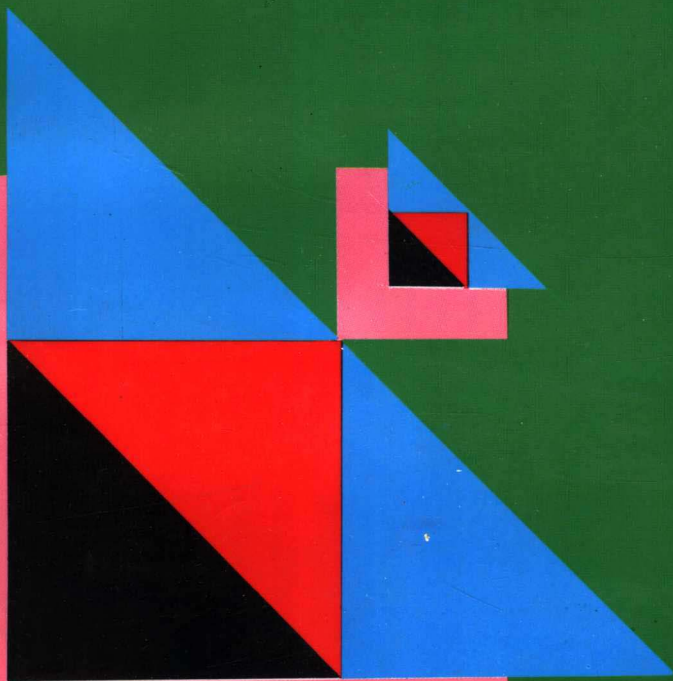


英语泛读自学考试指南

Guide to Extensive Reading

北京外国语学院 朱次榴 张洪兵 编著



外语教学与研究出版社

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前 言

北京市成人自学高考委员会规定了英语泛读考试必读的 10 本读物。这本《英语泛读自学考试指南》就是根据这 10 本书而编著的,本书的对象主要是参加这项考试的同学,但也包括一般读者,作为他们阅读这些书籍时的辅导与参考材料。

北京市成人自学高考委员会所规定的英语泛读的 10 本书,有的容易,有的难,但多数篇幅较长。由于语言方面的限制,自学者往往只能窥见一斑,不识全豹;只把注意力放在难词以及深奥的句子,难以把握通篇大意。基于这种认识,我们为这些英语读物编著了逐章逐节的较为周详的提纲。在必要的地方,还对原著作者作了简要的介绍,以期对读者了解原书全貌,把握作者意图有所帮助。

阅读这十本书,除欣赏其故事情节,或者获取各种社会历史知识外,还有一个重要的方面,就是要注意学习语言。就这方面而言,再好的阅读辅导材料都是不足的;参考书不能替代原书。为了弥补这方面的欠缺,在我们所提供的练习题中,有一部分就是针对原书语言而设计的。希望读者通过做这些练习,能够重视原书的语言,以达到最终学习、掌握它的目的。

另外,模拟题的提供,并非出于猜题的目的,只是想在正式考试前,为自学备考者提供一点心理准备,同时也达到对这些书籍有更进一步的了解。

书后附有北京 1991 年下半年高等教育自学考试英语泛读试题一套,仅供读者参考。

编著者

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Jane Eyre

About the author: Charlotte Brontë (1816-1885) one of the three sisters of the Brontë family who later became novelists, was born in Haworth, Yorkshire. Her father was an Irish-born Anglican clergyman. As a child, Charlotte was sent to a clergy daughters' boarding-school (of which Charlotte gives her recollection in the Lowood of *Jane Eyre*). In 1831-1832 she was at Miss Wooler's School at Roehead, whither she returned as a teacher in 1835-1838. She was subsequently a governess, and in 1842 went with her sister Emily to study languages at a school in Brussels, where during 1843 she was employed as a teacher. In the next year Charlotte was back at Haworth, and in 1846 she had a volume of verse published together with her sisters Emily and Anne. Charlotte's first novel *The Professor*, which was refused by publishers, was not published until 1857. Her *Jane Eyre* was published in 1847 and achieved immediate success. In 1849 she produced *Shirley*, and in 1853 she published *Villette* which was founded on her memories of Brussels; both stories, as well as *Jane Eyre*, appeared under the name Currer Bell. Together with *Shirley* and *Villette*, *Jane Eyre* represents an important advance in the treatment of women in English fiction.

