

I am confused as to how this will connect to *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

In the section of *Adaptation and Appropriation*, you might have remembered that Sanders discusses whether or not it is an adaptation or something else. I would say that *Wide Sargasso Sea* is a "prequel" to *Jane Eyre*, since it mostly takes place before the novel starts. It is the story of Rochester's first marriage and of Bertha.

Will we still like Jane Eyre's character after *Wide Sargasso Sea*?

When I read *Wide Sargasso Sea*, it made me feel bad for Jane. Rochester is a much worse person than he appears in *Jane Eyre*. I feel bad for Jane, because Rochester's behavior might be different after they marry.

Why didn't Rochester just divorce Bertha instead of keeping her locked up in his house?

After the 1857 Matrimonial Causes Act (10 years after *Jane Eyre* was written), adultery, cruelty, or desertion used as grounds for divorce in England. Before that time, divorces were extremely rare and expensive and were only granted through a private act of Parliament.

Why did Bertha's brother get assaulted in the first place? Why did he ruin the marriage?

In the book, he goes to talk to Bertha and is attacked by her, which seems to support the case of Bertha's insanity. Your second question is best answered after you read *Wide Sargasso Sea*.

What is Jane Eyre trying to say about individuality and free will, since Jane ends up with Rochester in the end?

If things are predetermined, then the family and social milieu from which Jane is born would shape her life, but she stands up for herself and leaves the terrible Lowood school. Also, if it was fate, then Jane would have not left. However, the counter argument could be made that fate acts to just push her and Rochester back together again. This story is interesting, because it could be interpreted either way.

How do nature and gothic tie together?

Romantic thought encompasses awe and terror toward nature. Romantic literature elicits personal pleasure from natural beauty, and Gothic fiction takes this surface reaction and subverts it by creating delight and confusion from terror. The use of this terror is called the sublime. Essentially, they are connected like nature is

Is Jane Eyre the adult version of Cinderella?

I think Jane Eyre subverts the narrative of Cinderella, since it is Jane who picks Rochester and not the other way around. They fall in love long before she is rich (which we

could substitute her fairy godmother for her uncle dying, but this happens at much different points in the story). I think it is trying to rewrite a more woman centered Cinderella story.

Why wasn't Bertha in a sanitarium?

According to article by Western University:

"In Victorian society, the home and family were viewed as the source of order, stability, and morality. Urban-industrial culture meant that an increasing number of people were living outside the structure of the traditional home, which called morality into question by accepted Victorian standards.... The temptations encountered in an urban setting could easily corrupt the supposedly morally weak, and lead to alcoholism, drug addiction, and promiscuity, which were common reasons for commitment to the asylum."

"Mental Institutions." Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine. Science Museum- UK, n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2014.

UWO Public History Students. "Restoring Perspective: Life and Treatment at the London Asylum." Western University, 2008-2009. Web. 31 Oct. 2014.

So you can see that Rochester could not get her into an institution because she could live at home.

What's the relationship between *Wide Sargasso Sea* and *Jane Eyre* (appropriation)?

The relationship will seem distant until the very end of the novel. So the question will be, if most of the work does not reference the source material, can it still be an adaptation or is it an appropriation?

What's the main difference between book *Jane* and movie *Jane*?

Like we discussed in class, the way in which the story is told is the most obvious difference (chronological order vs. displaced time). The novel is written from a first-person viewpoint and we get a lot of Jane's inner thoughts, which are absent from the movie version. Another important point is Bertha tells Jane that her marriage will not work and destroys her wedding veil in the novel, which is cut from the movie.

If Charlotte was ok with loving a married man, why was *Jane Eyre* not?

We don't think Charlotte was 100% ok with a married man, but she learned to deal with it over time. This is similar to when Jane needs to run away from Rochester, but she eventually comes back.

Was *Jane Eyre* seen as a motivational figure for women of the period?

Yes. The book was largely very popular and influenced a whole generation of writers including Virginia Woolf. There were some detractors, but for the most part, she was seen a positive role model.

Is Frankenstein a gothic or science fiction novel?

