

朗文经典

读名著 学英语



简·爱

JANE EYRE

每周读一部英文名著

原著: [英]C. 勃朗特 (C. Bronte)

改写: [英]S. 乌尔斯坦 (S. Ullstein)

翻译: 张艳敏

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Introduction

Charlotte Brontë

The Reverend Patrick Brontë, the clergyman **in charge of** the church at Haworth in Yorkshire, had six children. Five were girls. The four oldest girls were sent to a school for the daughters of clergymen at Cowan Bridge. Their mother had died, and their father did not know that the school was in an unhealthy place. It was badly managed, the girls did not get enough food, and the food was often bad. Some of the teachers were very unkind. Maria and Elizabeth, the two oldest sisters, died there in 1825. Charlotte, aged nine, and Emily, aged seven, were taken away from the school. Their aunt, who had come from Cornwall to look after the house at Haworth, gave Charlotte, Emily, and their youngest sister, Anne, their lessons after that.

Haworth was a lonely place for the clergyman's daughters. They were not allowed to play with the village children, and so they became even closer as a family. Like the Rivers' house in this story, their house was near but not in the village. From its windows they saw the **graves** beside the church, and beyond them the wild, almost treeless hill country of the Yorkshire **moors**. In winter the moors were cold and windy, so the Brontë sisters and their brother Branwell **invented** games to play in the

简介

夏洛蒂·勃朗特

in charge of
负责；掌管，主
管

grave
n. 墓穴；埋葬处
Yorkshire

n. 约克郡（英
格兰东北部一
地区）

moor
n. 漠泽（长满杂
草和灌木丛的荒
原）

invent
v. 捏造，虚构；
发明

帕特里克·勃朗特神父，掌管约克郡的霍沃思教堂事务。他有六个孩子，其中五个是女孩。四个大女儿被送到了位于考恩布里奇的一所专为神职人员的女儿们开设的学校。孩子们的母亲已经过世，而父亲并不知道学校的环境对健康不利。学校管理混乱，食物不仅不够吃，而且质量很差，一些教师的态度也极为恶劣。1825年，最大的两个女孩，玛丽亚和伊丽莎白，死在了那里。随后，9岁的夏洛蒂和7岁的埃米莉被接出了学校。她们的姑妈从康沃尔来到霍沃思帮忙料理家务，并从此开始负责教育夏洛蒂、埃米莉和最小的妹妹安妮。

对牧师的女儿们来说，霍沃思是一个孤独之所。因为不许她们和村里的孩子们来往，所以她们的家庭关系就更加亲密了，就像本书中的里弗斯一家，她们的房子不在村里，而是在村边。透过窗口，能看到教堂旁边的墓地，墓地尽头是约克郡漠泽，那里是一片荒芜的山野，几乎没有一棵树。冬天，漠泽上寒冷刺骨，冷风嗖嗖，勃朗特姐妹和弟弟布兰韦尔就只能待在家里，自编游戏来玩。

house.

A game with Branwell's toy soldiers became a story about two **rival** nations. The children—all of them—began to write books about their nations. They were very small home-made books, some of them only 3.8×3.2 centimetres, with **tiny imitation** print. As the children grew older, they began to include poetry in their stories.

When she was fifteen, Charlotte became the teacher for Emily and Anne. In 1842, she and Emily went to Brussels (their aunt provided the money) to improve their knowledge of French. That visit came to an end when their aunt died later in the same year. Anne found work as a governess; Charlotte and Emily planned to open their own school. Meanwhile, all three of the sisters were writing.

At first it was poetry, and in 1846 they paid to have a book of *Poems* printed. There were poems in it by each of the sisters. The best of them were Emily's. The sisters called themselves Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell because they believed that women writers were not **respected**. By the time *Poems* was published, they were each at work on a novel. Emily's and Anne's novels were published first, both in 1847. Emily's *Wuthering Heights* is still read, and it is considered by many people to be one of the greatest **tragic** novels in English literature.

