**COMMENT JANE AND ROCHESTER**

Jane has just discovered that Mr. Rochester is already married and so he can’t marry her because divorce is impossible in this period.

Rochester tries to convince Jane to become his mistress. This wouldn’t be a bad option for Jane: she will remain with R. and Adèle, in the house that she loves, and R. is a rich man, so she may also stop working. But she refuses because becoming a mistress would be immoral. Jane has strong moral values (which are the same moral values of the Victorian age) and she doesn’t want to betray them.

This short text is completely dedicated to Jane’s thoughts and feelings in this difficult situation.

At the beginning of the text she has doubts, she can’t decide to leave the house because she is worried for R. She knows that he loves and needs her, so if she leaves him, he will remain alone with his mad and dangerous wife, he may be in danger, he will suffer (l. 3-4). She also thinks that if she accepts to become his lover, no-one else will be damaged because she doesn’t have a family that may lose their reputation or that may feel offended (l. 6). She is alone in the world, so her decision will only affect herself

But, immediately later she thinks that if she accepts R’s proposal, she will lose her self respect (l.7-8) and she will betray her moral values and she doesn’t want to do this. So, she decides she will follow the law and the moral principles given by God (l. 8-9). She also thinks that it is easy to behave well and respect morality when there is no temptation, but it is much more difficult, and more important, to respect it when you are in trouble and you have to face a strong temptation, as in this case (l. 10-12).

**COMMENT ON THE NOVEL AND THE CHARACTERS**

In this novel Charlotte Bronte describes also the condition of **women** in the Victorian age: Jane is intelligent, sensitive, good and generous, so she has a lot of qualities, but she is poor and she is a woman, so she has very limited possibilities in a society dominated by money, men and a rigid system based on social classes. She can only become a teacher and work as a governess. However, Jane proves she is not inferior to men or to rich people; on the contrary, she refuses an easy solution (that is to become R’s lover) to maintain her self respect and her principles. She proves that she has a strong and independent personality.

Later in the story she becomes a **rich woman** after her uncle left all his money to her, but she is not particularly happy; she is happy because she has discovered that she has cousins who love her. In fact, she gives more importance to feelings and family than to money.

As for **Rochester**, he is very mysterious, he is not particularly handsome and he has a bad character (so he is not the typical hero), but Jane is immediately fascinated by him. R. falls in love with Jane not for her physical appearance (she is not particularly beautiful, Blanche is much more beautiful than her), but because of her qualities and her personality.

The novel has a **happy ending**: Jane’s choices prove to be right and she marries R. and lives happily with him because she has always been good and the good characters are always rewarded in the Victorian novels.