

Formal Paper 2: Interpretation of Literature (Honors)

- **Due Date/Time:**
 - **Rough Draft: Thursday, April 16** (Bring hard copy to class and submit draft to appropriate ICON DropBox folder)
 - **Final Draft: Tuesday, May 5** (Submit to appropriate ICON DropBox folder)
- **Source Requirement:** You must cite the novel (your primary source) and at least **one** outside source.
- **MLA Requirements:** paper, in-text citations, and works cited sheet formatted according to MLA guidelines
- **Paper Length:** 6-7 double-spaced pages
- **Grade Weight:** 15% of your final grade

Choose **one** of the questions below to answer. Your argument should be focused around one central claim and developed through quotation analysis.

Paper Focus Options:

1. How does Charlotte Brontë represent madness in *Jane Eyre*? You might also choose to consider the relationship between women and madness in the text. You'll need to research contemporary attitudes toward female desire and/or insanity to effectively answer this question.
2. How does Charlotte Brontë represent physical difference in *Jane Eyre*? Consider the following: What disability theorist(s) can you use to read Brontë's portrayal of physical difference? What historical attitudes toward physical difference might have influenced Brontë's depiction of physical difference? How is Brontë responding to these contemporary attitudes toward disability and/or difference more broadly?
3. How does Charlotte Brontë use physical obstacles (windows, doors, etc.) to represent less tangible barriers? Explain what you think she is doing with these images of physical barriers and how they connect with a larger issue explored in the novel.
4. Arguably, dependence and independence—physical, economic, and otherwise—are two ideas explored in *Jane Eyre*. What do you think Charlotte Brontë is doing by playing on reversals in dependence and independence? Based on aspects of the novel like tone, word choice, symbolism, etc., what do you think Brontë's attitude is toward dependence and independence? You might also consider how you could connect your reading of dependence and independence with ideas raised by one or more disability theorist.