***Jane Eyre***

***Vol-3 Chapter 4***

***Chapter 30***

***Summary and Analysis***

***Summary:***

* Jane continues to regain her strength living at Moor House. She’s especially happy because, now that she’s met Diana and Mary, she finally has some real friends of her own. The three women spend a lot of time together reading, talking, and walking on the moor. Diana starts teaching Jane German.
* Jane doesn’t really develop a friendship with St. John. For one thing, he’s not around a lot; he goes out visiting the sick and needy all the time, in all weathers. For another, he’s a bit too reserved and cold to get friendly with her very fast.
* When Jane hears St. John preach, she’s amazed at how powerful and intense he is, but also realizes that he’s a really unhappy person.
* Diana and Mary prepare to move away and become governesses.
* Jane talks to St. John about the job he’s promised to find for her. He says that he’s been waiting until after his sisters leave to start their new jobs.
* St. John tells Jane about his family’s poverty and warns her that he won’t be able to get her a really great job, but he thinks she’ll take what he found.
* St. John explains that he is the clergyman in the little town of Morton and that, when he came there two years ago, it didn’t have a school. He established a boys’ school and he’s been meaning to establish a girls’ school, too, funded by the rich factory owner in the town, Mr. Oliver. He asks Jane to run this school; she’ll have a salary of thirty pounds a year (the same as at Thornfield!) and even a little house of her own beside the school.
* Jane accepts the post, which involves teaching village girls to read, write, do math, sew, and knit.
* Diana and Mary are very sad about having to leave; they might not see their brother again for a long time after they take up their new jobs.
* St. John gets a letter stating that the Rivers’ Uncle John is dead. Jane watches as all the members of the Rivers family behave somewhat strangely about this—they’re not exactly sad; she’s not sure what they’re feeling. St. John explains that their uncle had argued with their father long before, and that he had a fortune of twenty thousand pounds, but decided to leave all the money to another relative.

***Synopsis:***

Jane finds she likes the people of Moor House. They enjoy learning together and Jane becomes close to the two sisters, but not so much to St. John, who is moody. Jane says his sermons are both powerful, but indescribable. After a month at Moor House, the siblings make plans to shut up the home; Hannah, the housekeeper, will go with St. John and the two sisters will return to their governess positions. Jane accepts an offer as mistress of a school for girls that St. John is starting. Before they leave, they learn their wealthy uncle John has died, but left his money to another relative. They are not resentful, but talk of how a little money could have eased their lives.

Jane finds she fits in well with the people at Moor House. She dreads the day when they will part. However, Diana and Mary must go back to their jobs, so the house is closed up. St. John creates a position for Jane as the mistress of a school for country girls which she readily accepts. Meanwhile news comes that St. John, Mary and Diana's Uncle John has died and has left them nothing. It is ironic that Jane has an uncle by the same name who one month earlier was near death himself.

***Short Study:***

Jane befriends Diana and Mary, who admire her drawings and give her books to read. St. John, on the other hand, remains distant and cold, although he is never unkind. After a month, Diana and Mary must return to their posts as governesses. St. John has found a position for Jane, running a charity school for girls in the town of Morton. Jane accepts, but St. John presumes that she will soon leave the school out of restlessness, perhaps because he himself is quite restless. His sisters suspect he will soon leave England for a missionary post overseas. St. John tells his sisters that their Uncle John has died and left them nothing, because all his money went to another, unknown, relative. Jane learns that it was Uncle John who led Mr. Rivers into his disastrous business deal.

***Analysis:***

After a few days, Jane has recovered her health enough to sit up and walk outdoors. Her conversations with Diana and Mary revive and refresh Jane, because their values and interests are so perfectly aligned with hers. Diana and Mary are better read than Jane, and Jane eagerly devours all the books they lend her. Drawing is the only area in which Jane's skill surpasses theirs. The intimacy Jane feels with the women doesn't extend to St. John, partly because he is often away from home, visiting the sick, and partly because his nature is so reserved and brooding.

A month passes. Diana and Mary prepare to return to their positions as governesses in a large, fashionable city in the south of England. Jane wonders if St. John has found any employment for her? Since he is "poor and obscure," he says he has only been able to devise an insignificant post for Jane — if she wants it, she can run a school for poor girls in Morton. Her salary would be thirty pounds, and she would have a furnished cottage to live in, provided by Miss Oliver, the only daughter of the rich owner of a needle factory and iron foundry. Although humble, the position's independence and safety appeal to Jane. St. John guesses that Jane won't remain long in Morton, because she'll soon long for society and stimulus. But St. John has a similar "fever in his vitals," as Diana reveals, and they know he will soon leave England. As the women sit talking, St. John enters the room, and announces their Uncle John has died, leaving all of his fortune to another relative. Their uncle and father had quarreled, and it was John's fault that Mr. Rivers lost most of his property and money.

