English

Lesson 8: The Reeds

Meeting Mr Brocklehurst

Downloadable Resource



Mr Johnston

What is the cause of Jane's sadness in the last chapter?

Option 1

Jane is sad because she loses a game with the other Reed children.

Option 3

Jane is sad because her parents have just died.

Option 2

Jane is sad because she is locked in the Red Room.

Option 4

Jane is sad because she is going to boarding school.



Write a sentence describing a time when you followed your passions.

Write a sentence describing a time when you followed your reason.



- 1. Mrs Reed organises for Jane to attend **b_____ s____.**
- 2. Mr **B____**, the headmaster of Lowood school, arrives at the house to meet Jane.
- 3. Mrs Reed tells Mr **B**____ that Jane is a badly-behaved and **d**____ child.
- 4. After Mr **B**_____ leaves, Jane is **f**____ that Mrs Reed lied. Jane is not **d**____ at all.
- 5. Jane seems to **w**____ in an argument with Mrs Reed. Jane says that she **h**____ living with the Reed family.
- 6. After Mrs Reed withdraws, Jane feels **g____** for her angry words.



I was left there alone — winner of the field. It was the hardest battle I had fought, and the first victory I had gained...Something of vengeance I had tasted for the first time; as aromatic (sweet smelling) wine it seemed, on swallowing, warm and racy: its after-flavour, metallic and corroding, gave me a sensation as if I had been poisoned.

According to the description above how does Jane feel about her argument with Mrs Reed?

- Brontë demonstrates that Jane feels joyful after her argument with Mrs Reed....
- But after the excitement of this 'victory' wears off, Jane is filled with remorse.

	Military language	Wins the argument	Violent battle	Excited	Independence
	Sweet wine	Poison	Guilt	Passion	Reason

Brontë demonstrates that Jane feels joyful after her argument with Mrs Reed. By refusing to back down to her cruel aunt, Jane feels that she has achieved a glorious 'first victory' in the 'hardest battle' that she has fought against her enemy. Brontë's use of military language compares this argument to a violent battle from which Jane emerges triumphant and victorious. Jane is intoxicated by this new-found sense of independence and power. She compares this success to the pleasure of drinking an 'aromatic', 'warm and racy' wine. But after the excitement of this 'victory' wears off, Jane is filled with remorse. She finds that the sweet taste of 'vengeance' eventually turns to a 'metallic and corroding' taste like poison. Jane is now saddened as she reflects on her harsh words towards her aunt. Her revenge against Mrs Reed now fills her with guilt. The young heroine is learning that her unrestrained passion can lead to cruelty and destruction.

