

## FEMINISM IN THE NOVEL JANE EYRE BY CHARLOTTE BRONTTE

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**Abstract:** *Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre has been regarded as a contentious feminist book for many years. The Victorian era, when the book was set, was characterised by the adoption and rigid application of rules. Women had great expectations for their own personal and domestic skills. Jane Eyre is an enduring work because it embraces feminist ideas about gender roles, sexuality, and equality.*

**Keywords:** *Feminism, gender, and sexuality.*

The movement known as feminism, which got its start in the late 1800s, emphasises the roles that women play in politics and celebrates the roles that women play outside of the home. The movement's main goal is to redefine women as unique beings rather than as attainable objects. The movement has grown over the last few decades into a force that affects people of all ages and backgrounds (Rampton). The book's classification as a feminist fiction is mostly dependent on gender roles. During this era, it was customary for men and women to work and engage in other activities separately from one another. Mealtimes and public gatherings were the only times when people of different genders could freely interact. According to Hughes, there are two "separate genders spheres": men work outside the home and women work inside.

Undoubtedly, the protagonist of Jane Eyre has succeeded in portraying herself as a brave, strong woman who has the strength to confront injustice and bring about equality in society. Women are urged by her to take control of their lives and fight for what they want. The protagonist of the story, Jane, is a decent character. Via Jane's views and feelings developing, the author symbolises feminism. As a contract character, Jane is matched opposite Miss Blanch Ingram. She represents the common girls of that day who were descended from noble families. Her only wish was to find a rich guy she could trust and marry. She thought that a woman's role was to appear beautiful and alluring to a wealthy guy to capture his heart. Social status and financial capability should be the only considerations when a woman decides whether to get married because her husband and children are her entire universe. Her rude behaviour and contempt for "ordinary" people have made it quite clear how ignorant and unsophisticated she is. Additionally, Miss Blanch Ingram's picture served as a stand-in for the women who are oppressed by cultural conventions. They were so blind to the value of a woman's life that they either lost their bodies or their souls. They were content to live their lives as men would. Readers are led to mistrust the account by the insane residents of the three-storey apartment building. The Thornfield was reduced to ashes by the madwoman's terrible set, resulting in Mr Rochester losing one limb and becoming blind. Everything from Jane's history had vanished into the past as a new chapter in her life had begun. At Fern Dean Manor, amid the serene and picturesque environs, Jane began a new life with her beloved Mr. Rochester. Jane's money was inherited from her late uncle, and she no longer felt inferior to him. The goals of feminist critics are varied, and there are many different kinds of feminist critique. Some people are interested in rediscovering the writings of women writers who have been overlooked by a male-dominated culture. In a nutshell, feminism is the idea that women's issues should take centre stage in all spheres of life and that this idea should be applied to all aspects of life where women have the right to equitable treatment. Thoughts, debates, and perceptions around feminism are interpreted only to support and legitimise women's advancement in society. The concept is to give men and women equal opportunities. Fundamentally, Jane Eyre is a liberal feminist. Probably from the start, her maker had dubbed her ugly, but she was an orphan, without money, without family, and without beauty. The main objectives of liberal feminism include better working conditions, equal access to education, equal pay, and the abolition of sexism in the workplace. These goals are primarily attained

by legislative changes. Issues from the private sector are important because they can impact or obstruct equality in the public domain. Getting into traditionally male-dominated fields and getting compensated and promoted fairly there is a crucial objective. The novel's primary strength is its eloquent chronicle of the hopes, aspirations, tragedies, and sufferings of individuals from varying social strata, all expressed with incredible ecstatic lyricism. Its second strength is that it imagines what human society should be like, in addition to providing a sharp critique of the unfair, inconsistent, and aberrant social, political, and economic institutions, values, and practises of the day. A handful of Victorian women went on to become professional authors as a result of these incidents. Because, in comparison to their upper-class counterparts, Victorian middle-class (and occasionally working-class) women were more interested in intellectual pursuits. The main criticisms levelled at liberal feminism are its failure to address fundamental gender relations, its emphasis on government action that advances the interests of the powerful and women, its indifference to class and ethnicity, and the ways that women and men differ from one another. There are instances when liberal feminism is condemned for its male-centric evaluation of women's achievements. One can identify Jane's enthusiasm in *Jane Eyre* as a reflection of Charlotte Brontë. Because Brontë was depressed, Gaskell thought that her bold and passionate acts should be hidden or explained away. It was to be accepted as a part of Brontë's writing and herself. Since passion is a fundamental quality shared by both Jane and Brontë, Jane frequently discusses it throughout the novel. Though glaring parallels exist between the early years of *Jane Eyre* and the life of Charlotte Brontë, these parallels persist throughout the entire novel. Charlotte reportedly modelled Jane after herself and said to her sisters, "I will show you a heroine as plain and as small as myself, who shall be as interesting as any of yours" (Gaskell, 2004). Jane takes on Charlotte's memories and ideas, as well as her appearance. Jane adopts Charlotte's look in addition to her memories and thoughts. The remarkable similarities between Charlotte Brontë's life and the protagonist's indicate that she drew inspiration for *Jane Eyre* from her own limited life experiences. *Jane Eyre* is actually a portrait of Charlotte because of the numerous traits that she and her creator have in common.

**Conclusion:** Feminist critics strive for diverse goals, and there are numerous varieties of their critique. Reading the works of female writers who were marginalised by a male-dominated society is appealing to certain individuals. In short, the idea basically boils down to the conviction that feminism is a philosophy applied in every area of life where women's issues become the main focus.

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