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Chapter I

GRAMMAR | Presentation

The student is presented with and discovers essential facts, elements, and features of the novel.

READING NOTES

1. **sombre** (p. 11) – dark; gloomy
2. **chidings** (p. 11) – reprimands; scoldings
3. **drawing-room** (p. 12) – a large room in a house where guests are received and entertained
4. **promontories** (p. 12) – high points of land that jut out into the sea or other water
5. **vignettes** (p. 13) – small scenes, illustrations, or descriptive passages that focus on a moment, or give an impression about an idea, character, or setting
6. **lineaments** (p. 14) – the features or parts of a person's face
7. **bilious** (p. 15) – nauseous; sick
8. **sweetmeats** (p. 15) – *archaic*, candy and other sweet confections; the word *meat* used to mean simply *food*

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

Definitions Bank

deep dislike; hatred	the quality of being disrespectful, rude, or overly bold
inactive; inert	unhealthy, yellowish complexion
insecurity; timid uncertainty	
surrounded; encircled	

1. ... its low horizon, **girdled** by a broken wall, and its newly-risen crescent, *v.* (p. 13)
2. The two ships becalmed on a **torpid** sea, I believed to be marine phantoms. *adj.* (p. 13)
3. "What do you want?" I asked, with awkward **diffidence**. *n.* (p. 14)
4. John's **sallowness** was owing to over-application and, perhaps, to pining after home. *n.* (p. 15)
5. John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an **antipathy** to me. *n.* (p. 15)
6. That is for your **impudence** in answering mama awhile since, *n.* (p. 15)



Read Chapter I, marking the text in key places according to the method taught in "How to Mark a Book."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. In the opening scene, how is Jane treated by Mrs. Reed and her children? Include a quotation in your answer.
2. Where does Jane retreat to after she is told to "*Be seated somewhere; and until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent.*"? What does she do there?
3. List a couple physical and personality traits of John Reed.
4. After John hurls the book at Jane, whom does she compare him to? What does this reveal about Jane's intelligence and imagination?

WORDS TO BE DEFINED

1. surrounded; encircled
2. inactive; inert
3. insecurity; timid uncertainty
4. unhealthy, yellowish complexion
5. deep dislike; hatred
6. the quality of being disrespectful, rude, or overly bold

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Mrs. Reed and her children treat Jane harshly. "*Me, she had dispensed from joining the group; saying, 'She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation, that I was endeavouring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy, little children.'*" (p. 11)
2. She retreats to the window seat in the breakfast-room. She closes the curtain and looks out at the world, "*the drear November day... the aspect of that winter afternoon.*" Intermittently, she looks at her book, Bewick's *A History of British Birds*. She notices all the faraway, solitary, isolated places in nature. This is significant. (See Socratic Discussion question 2.)
3. Answers will vary. He is fourteen, large and stout, has dingy and unwholesome skin, thick lineaments, heavy limbs, and large extremities. He habitually gorges himself at the table. He should be at school but is at home being pampered "*on account of his delicate health.*" He does not have much affection for his mother and sisters, and he is vicious and cruel to Jane. He bullies and punishes Jane.
4. The Roman emperors. This is another instance that reveals her keen intelligence and active imagination.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary. From the opening sentence, the mood is somber and depressing. The description of the setting creates this mood: The shrubbery is leafless, "the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating" that no further outdoor exercise can take place. The diction supports the connection between the setting and the mood: e.g., "cold," "sombre," "penetrating." It could be argued that this foreshadows the heart-wrenching event at the end of the chapter.
2. Answers will vary. She observes "those which treat of the haunts of sea-fowl; of 'the solitary rocks and promontories'... Nor could I pass unnoticed the suggestion of the bleak shores of Lapland, Siberia... those forlorn regions of dreary space... the rock standing up alone in a sea of billow and spray... to the cold and ghastly moon." The imagery is striking in its suggestion of solitude, coldness, and loneliness. These images symbolize her own solitude and loneliness. As well, the images are fascinating to Jane; she infuses them with her imagination. This reveals her strong imagination and creativity.

LOGIC | Dialectic

The student reasons with the facts, elements, and features of the novel; sorts, arranges, compares, and connects ideas – and begins to uncover and determine the Central One Idea.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

May be verbally discussed or answered in written form in your Literature Notebook.

1. "There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating, that further outdoor exercise was now out of the question." (p. 11)
The opening lines of the novel present details of **setting**, **mood**, and possibly **foreshadowing**. Explain.
2. Describe some of the **imagery** Jane notices in the introductory pages in Bewick's *A History of British Birds*. Why is this significant? Could some of the imagery be **symbolic**?