined in terms of conventional images, however, by those around her. Penniless, helpless orphan by the Reeds; and attempts to construct her into an ideal.