Charlotte's first novel, *The Professor*, did not find a publisher. But she also finished *Jane Eyre* in the same year, and it was published in October 1847. The writer's name was given as Currer Bell. The book was immediately popular. Currer Bell was famous.

rival

adj. 对手的,
对抗的

tiny

adj. 细小的,
微型的

imitation

n. 模仿; 仿造
品, 摹拟物

respect

v. 敬重, 尊敬

tragic

adj. 悲剧的

一个用布兰韦尔的玩具士兵玩的游戏逐渐演变成了一个两国对抗的故事。孩子们——所有的孩子们——都开始为自己支持的国家编写故事书。这些故事书都是自行编撰的, 一些书只有 3.8×3.2 厘米大小, 写满纤小的仿印刷体字。随着孩子们年龄的增长, 他们又开始在故事中穿插一些诗歌。

夏洛蒂 15 岁时, 开始教埃米莉和安妮。1842 年, 姑妈出钱送她和埃米莉前往布鲁塞尔进修法语。在同年晚些时候, 姑妈去世了, 她们的游学也只好结束。安妮找到了一份家庭教师的工作, 夏洛蒂和埃米莉则筹划开办自己的学校。在此期间, 三姐妹仍然坚持写作。

她们首先发表了自己的诗作。1846 年, 她们筹资出版了一本名叫《诗歌》的诗集, 收录了姐妹三人所创作的诗歌, 其中的佼佼者当属埃米莉。她们认为, 女性作家很难得到尊重, 于是分别为自己起了笔名: 柯勒·贝尔、埃利斯·贝尔和阿克顿·贝尔。《诗歌》出版之际, 她们各自在创作小说。1847 年, 埃米莉和安妮的小说首先问世了。时至今日, 埃米莉的《呼啸山庄》仍然被广泛阅读, 许多人认为它是英国文学史上最伟大的悲剧小说之一。

夏洛蒂完成的第一部小说是《教授》, 但没有找到出版商。不过, 她在同年完成了《简·爱》, 并于 1847 年 10 月付梓, 用的笔名就是柯勒·贝尔。《简·爱》一经面世便大受欢迎, 柯勒·贝尔也一举成名。

By the middle of 1849, Charlotte Brontë, just thirty-three years old, was the only one of her father's six children still alive. Branwell, Emily and Anne were all dead. Charlotte had to look after her father, but she still found time to write two more novels, *Shirley* and *Villette*.

She married the Reverend Arthur Nicholls in June 1854 and became a busy and happy wife—for a few months. In March 1855, she was **expecting** her first child when a sudden illness took her life.

Jane Eyre

Nineteenth-century houses had better lamps than the houses of earlier times. A few homes even had gas lighting. The result was an increase in novel reading as a way of passing the long winter evenings. There was, of course, no radio, television or **recorded** music.

So, in 1847, when Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* was published, there was a large public eager to read good novels. Fielding had shown the way in the eighteenth century, and now in the nineteenth century Scott and Jane Austen had developed the form. Dickens had published *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *The Old Curiosity Shop*. Thackeray's early work had appeared, but his great novel *Vanity Fair* (1848) was not yet published. Mrs Gaskell was about the same age as Charlotte Brontë but her *Mary Barton* came out in 1848, and *Cranford* in 1853.

Charlotte and Mrs Gaskell became friends, and it was Mrs Gaskell who wrote the life-story of Charlotte in 1857. That is

expect

v. 预计, 预期,
期盼

到了1849年中期, 年仅33岁的夏洛蒂·勃朗特成了六个孩子中唯一在世的一位。布兰韦尔、埃米莉和安妮都已经去世。尽管夏洛蒂要照顾父亲, 可她还是忙里偷闲, 创作了另外两部小说, 即《雪莉》和《维莱特》。

1854年6月, 她嫁给了亚瑟·尼科尔斯神父, 成为一名忙碌而快乐的妻子——但这样的生活只持续了短短数月。1855年3月, 正当她期待着第一个孩子降生时, 突如其来的病魔夺走了她的生命。

《简·爱》

recorded

adj. 录制的,
录音的

19世纪, 人们家中的照明设备与从前相比已经有了改进, 有些人家甚至拥有煤气灯。这使得人们逐渐把阅读小说当作了一种休闲方式, 用以打发漫漫冬夜。当然, 那时可没有广播、电视或音乐唱片。

因此, 人们大都渴望能够读到优秀的小说。1847年, 夏洛蒂·勃朗特的《简·爱》的问世恰逢其时。18世纪, 菲尔丁开创了小说创作的先河, 到了19世纪, 司各特和简·奥斯汀又不断发展创新。此时, 狄更斯已经发表了《雾都孤儿》、《尼古拉斯·尼克尔白》和《古玩店》, 萨克雷的早期作品也已经问世, 不过, 巨著《名利场》尚未出版。加斯克尔夫人与夏洛蒂·勃朗特年龄相仿, 但她的《玛丽·巴顿》在1848年才出版,《克兰福德》则出版于1853年。

夏洛蒂和加斯克尔夫人成了朋友, 夏洛蒂的生平传记就是由加斯克尔夫人执笔, 于1857年写成的。

how we know that Lowood in *Jane Eyre* was very much like the terrible school Charlotte **attended**.