The "dark and hoary" appearance of Moor House seems to match Jane's psychology at this point of the novel; she has moved from Thornfield's luxury to Marsh End's natural and rugged beauty. Describing the environment around the house, Jane emphasizes its rustic, hardy feel: The fierce mountain winds have caused the trees to grow "aslant"; only the hardiest flowers bloom near it; and it is surrounded by some the "wildest little pasture-fields that ever bordered a wilderness of heath."

In this chapter, Jane emphasizes her intellectual affinity for the Rivers sisters. Being in their presence rekindles Jane's joy in learning, and the three women mutually share and bolster each other's skills; Diana teaches Jane German, while Jane offers Mary drawing lessons. As in earlier chapters, Jane here emphasizes the incongruity of the position of governesses. Although the Rivers sisters are members of an ancient and esteemed family that has fallen on hard times, they must spend their lives as the "humble dependents" of wealthy and haughty families who cannot fully appreciate their talents. For these families, Diana's and Mary's skills are comparable to those of their cook or waiting-woman. Brontë's depiction of the Rivers is probably based on personal experience. Like them, she was forced to work as a governess for a family she despised; like them, she took time to learn new languages so that she could increase her wages and open up a school of her own. Sadly, her attempt to open a school failed miserably, as not a single student applied for admittance.

While the Rivers girls are depicted favorably, Jane's feelings for St. John are more conflicted. His reserve and brooding suggest a troubled nature, and his zealous Christianity offers him neither serenity nor contentment. St. John's real nature is revealed in his sermon — Jane is unable to render accurately its effect on her. While St. John's tone is calm throughout, his nervous words have a "strictly restrained zeal" that reflects his bitterness and lack of "consolatory gentleness." His doom and gloom leave Jane feeling inexpressibly sad, because she feels his eloquence is born of disappointment. Jane compares his despair to her own regrets at the loss of her heaven with Rochester. Despite St. John's strictness, or perhaps because of it, he has not found the peace in God that reassured Jane during her awful night on the moors. Instead, St. John dwells on his poverty and obscurity, always looking for a way to become the hero he longs to be. Again, his difference from Rochester is apparent; while Rochester vents his passions, St. John hides his in "a fever in his vitals."

The death of their Uncle John is also significant. The astute reader will remember that Jane also had an uncle named John, one who was too ill to save her from Rochester's bigamous plot. The connections between the families will grow in the remainder of the novel.

***Critical Study:***

Jane, Diana, and Mary find that they have many interests in common, and they become close friends over the next month. St. John, more reserved than his sisters, is often away, tending to his parishioners; Jane hears one of his powerful sermons, which reveals a strict, almost harsh set of beliefs. After a month St. John explains that his sisters will soon be leaving and he will return to his parsonage, where he will remain for a year or so before departing it. He then offers Jane a position as teacher in the school in the village of Morton that he intends to open; a building has been made ready, but there is no teacher in place. Her pupils will be the daughters of farmers and villagers. Jane gratefully accepts the position, which comes with a small cottage in Morton. The Rivers siblings then receive word that their Uncle John has died and left his fortune of 20,000 pounds to an unknown relative. They'd hoped he would leave some of his fortune to them, because he was responsible for losing most of their father's fortune in a speculation scheme. Soon Diana and Mary go back to the city, Moor House is shut up, and St. John returns to his parsonage.

Diana and Mary share many interests with Jane, and she admires their intellectual pursuits and accomplishments. She hasn't had this kind of friendship since Lowood. St. John is a puzzle, because his spirituality is so different from Jane's. It seems rigid, lacking in gentleness and joy. Yet, unlike Mr. Brocklehurst, who also had a strict interpretation of religion, St. John has a kind, generous heart. Like Rochester, he gives her the possibility of employment, which allows her to be independent.

***Significance:***

Over the next few days, Jane grows closer to Diana and Mary; she is especially drawn to Diana’s charisma. St. John, however, remains a detached figure and is generally reserved and brooding on the few occasions that she sees him. However, one day, Jane hears him preach in his church, and his stern Calvinist oration about predestination has a profound, thrilling effect on her, although it leaves her saddened. Despite his eloquence, she feels he has not "found that peace of God which passeth all understanding" anymore than Jane has.