A brief analysis of the structure of this simplified version of *Jane Eyre* by Evelyn Attwood: This story, consisting of 44 chapters, can be divided into four parts. Part One, covering Chapters 1 to 10, deals

with Jane Eyre's life with her aunt Mrs. Reed at Gateshead and her life as a pupil at Lowood Orphanage. Part Two, consisting of Chapters 11 to 30, describes Jane's life as a governess at Thornfield and her falling in love with Mr. Rochester, owner of the Thornfield House. Part Three, including Chapters 31 to 39, recounts Jane's escape from Thornfield and her life with the Rivers family. Part Four, containing Chapters 40 to 44, depicts Jane's return to Thornfield and her marriage with Mr. Rochester in his country house at Ferndean.

A part-to-part summary of the story

Part I (1-10): One cold afternoon, when Mrs. Reed and her three children Eliza, John and Georgiana were enjoying themselves in the drawing-room of their house at Gateshead, Jane Eyre, an orphan of ten years old, was kept away from them and she was alone in the breakfast room, reading a picture book, when suddenly John appeared before her and scolded her for having taken his book. John ordered Jane to stand away from the mirror and threw the book at her. Unable to endure John's constant bullying, Jane fought back. The noise of their fight brought Mrs. Reed into the breakfast room. Instead of punishing her own son, Mrs. Reed ordered to have Jane shut up in the red room where her uncle Mr. Reed had died. Left alone in that room, Jane seemed to see the ghost of Mr. Reed coming to her. She was so terrified that she let out a scream and fell unconscious on the floor. When she came to, she found herself in the nursery, and a man called Mr. Lloyd was with her. Mr. Lloyd asked her how she had fallen ill. Jane told him what had happened and said she would like to leave Gateshead and go to whatever school. Mr. Lloyd promised to

Speak on her behalf to Mrs. Reed. A few days later a man called Mr. Brocklehurst came from Lowood school to see Jane. To this man her aunt Mrs. Reed introduced Jane as a deceitful girl and asked him to keep an eye on her. This false introduction, Jane thought, would ruin her future in her new place, and she was very angry with her aunt. When Mr. Brocklehurst had gone, Jane told her aunt what she thought of her. She said she disliked her the worst of anyone in the world, except her son John Reed. She said she was glad Mrs. Reed was no relation of hers, and if she was asked, she would say Mrs. Reed had no pity and had treated her with miserable cruelty. Early one morning after her angry words with her aunt, Jane left Gateshead by a coach, and after travelling for a day, she arrived at Lowood in the evening. She was received by the head teacher Miss Temple and a young teacher Miss Miller. The next day, from a girl called Helen Burns, she learned something about the nature of Lowood school. It was a school for orphans, built by a lady named Naomi Brocklehurst, and controlled and directed by her son Mr. Brocklehurst. Her first day at Lowood told her what her life would be like: getting up before day-break, washing her face and brushing her teeth with cold water, reading the Bible before breakfast, bad food, hard lessons to be learned by heart, physical punishment to save her soul. On her second day at Lowood she saw with her own eyes how her friend Helen Burns was struck by the history teacher with a bundle of sticks. A few days after this, Jane herself was publicly disgraced when Mr. Brocklehurst visited Lowood. She was made to stand on a chair in the school room when Mr. Brocklehurst told the whole school that Jane was a liar and they should all keep away from her. Only Helen Burns came to comfort her. Later the kind-hearted Miss Temple came and took the two girls

to her own room. She said to Jane that she could defend herself by telling her the truth and that she would make an inquiry into her case. If it was found that she had told the truth she would be publicly cleared of all the false charges made against her. A few days after this, when Mr. Lloyd's letter came, Miss Temple called the teachers and pupils of Lowood together and announced the result of her inquiry and Jane was cleared of the charges made by Mr. Brocklehurst against her. Then, in May, a fever struck Lowood school, and took quite a few lives of the poor girls in Lowood Orphanage. Helen Burns, who had been suffering from a lung disease, was dying. One night Jane stole into Helen's room and talked with her. She slept near Helen. The next morning Jane found her best friend was dead.

