between the lines

A lesson written for every student in the room

FREE LESSON SAMPLER

Jane Eyre: Wicked and cruel boy

How does Brontë present Jane's place in the Reed family?

Lesson 3 of 34 from the scheme of learning

Teacher notes, slides and student pages at all three levels

Written for the AQA specification



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What is in this sampler

This is one complete lesson from our Jane Eyre scheme for Literature Paper 1, Section B. It comes exactly as it appears in the full scheme, so you can teach it next week and see how our lessons work.

Teacher notes	Timings with slide numbers, Do Now answers, the exploded quotation, the hinge question and what each answer tells you, the task at three levels, a model paragraph and notes on misconceptions and adapting the lesson (next pages).
Slides	The editable PowerPoint deck for Lesson 3, with teacher notes on every slide (separate file).
Student pages	The lesson's pages from the student booklet: one question, with the Securing, Strengthening and Soaring support side by side (at the end of this document).

How every lesson works

Know	Do Now from memory, vocabulary, then the reading. The five Do Now questions build on what students learned in Lessons 1 and 2 of the full scheme.
Apply	Explode one quotation together; a hinge question checks understanding.
Master	One shared question answered as a What–How–Why paragraph, with Securing, Strengthening and Soaring support; then a model paragraph and an exit ticket.

Three levels of support

Every student answers the same question in every lesson. What changes is the support on the page, so the whole class does the same lesson:

Securing	The most support: a word bank, a choice of quotations, a worked example and sentence starters. For students working towards a grade 4.
Strengthening	Prompts for What, How and Why, a paragraph planner and a checklist. For students working at grades 5 and 6.
Soaring	A debatable statement, prompts to think further and an argument planner. For students aiming at grades 7 to 9.

The names describe the support, never the student. The hinge question shows who might start where, and students move between levels from lesson to lesson.

In the full scheme

- 34 lessons like this one, with editable slides and a teacher handbook (lesson notes, unit map, assessment guide and knowledge bank)
- A student booklet with every lesson and all three levels of support, plus the same lessons as one pack per level
- Six weeks of independent practice homework at three levels
- Four Feedback Loop progress checks with whole-class feedback sheets and improvement tasks

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- An exam-style end-of-unit essay with a teacher guide, level guidance and annotated model answers
- A Soaring stretch booklet for students aiming at the top levels
- A catch-up sheet for every lesson, for students who missed it
- An inclusion guide: pre-teaching, SEND, EAL and pupil premium notes for every lesson
- The revision workbook and the model answer pack, to print for every student
- Every licence for the scheme also includes its 30 Raising Achievement drills for intervention sessions

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Lesson 3: Wicked and cruel boy

SEQUENCE 1: CONTEXT AND GATESHEAD (CHAPTERS 1 TO 4) · 60 MINUTES

How does Brontë present Jane's place in the Reed family?

By the end of the lesson, students can

- Explain how John Reed's words make Jane a dependent in her aunt's house
- Analyse the noun "dependent" and Jane's answer, "Wicked and cruel boy!"
- Write a What–How–Why paragraph on Jane's place in the Reed family

Lesson at a glance

Time	Phase	What happens	Slides
0–8	Know	Do Now: five quick questions on Lesson 1 and its context. Students self-mark from the answer slide.	2–3
8–18	Know	Pre-teach "dependent", "rummage", "hurl" and "tyrant". Read the extract aloud while students follow and underline what John says Jane has and does not have, then what Jane says back.	4–6
18–28	Apply	Explode the quotation together. Think aloud about who is speaking and why John adds "mama says", then students annotate their copy. Before you reveal any notes, students try the four empty boxes on the first explode slide, on their own or after you model one box.	7–8
28–33	Apply	Hinge question on mini-whiteboards. Use the answers to decide who starts on which level of support.	9–10
33–53	Master	Students write one What–How–Why paragraph using their level of support in the student booklet. Share the model paragraph in the last five minutes.	11–12
53–60	Master	Exit ticket. Collect and sort into three piles to plan the start of the next lesson.	13

Do Now answers

1	On what date was Jane Eyre published, and whose name was on the title page?	**16 October 1847, with the name "Currer Bell" as editor**
2	What was Charlotte Brontë's father's job, and where did the family live?	**He was a clergyman, and they lived at Haworth in Yorkshire**
3	In what way did a governess have no place in the household?	**She belonged neither with the family nor with the servants**
4	What does Brontë say about conventionality in her preface?	**"Conventionality is not morality."**
5	What is an autobiography?	**The story of a person's own life, written by that person**

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Vocabulary

dependent	a person who relies on others for money and a home
rummage	to search roughly through things, making them untidy
hurl	to throw something hard
tyrant	a ruler who uses power cruelly

Reading

Chapter 1: the book thrown

Jane is ten and lives at Gateshead Hall with her aunt, Mrs Reed, and her cousins Eliza, John and Georgiana. Sent away from the family, she hides in a window-seat behind a red curtain with a book of birds. Eliza gives her away, and John, who is fourteen, strikes her and makes her fetch the book. The extract begins as John speaks.