Great question! When you read it, you will realize there is not that much science in the novel itself. Most of that comes from movies and other adaptations. The novel is more overtly gothic than anything.

Did Cinderella come before or after Jane Eyre? Which one is considered the adaptation?

The Cinderella folk tale or myth begins extremely early around 7 BC, but its most common form was published in 1634, much before Jane Eyre. I wouldn't say that Jane Eyre is an adaptation, but shares the same myth as Cinderella. There is enough newness to the story of Jane Eyre that I would consider it a different story and not an adaptation.

What backlash did this book receive for feminist views?

What upset people at the time was the strength of Jane's personality. It was one of the causes of a critical backlash that followed the initial popularity of the novel. However, people were more interested in the identity of the author, reviewers began to voice that Currer Bell must be a woman. People were too wrapped up in who wrote the novel. Later on, we see that Brontë's prose is so good that it overshadows any concern that the book might be too feminist.

What are other adaptations of Jane Eyre like compared to this one?

There are A LOT of adaptations, so I cannot speak to all of them. But some have her marrying St. John instead of Rochester, which are some of the more interesting ones. Most movie adaptations are fairly straightforward and do not change too much from the text.

Is the blog post due at midnight?

Yes, you can have until midnight Thursday to complete your blog post. If you think you are going to have trouble making that deadline, please let me know.

Why was Lord Byron so popular?

He was the most famous poet of his time (when poetry was the main form of art) and he had an extremely interesting lifestyle. Please Google his name to find out more.

How do I feel about how the movie compares to the book?

We have talked about how films can reflect internal narratives like the music or shots in *Robinson Crusoe on Mars*, so I like this version because it attempts to articulate Jane's inner consciousness by altering the timeline.

Could you see Disney's *Mulan* as an adaptation of *Jane Eyre*?

I don't see too many similarities, I think *Mulan* might be its own story. However, if you think there are many connections, then this could be a great basis for a blog post.

Why was Bertha in the story?

Bertha is an interesting character in the story, means that she is an object of sympathy as well as of fear. And there had been some scholars that read Bertha as an "other" element that essentially reflects poorly upon Charlotte's view of race and outsidership.

Can we do a mix of 500 word and 250 word blogs or is it either or?

As long as you get one post for each "unit" (*Jane Eyre*, *Crusoe*, *Frankenstein*), then however you want to mix your word count to get to 1500 words across all your posts.

How could *Jane Eyre* be further connected to the feminist movement?

Well within the context of Victorian England, *Jane Eyre* is 100% feminist. However, society has grown enough in the past 200 years that what may have seemed incredibly feminist in the nineteenth century is antithetical to twenty-first century feminism. Jane's actions are deeply rooted in her moral beliefs, and the ability to make conscious lifestyle choices for herself is inarguably feminist. But when I look at Jane's choices through a contemporary lens, she fails to fully liberate herself from an oppressive, marriage-obsessed culture.

If Jane didn't draw, do you think the parallels to *Cinderella* would be weakened?

Overall, the story is similar, but if you take one element out, then the argument for their similarity is weakened. The story is such a large part of the story that I think you can still draw lots of parallels between *Jane Eyre* and *Cinderella*.

Why is Bertha in the book?

Great question. In one way, it makes Rochester more likable. The fact that he is trying to help Bertha in one fashion even though she is trying to kill him. We could think of Bertha as the baggage we all carry with us when we go from relationship to relationship as well.

What else does this film accomplish other than just a retelling?

It shows us that the story can be retold in new and more postmodern ways. Essentially, the film tells us how malleable and classic this story is.

Does gothic literature have to be horror and scary or can it just be dark?

The best way to think about Gothic is in terms of intertextual elements. Dark elements can make you think of the beyond or the insignificance of humans in the universe, which would still be considered Gothic.

Do I think Rochester is a man of character because he tries to take care of his wife and potential daughter?

I don't think he really tries that hard by our standards of today, but I think he would be seen more upstanding in the Victorian age.

What is Pilgrims Progress?

It is one of the first novels written by Bunyan. We talked about it in the first few classes. If you want to know more, please refer to the first three lectures.