

A03 and A04 Quotes

- ✓ PQA style embedding quotes.
- ✓ A03 (critical reading of a text – other people's views – Critical responses to Jane Eyre over time – in response to its publication) – A04 (Historical and social context)

1. The Spectator (6th November 1847):

- ❖ '...very narrow representation of human life.'
- ❖ '...there is a low tone of behaviour (rather than of morality) in the book...'
- ❖ '...neither the heroine nor the hero attracts sympathy. The reader cannot see anything loveable in Mr Rochester, nor why he should be so deeply in love with Jane Eyre...'
- ❖ '...Although minute and somewhat sordid, the first act of the fiction is the most truthful; especially the scenes at the philanthropic school.'

2. Elizabeth Eastlake, *The Quarterly Review*, December 1848:

- ❖ '...we are painfully alive to the moral, religious, and literary deficiencies of the picture and such passages of beauty and power as have quoted cannot redeem it...'
- ❖ '...but is poured out rather in the heat and hurry of an instinct which flows ungovernably on to its object...'
- ❖ 'Jane Eyre, in spite of some grand things about her is totally uncongenial to our feelings from beginning to end.'
- ❖ 'acknowledge her firmness...' '...for her struggles...'
- ❖ '...and who we should scrupulously avoid as a governess.'

3. Lord David Cecil, *Early Victorian Novelists*, 1934:

- ❖ 'Her heroines do not try to disentangle the chaos of their consciousness...'
- ❖ 'And the soul purpose of their torrential outpourings is to express their feelings...'
- ❖ '...You can learn about the external life of many different sorts of people by observation: but no amount of observation can teach you about the inner life of anyone but yourself.'
- ❖ 'Fundamentally, her principal characters are all the same person; and that is Charlotte Brontë.'

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