Part II (11-30): Jane remained in Lowood for eight years, six years for learning, and two years for teaching. Then Miss Temple left and got married. With her friend Helen dead, and her teacher and colleague Miss Temple gone, Jane felt lonely. She wanted to leave Lowood and find a job somewhere. So she put up an advertisement in a newspaper for a job as a governess. A few days later a reply came from an old lady in Thornfield. The old lady was called Mrs. Fairfax, who offered Jane a job of teaching a girl, with a salary of 30 pounds a year. With the permission to leave and a recommendation from the committee now in charge of Lowood school, Jane left by a coach for Thornfield. Mrs. Fairfax treated Jane like a visitor, and her pupil was a pretty lively little girl called Adele from Paris not long before. Everything seemed to be quite good, except one thing. When she was being shown about the house, she heard a strange laughter from a room on the third floor. Three months passed. One day in January, when

Adele was not feeling well and was given a holiday, Jane Eyre offered to take a letter written by Mrs. Fairfax to the village post office. Half way on the road Jane met a middle-aged gentleman riding a horse along the path to Thornfield. The gentleman fell from his horse, and Jane helped him onto his horse again. When Jane came back from posting the letter, she found the house was brightly lit. She was told that the owner of the house Mr. Rochester had come back to Thornfield from his travels abroad. Several days passed, and Jane saw little of her master. Then one day Mr. Rochester sent for Adele and Jane. Mr. Rochester had brought some gifts for Adele. While Adele was enjoying her present, Mr. Rochester had a conversation with Jane. From this conversation Jane found her master was demanding and considerate. On a later occasion Mr. Rochester told Jane that Adele was the daughter of a French dancer who had deceived him and run away with a musician. Then one night someone in the house set fire to Mr. Rochester's bed when he was fast asleep. That night Jane was awake and saved Mr. Rochester. Jane suspected that the fire had been set by a terrible-looking woman servant called Grace Poole, but the next morning she found Grace Poole sewing rings onto curtains in her master's room peacefully as if nothing had happened. Jane was puzzled. Then, when she was having tea with Mrs. Fairfax, she was told that Mr. Rochester had gone to the house of a Mr. Eshton at the Leas ten miles from Millcole. She was also told that there was a beautiful lady called Miss Blanche there. When Jane was alone after tea, she found herself jealous of Miss Blanche. So she drew two pictures, one of herself, the other of Miss Blanche from her imagination. She knew she could not compare with Miss Blanche in beauty. Mr. Rochester had been away for two weeks. Then Mrs. Fairfax announced that their

master would be back home in a few days, with a great many guests. The servants in Thornfield House began to be busy. In the middle of their busy preparations for the coming back of their master and his guests Jane heard them talking about Grace Poole and her high wages. She felt more puzzled than before. Mr. Rochester came home with his guests from Eshton. There was singing and dancing in the evening. The next day Adele and Jane were called to the drawing-room. She was a little afraid. Mrs. Fairfax told her how to get into the drawing room a bit earlier, without attracting too much attention. Jane did as she was told. Soon after dinner the guests and Mr. Rochester came into the drawing-room from the dining-room. Sitting half behind the window curtain, Jane studied the guests, particularly the ladies. She found they were beautiful but very proud. She found Mr. Rochester was not of their kind. She had a lot in common with him and she loved him. She heard those beautiful ladies commenting on her job as a governess. They despised her job. Jane couldn't bear staying there any more. She was leaving the drawing-room when Mr. Rochester followed her into the hall outside the drawing-room. He asked Jane what she had been doing during his absence and why she looked so pale. Then, one day, while the guests were still enjoying themselves at Thornfield, Mr. Rochester was called away by some business. That evening a Mr. Mason from the West Indies came, saying he was a friend of Mr. Rochester's. Also that evening a fortune-teller came, insisting on seeing every unmarried lady at Thornfield. After meeting all the young ladies, including Jane Eyre, the fortune-teller turned out to be Mr. Rochester in disguise. Jane told him about the arrival of Mr. Mason, and Mr. Rochester turned pale at this news. Later Mr. Rochester asked Jane to go to Mr. Mason and tell him that he would

