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in her portrayal of
childhood



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Charlotte Brontë shows hardship in her portrayal of childhood through the characters, the dialogue and description. We learn that life in Victorian England is hard. "John Reed was a school boy of fourteen years old". He was a fat boy with "unwholesome skin", "thick lineaments" and heavy limbs.

This shows that John Reed was a very unhealthy child, who would probably stuff his face at the table like a pig which gave him "bleared eyes" and "flabby cheeks". He was a selfish individual who disliked Jane and believed she did not belong in the Reed family. However Eliza was strong and brave, "who was headstrong and selfish" she would have been well respected as she was the daughter of the rich Miss Reed. Georgiana had a very bad temper and an attitude problem. She had "a spoiled temper, a very acrid spite, a captious and insolent carriage". Georgiana was very pretty, her beauty, her pink cheeks and golden curls, seemed to give delight to all who looked at her and to purchase indemnity for every fault. Brontë has made Jane look so innocent and sweet, but Mrs.

Reed is not accepting it. Mrs. Reed treats Jane completely different from her own children. She singles Jane out and makes her suffer by not welcoming her into the family in a good way. For example when Mrs.

Reed "lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside, and with her darlings about her", Jane had been "dispensed from joining the group".

This shows Mrs. Reed does not want to mix with Jane and has no interest in her. Jane's cousin John is the member of the Reed family that physically holds

power over her. ??? He bullied and punished me: not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him??™ .

.. Up until Jane's fight with John, she was expected to remain silent until she could ??? speak pleasantly,??™ she also took all of her abuse without reply. Throughout John's bullying, Jane, " care was how to endure the blow which would certainly follow the insult.

" She realizes that reacting will do her no good and that Miss. Abbot was not the nicest of servants; towards Jane she showed no respect. ??? Mrs. Abbot stood with folded arms, looking darkly and doubtfully on my face, as incredulous of my sanity. This shows that Miss.

Abbot has no trust in Jane and is disgusted by what she has apparently done. This outlines that Miss. Abbot only cares what is said by Mrs. Reed and the children she gives no second thought to Jane and her side of the story. Miss. Abbot wants Jane to suffer and be punished for what was called an attack to master Reed.

??? God will punish her??™ , Miss. Abbot mainly wants Jane to suffer because she is not part of the Reed family and she wants the Reed family to get revenge. Mrs. Abbot knows if she is not on the side of the Reed family she would be kicked out of the Reed family.

On the other hand Miss. Abbot was also very aggressive towards Jane as she was taken to the red room. ??? Turned to divest a stout leg of the necessary ligature??™ .

The quote shows that Miss Abbot is trying to tie Jane up so she could not escape; she is being aggressive and causing Jane considerable amount of pain because Jane is resisting sitting still and demands not to be in the red room, but Miss Bessie does not treat Jane in the manner she would treat the Reed children in, with the Reed children she would pamper them care and love for them. With Jane she threatens her "if you don't sit still, you must be tied down". This is giving the image that Bessie does not show much love to Jane and that she does not care if she is hurt physically or emotionally. However Bessie is not always threatening and angry at Jane, she does have a soft side and care for her. "I daren't for my life be alone with that poor child to-night; she might die". Bessie is really worried for Jane she is hoping she stays alive, if not she does not want her to die without anyone near her side. Bessie thinks Jane is the vilest member of the Reed family and deserves to be locked away and die.

"Say your prayers, Miss Eyre, when you are by yourself". This shows that whatever Jane does bad she will be locked away and made to pay for it. She would be left alone and made to think about what she has done but really when she has not done anything, she is threatened by Bessie that "something bad might be permitted to come down the chimney, and fetch you away". Bessie is trying to make Jane scared and worried so she can suffer. Mr. Lloyd was an apothecary, who came to see Jane after her traumatic experience of the red room. Jane was excited that someone came to see her, not "an individual not belonging to Gateshead, and not related to Mrs. Reed".

The quote shows that it made Jane Eyre happy because it showed Mrs. Reed cared a bit for Jane as she brought the apothecary into see her. As Mr.

Lloyd ??? closed the door behind him, all the room darkened and my heart again sank: inexpressible sadness weighed it down??™. This shows that as Mr. Lloyd came into the room he made it warm and welcome to be in but as he left it went dull and dark, because Jane knew she would just be seeing the faces of the Reed family and servants again.

Brontë uses different settings in order to show what the characters are feeling. The setting is often a reflection of human emotion. For example when Jane is looking at Mrs. Reed and her children around the fire she is feeling emotion because she has been??? dispensed from joining the group??™. The setting plays a vital role in the novel.? It is a reflection of the emotions the character expresses.? The setting can show happiness or despair depending on how the character feels at the moment.

The setting is also used as foreshadowing.? Little things that happen prefigure what's going to happen soon.? The setting helps the reader to understand what is happening and what is going to happen.? Jane is unfairly locked in the Red Room by her Aunt Reed as a punishment for speaking back to John.

The room is intimidating in itself: ??? a bed supported on massive pillars of mahogany, hung with curtains of deep red damask, stood out like a tabernacle in the centre; the two large windows, with their blinds always drawn down, were half shrouded??™, but it is the history of the room that proves so alarming to an imaginative girl like Jane: ??? Mr. Reed had been <https://assignbuster.com/how-does-charlotte-bronte-show-hardship-in-her-portrayal-of-childhood/>

dead nine years: it was in this chamber he breathed his last; here he lay in state; hence his coffin was last touched by the undertaker's men. The darkness of the room is imaged by ghostly shapes: out of these deep surrounding shades rose high, and glared white, the piled-up mattresses and pillows of the bed, spread with a snowy Marseilles counterpane, and it is not long before Jane works herself into a state of anxiety. She begins to think about her dead uncle, and when she sees a light cross the wall and ceiling of the room, she thought the swift darting beam was a herald of some coming vision from another world. Jane greets this new stage of her life with excitement, as it represents an escape from the Reed family where she has suffered such unhappiness. For a poor and friendless girl like herself, life offers few possibilities: if I had anywhere else to go, I should be glad to leave it; but I can never get away from Gateshead till I am a woman.

Mrs Reed, in her haste to get rid of the responsibility of Jane a child she so dislikes, unwittingly Mrs Reed hands Jane a priceless asset for the Victorian woman: an education. Jane soon finds that the conditions at Lowood are unforgiving. The school is run by a Mr Brocklehurst, who believes that the lower class girls are unworthy of any kind of generous treatment: it was bitter cold, and I dressed as well as I could for shivering, and washed when there was a basin at liberty, which did not occur soon, as there was but one basin to six girls, on the stands down the middle of the room. In

conclusion, Jane Eyre has always been true to herself throughout her life she did not let any of the Reed family or the servants put her down. She endured some hard times for example she found it hard to mix with the Reed family

around the fire and being chucked in the red room. But she was brave enough and overcame these problems.