

- 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 - worldly 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 wants 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