



THEME: Religion

In the 1800's people tended to be more religious than people are in England today. Most people would have been Christians at the time.


Even though religion was a normal part of life, it plays a very important role in the book, Brontë shows different characters having different ways of being religious.

Mr Brocklehurst  uses religion to control and punish others, whilst acting very un-Christian-like himself.

Jane learns ...
Being religious does not mean being a good person.

Helen Burns  lives through religion. It brings her happiness and comfort, but it also makes her passive and indifferent to life experiences.

Jane learns ...
Religion can teach good qualities like patience and forgiveness. Excessive religion can be at odds with a person's emotions and instincts.

St John  does a lot of religious charity, like opening schools for the poor. However, because he is so devoted to doing God's work, he does not allow himself to enjoy life.

Jane learns ...
It is important to have a balance between religion and your own personal life.



chapter 37
Of late, Jane... I began to see and acknowledge the hand of God in my doom.

I began to experience remorse, repentance; the wish for reconciliation with my maker.

chapter 35
(I) prayed in my way – a different way to St John's, but effective in its own fashion.