like to see him. Jane did so. One night shortly after this, when Jane was trying hard to fall asleep, she suddenly heard a cry coming from the third storey, and then a noise as if of a fight and something falling on the floor. That terrible cry woke up every guest in the house, and they all shouted for Mr. Rochester. He came and told them that it was a servant who had had a bad dream. When all the guests had returned to their rooms, Mr. Rochester came to Jane's room and asked her to do him a favour. He led her into a room on the third storey. There she saw Mr. Mason with his shirt stained with blood. Mr. Rochester asked Jane to help wash the blood away while he was going away to call a doctor. When Jane was left alone with Mr. Mason, she wondered what had caused those terrible happenings during the night. Early the next morning Mr. Rochester came back with a doctor named Carter. The doctor attended to Mr. Mason's wound. Half an hour later Mr. Mason was dressed, and they brought him downstairs and drove him away in a carriage. Then Mr. Rochester took Jane into the fruit garden and talked to her. He said he had made a mistake when he was young. He had wandered across the world for many years. Now he was back home, and found in Jane the new qualities he had been looking for. He asked her if she was willing to join him in finding a new life. Just then he saw his guests in the garden, and he told Jane to go away through a side door of the garden. On the afternoon of that same day a coachman came to see Jane. The coachman was sent by her aunt Mrs. Reed. He told Jane that John Reed was dead and Mrs. Reed was ill. Her aunt wanted to see her, the coachman said. Jane came to see her master and asked for leave. Her master was reluctant to let her go. When Jane arrived at Gateshead, she found her aunt was dying. Before her death Mrs. Reed revealed to her a secret she had

kept for three years. She showed Jane a short letter and said it was from her uncle John Eyre. The letter said he had been blessed with success in business and since he was alone he would like Jane Eyre to be with him in Madeira. Jane had been away from Thornfield for a month instead of for a week as she had promised Mr. Rochester. After her aunt died Jane stayed with her cousins until they had finished their preparations for leaving Gateshead. When Jane came back to Thornfield, she saw Mr. Rochester sitting on a stile, reading and writing something. Jane thought her master was going to marry Miss Elanche, but nothing happened. The more she was with her master, the more she found she loved him. One midsummer evening, when Jane was taking a walk in the garden, she saw her master smoking and wandering alone there. They met. Mr. Rochester told her that he would soon be married and she as a governess had to leave. This came like a bolt from the blue. Jane could no longer control her passion. She told him how she had been in love with him. Then Mr. Rochester told her the truth. He said he had been only trying to make her jealous by making up a story. He said the one he really loved was Jane Eyre. Their wedding was to take place in a month's time. One night, when Jane was half awake and half asleep, she saw a woman come out of the cupboard in her room, take her veil from its door and put it on her face. Then the woman looked into the mirror. It was an ugly face. Then the woman tore the veil and threw it onto the floor. This troubled Jane for a long time. She told this to Mr. Rochester. He said it was only a dream. Then the day came for them to get married. The wedding ceremony was held in a church near Thornfield Hall. When the priest was asking them to confess if there was any reason for which they could not be lawfully united, as required by the custom, a stranger appeared.

The stranger said he was a lawyer called Mr. Briggs. He said Mr. Rochester had a wife still alive. When asked to support his statement, Mr. Briggs said that Mr. Mason could prove it. Then Mr. Mason also appeared. He said he had seen Mr. Rochester's wife in April. She was called Martha. The wedding ceremony was stopped. Now Mr. Rochester had to tell the truth. He told them how when he was young he had been cheated into marrying a woman called Martha Hason who later became mad. Then he took them to the room on the third storey of his house and showed them his so-called living wife. After seeing the mad woman, the lawyer declared that Jane was cleared of any crime. He then told Jane how he had learned from John Eyre about her planned marriage and how her uncle had sent him to Thornfield to prevent her from falling into this trap. When all was over, Jane went back to her own room and began to think what she should do.

Part III (31-39): In despair Jane left Thornfield. She took with her only her purse and a small bundle of her clothers. She took a road in the opposite direction to Millcole so that Mr. Rochester could not find her. On the road she heard a carriage coming along and let it carry her as far as the money in her purse could pay for. In the evening the following day she was set down at a crossroads. For three days she wandered like a homeless dog, and passed the nights, sleeping on the grass or in the wood. She begged for food, but she was treated with distrust. At last, on a rainy evening, she came to a house which she later learned belonged to the Rivers family. She was taken in by St. John, the brother of the family. When asked about her name, Jane said she was called Jane Elliot, a false name to hide her real identity. For three days Jane Eyre was weak and lay in bed. On the fourth day