What was—and is—important about *Jane Eyre*? It showed, as no novel before it had ever shown, a true understanding of human **character** and the **causes** of human behaviour. One thing Charlotte Brontë showed was that the inner **nature** of **characters** in a novel is more important than their appearance. What we remember about *Jane Eyre* is not her looks. It is her determined honesty, her common sense, and her goodness. Before *Jane Eyre*, the heroine of a novel had to be beautiful, or at least (like some of Jane Austen's heroines) attractive. Charlotte Brontë chose to make her heroine, Jane Eyre, plain, small and unattractive: "No one thought she was pretty, but Mr Rochester fell in love with her".

attend

v. 参加，出席，
到场

character

n. 性格

cause

n. 原因，根由

nature

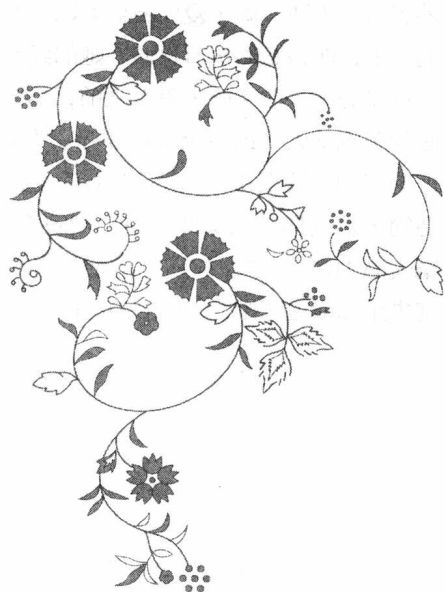
n. 天性，性质

character

n. (小说、戏剧、
电影等中的)
人物

从中我们了解到，《简·爱》中描写的洛伍德，与夏洛蒂就读的那所可怕的学校非常相似。

《简·爱》一书在过去以及现在的重要价值是什么呢？它表现了一种对人性及人的行为动机的真正理解，这是此前的小说从未触及的。夏洛蒂·勃朗特要表达的一点是；小说中人物的内心世界远比他们的外表更为重要。简·爱让我们难以忘怀之处，不是她的外表，而是她的执着真诚，她的经验常识，以及她的善良美德。在《简·爱》之前，小说女主角一般都必须美貌动人，或者至少也要吸引力（就像简·奥斯汀笔下的一些女主角）。而夏洛蒂·勃朗特却特意塑造简·爱这样一位女性形象：相貌平平，身材瘦小，毫无魅力可言，“没有人觉得她长得漂亮，可罗切斯特先生却爱上了她”（第185页）。



CHAPTER 1

The Reed Family

里 德 一 家

• QUESTIONS BEFORE READING •

- ▶ Where did John Reed find Jane?
- ▶ What did he do to her?
- ▶ Why was Jane afraid of the red room?
- ▶ What did Dr Lloyd speak to Mrs Reed about?

It was winter. The weather was very cold and it was raining. We could not go outside. I was glad; I never liked walks with my **cousins**, John, Eliza and Georgiana Reed. I was not a strong child. I always got tired before they did and then they laughed at me.

I did not like my cousins or my aunt, their mother. They did not like me, either. They never let me play in their games. I was very lonely at Gateshead Hall. But I had to live there because I was an orphan: my mother and father had died when I was a baby.

On that cold winter afternoon my cousins were sitting with their mother in the sitting room. My aunt did not allow me to be with them. I went to sit in the library. Reading was one of my greatest **pleasures**. The books in the library were not children's books, but I loved them.

Suddenly, the door opened and John Reed walked in. Eliza and Georgiana were following him.

"Where are you?" he shouted, "What are you doing? Come here at once!"

I stood up slowly. I was very **frightened** because John Reed