

READING ACTIVITY

1/4

JANE EYRE

Read the excerpt and then do the activities.

I stayed at the school until I was eighteen, and for the last two years I was a teacher. I then decided that I wanted to see more of the world, and so I advertised in a newspaper for a job.

In my advertisement, I said that I was a young teacher who wanted to work as a governess to a family. I waited a long time for an answer. Then, at last, I received a letter from a lady, Mrs Fairfax, who lived at a place called Thornfield Hall. She wanted a governess for a little girl. I packed all my things into a small bag, and set out to start a new life. I was very excited when I first saw the house in which I was going to work. It was very large, but it seemed very quiet. Mrs Fairfax was waiting for me at the door. She was an old lady with a kind face.

'I am pleased to see you, Miss Eyre,' said Mrs Fairfax. 'You must be tired after such a long journey. Sit down and rest. You will meet Adèle later.'

'Is Adèle my student?' I asked.

'Yes, she is nine years old. She is a little French girl, and Mr Rochester wants you to teach her English.'

'Who is Mr Rochester?' I asked.

'Mr Rochester owns Thornfield,' she replied. 'I only work here. I am the housekeeper.'

'Where is Mr Rochester now?' I asked.

'He is away,' she said. 'He does not come very often to Thornfield. I never know when he will return.'

Next day I met Adèle. She was a very pretty little girl and at first I talked to her in French. I began to teach her English and I was glad that she enjoyed her lessons. I liked Adèle and I liked Mrs Fairfax, too. I was happy at Thornfield, although it was very quiet. Sometimes I was a little bored, but everyone was very kind to me.

One afternoon I walked to the village to post a letter for Mrs Fairfax. It was winter and the weather was very cold. There was ice on the road. As I walked back to Thornfield Hall, I heard the sound of a horse on the road behind me. I stood aside to let the horse go past. The rider did not see me. He was a stranger with dark hair. Suddenly the horse slipped and fell down on the ice. The man was lying in the road. As I ran forward to help, he struggled to get up.

'Are you hurt, sir?' I asked.

For a moment, the stranger was not able to answer me. Then he looked at me in surprise.

'Can I do anything to help?' I asked again.

'You can stand on one side while I catch my horse,' he replied.

But the horse managed to get up by itself, and I realized that it was the stranger himself who was hurt. He tried to stand up, but his injured leg was hurting too much. I helped him to get back onto his horse, and he rode away without thanking me.



READING ACTIVITY

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EXERCISES

1 Choose the correct answer—a, b, or c.

1. Jane Eyre advertised for a job in a newspaper

- a. but she never got an answer.
- b. because she wanted to see more of the world.
- c. because she did not like teaching at the school.

2. Jane Eyre's student at Thornfield Hall was

- a. a little French girl.
- b. Mrs Fairfax.
- c. Mr Rochester.

3. Mrs Fairfax asked Jane Eyre to go to the village

- a. to help a stranger.
- b. to put an advertisement in the newspaper.
- c. to post a letter.

4. A man was lying on the road

- a. because his horse slipped and fell on the ice.
- b. but Jane Eyre did not see him.
- c. but he was not hurt.

5. The rider of the horse

- a. did not speak to Jane Eyre.
- b. did not thank Jane Eyre.
- c. did not speak English because he was a stranger.



READING ACTIVITY

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2 Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1. Jane Eyre worked as a teacher at the school for eighteen years. T F
2. Jane Eyre wrote to Mrs Fairfax and asked for a job as a governess. T F
3. Mr Rochester did not go to Thornfield Hall very often. T F
4. Jane Eyre didn't like her job at Thornfield Hall because it was boring. T F
5. The rider of the horse injured his leg and Jane Eyre helped him get back onto his horse. T F