> "You have no business to take our books; you are a dependent, mama says; you have no money; your father left you none; you ought to beg, and not to live here with gentlemen's children like us, and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes at our mama's expense. Now, I'll teach you to rummage my bookshelves: for they are mine; all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few years. Go and stand by the door, out of the way of the mirror and the windows."
>
> I did so, not at first aware what was his intention; but when I saw him lift and poise the book and stand in act to hurl it, I instinctively started aside with a cry of alarm: not soon enough, however; the volume was flung, it hit me, and I fell, striking my head against the door and cutting it. The cut bled, the pain was sharp: my terror had passed its climax; other feelings succeeded.
>
> "Wicked and cruel boy!" I said. "You are like a murderer—you are like a slave-driver—you are like the Roman emperors!"

Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre (1847), Chapter 1

Word help **rummage**: search roughly through · **poise**: hold ready · **climax**: the highest point

Explode the quotation

Method
Direct speech with a borrowed voice. John repeats his mother's judgement, so the Reeds' view of Jane is stated as a fact.

Zoom in
The noun "dependent" means a person who relies on others. It puts Jane's place in the house in one word: she has no money and no claim.

"you are a dependent, mama says"

Effect
"Mama says" sounds childish and sure of itself. Readers hear a boy of fourteen who has never doubted that Jane is beneath him.

Context
Jane is an orphan with no money of her own. Her poverty is the problem the novel keeps returning to, and her inheritance in Chapter 33 answers it.

Hinge question

John says "you are a dependent, mama says". What does the noun "dependent" tell us about Jane?

A. She is dependable, so the family can trust her with their books.

B. She works in the house as a servant and is paid for it.

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C. She relies on the Reeds for money and a home, so she has no power in the house. (the right answer)

What the answers tell you

A has heard the word as meaning reliable: ask who is relying on whom. B has taken Jane for a servant: point to "you have no money" and to John's complaint that she eats the same meals as the family, and ask what a servant would be paid. These may be your students who start on Securing.

Why the answer is right

A dependent relies on others for money and a home, so John is saying that Jane has no money and no power of her own.

Master task

How does Brontë present Jane's place in the Reed family?

Securing aiming for a 4

Quotations to choose from

"you have no money; your father left you none"

"you ought to beg"

"Wicked and cruel boy!"

Starters

Brontë presents Jane's place in the Reed family as ____. John says ____. The ____ (adjective) ____ (word class) ____ suggests ____. Brontë wants readers to ____ because ____.

Strengthening aiming for grades 5 to 6

Prompts

What: Make a clear point about Jane's place in the Reed family: an outsider, a dependent or a rebel.

How: Choose a short quotation. Name the method (direct speech, a list, a comparison) and zoom in on one word.

Why: Why does Brontë begin the novel with a child who has no money and no family on her side? Think about her place as an orphan and what Jane will want for the rest of her life.

Soaring aiming for grades 7 to 9

The debate

"Jane's poverty explains her treatment at Gateshead more than anything she does. How far do you agree?"

Write two paragraphs. In the second, give an alternative reading that begins with "Alternatively".

Model paragraph

What	Brontë presents Jane as an outsider in the Reed family, a dependent with no money and no claim on the house.
How	John tells her "you have no money; your father left you none", and the blunt verb phrase "ought to beg" turns a child into a beggar. His claim that "all the house belongs to me" sets his power beside her lack of any.
Why	Jane answers with "Wicked and cruel boy!", and the adult narrator admits she "never thought thus to have declared aloud" what she had only thought. Brontë opens the novel with an orphan who has no money, so that readers understand why independence matters to Jane for the rest of her life.

Exit ticket

Jane's place in the Reed family is…

Teacher notes

Subject knowledge

John Reed is fourteen and Jane is ten. He treats the house as his own ("all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few years"), and Mrs Reed will not see him hit Jane. Jane's insults come from her reading: she had read Goldsmith's History of Rome and formed her opinion of Nero and Caligula, and "I never thought thus to have declared aloud" comes from the adult narrator, who looks back on the child. Abbot's "you

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