she got up and went down into the kitchen and talked with the servant. Later St. John and his two sisters Diana and Mary came back home. The two sisters took Jane into the sitting-room. They had a chat and St. John promised to find her a job. He was working at a place called Morton. There he had already started a school for the poor boys of the village. Now he was going to start a school for the poor girls there. He said Jane could be a teacher for the poor girls. Her yearly salary would be 30 pounds. Jane Eyre readily accepted the offer. Jane worked hard in the village school and soon she earned the love and respect of her pupils and their parents. To pass her idle hours, she did drawing. One night St. John came, and after looking at her drawing, he tore off from the covering sheet of paper a corner on which Jane Eyre had put down her real name. The next day, through a snow storm, St John came again. He showed Jane a letter from a lawyer called Mr. Briggs. The letter said that her uncle John Eyre had died and left her a lot of money. She was now a rich heiress. Jane wondered why the letter had been addressed to him. St. John told her that they were actually cousins. Their mother had two brothers, one Jane Eyre's father, the other John Eyre, a merchant at Madeira. Jane Eyre then decided that the 20,000 pounds left to her be divided into four shares, with 5,000 pounds going to each of them. Christmas was coming. Jane Eyre asked St. John to write and ask his sisters Diana and Mary to come home for a Christmas gathering. Meanwhile Jane and Hanna the servant busied themselves making preparations for the Christmas celebrations. Then the day came when Diana and Mary arrived. They had a happy time. After Christmas things returned to normal. St. John, who was studying Hindustani in preparation for his going to India, asked Jane to learn the language. Jane agreed. One day

St. John told Jane that he would leave for India in six weeks. He asked Jane to be his wife and go with him. Jane did not love St. John. For all those months since she escaped from Thornfield, she had been thinking of Mr. Rochester all the time. In her heart she heard him calling her again and again.

Part IV (40-44): The next day Jane told her cousins that she wished to go and see an old friend of hers. She didn't tell them whom she was going to visit. She got on a coach and travelled for 36 hours until she arrived at Thornfield. From an inn there she walked to Mr. Rochester's house. To her disappointment she saw only a blackened ruin, with the silence of death about it. Jane returned to the inn in Thornfield and asked the innkeeper whether he knew anything about Mr. Rochester. The innkeeper told her how Mr. Rochester's mad wife had started a fire and burnt down the house, how she had killed herself by jumping from the roof, and how Mr. Rochester had lost one eye and one arm trying to save his wife and his servants from the fire. After hearing all this Jane asked where Mr. Rochester was now. The innkeeper said he was in Ferndean, some 30 miles from Thornfield. One evening with a light rain Jane arrived at Ferndean. she knew Mr. Rochester had a country house there. When she came to his house, she saw Mr. Rochester coming out to feel whether it was raining, and his servant John telling him that there was a shower. Then Jane slipped into the house. In a few words she told John her own story, and when the time came for John's wife to serve Mr. Rochester with tea, Jane went in her place. Mr. Rochester immediately recognized her voice. He thought it was magic. To make him believe it was Jane Eyre herself, Jane ordered John's wife to bring in a meal and had supper with

Mr. Rochester. The next day Jane told Mr. Rochester about the Rivers family with whom she had stayed since she left Thornfield. When she came to the part of her story about St. John, Mr. Rochester asked her whom she loved best in the world. Jane said it was Mr. Rochester she loved best and that she had come back to marry him. A few days later they got married. Jane found a more suitable place for Adele where she was brought up to be a good pleasing lady. Two years after their marriage Mr. Rochester found that the darkness clouding his left eye was becoming lighter than before. Jane took him to London where he saw an eye doctor and had the sight of his left eye partly recovered, to the extent that he could see his son when it was first placed in his arms.

Exercises

I . General questions.

1. Why did Jane leave Gateshead? Where did she go?
2. At Lowood Orphanage, who was Jane's best friend and what happened to her?
3. What did Jane do at Thornfield? What was strange about the house where she lived?
4. Who was Mr. Rochester and where did Jane first meet him?
5. Why did Jane return to Gateshead and what did she find from Mrs. Reed?
6. How did Mr. Rochester and Jane find that they loved each other? What happened at their wedding ceremony?
7. Who was St. John and how did Jane happen to meet him?