After a month, Diana and Mary prepare to return to their positions as governesses elsewhere in England. St. John plans to shut up the house after his sisters leave, but he is able to offer Jane the position of headmistress for a girls' school he is establishing in Morton. Jane gladly accepts, but St. John suspects that Jane will grow bored of the job and soon leave. Before Mary and Diana leave, St. John tells them that their uncle John is dead. They are relieved by this news, and Diana explains that their father and uncle quarreled, and Mr. Rivers lost most of his fortune while their uncle profited greatly. The uncle has left almost all his 20,000 pounds to an unknown relation, while giving a pittance to the Rivers children. Over the next few days, all of the inhabitants of the house leave.

Jane finds greater intimacy with the residents at Marsh End, especially the two sisters. Significantly, Jane had very few female friends during her life; only Helen Burns and [Miss Temple](https://www.gradesaver.com/jane-eyre/study-guide/character-list#miss-temple) even fall in the category. Although she has left her home at Thornfield, Jane has gained enough self-assurance to become friends with other self-reliant women. The growing friendship between Jane and Diana and Mary also serves as yet another of Brontë’s hints about their relationship to Jane. The astute reader will notice some connections between the fortune left by the Rivers's uncle and that of Jane's own uncle [John Eyre](https://www.gradesaver.com/jane-eyre/study-guide/character-list#john-eyre).

St. John's calculated, somewhat cold Calvinism is not an ideal Christian model for Jane, as she finds in it "a strange bitterness; an absence of consolatory gentleness." While Helen Burns's doctrine of tolerance and forgiveness was too meek for Jane, St. John's is far too intolerant and unforgiving. Still, Jane cannot help but be intrigued by St. John’s strikingly handsome face and passionate sermon.

***Notes:***

This lesson provides an overview of Chapter 30 of Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre, in which Jane recovers completely and passes an enjoyable month at Moor House with Diana and Mary Rivers.

## A Pleasant Month

'The more I knew the inmates of Moor House,' Jane tells us, 'the better I liked them.' Under the care of the Rivers siblings and their servant, Hannah, Jane recovers her full strength and is able to enjoy the company of Mary and Diana. They read, talk, and walk together. Diana teaches Jane German and Jane gives Mary drawing lessons. They make quite a delightful trio together.

## St. John's Aloofness

The warm friendship Jane develops with Mary and Diana does not extend to their brother, St. John. This is partially because he is away from home quite often. He spends much of his day out visiting the poor and afflicted of his parishioners. He is so dedicated in this ambition that his sisters are not even able to dissuade him from his duties when the weather is foul. 'And if I let a gust of wind or a sprinkling of rain turn me aside from these easy tasks, what preparation would such sloth be for the future I propose to myself?' Mention of this future evokes from his sisters 'a sigh, and some minutes of apparently mournful meditation,' but neither Jane nor the reader is made aware of what it could be.

In addition to St. John's frequent absence and mysterious dedication, Jane observes in him 'a reserved, an abstracted, and even a brooding nature.' He seems not to get any joy out of his dedicated service to others. Jane also notices 'a strange bitterness; an absence of consolatory gentleness; stern allusions to Calvinistic doctrines' in the sermons he preaches. Is this indicative of some inner turmoil he endures?

## Impending Departures

As the month comes to an end, Mary and Diana sadly prepare to return to their governess duties, and St. John must return to his church in town. The family finances are such that Moor House must be shut up once its owners are gone. What, then, is to become of Jane? Initially, St. John had promised to help Jane find employment before she was obliged to leave Moor House. Jane has waited all month and has heard nothing from him on this subject. Now, Mary and Diana are slated to leave Moor House in three days, and Jane feels some urgency to figure out what will come next for her.

## Jane's Next Move

Jane approaches St. John at his desk one night before going up to bed and asks, 'I wish to know whether you have heard of any service I can offer myself to undertake.' She is a little surprised to hear his response: 'I found or devised something for you three weeks ago.' It is a bit odd, and maybe even a little rude that he hasn't yet told her about it, don't you think?! Despite her entreaties, St. John waxes on for more than two pages before telling her what the proposed job is. This must have been agony for Jane!

Finally, at long last, St. John reveals that he would like to open a school for the poor girls in the parish where Jane would be mistress. She would have her own two room cottage to live in attached to the school, and her salary would be the same as that which she received at Thornfield. Jane gladly accepts the position, even though this teaching will be of a more basic level than she previously taught. 'What will you do with your accomplishments?' St. John asks her. 'They will keep,' Jane replies, and she makes plans to go to the school the very next day and open it the following week.

## Uncle John

As Jane and the Rivers siblings are preparing for their departures, a letter arrives. It informs the Riverses that their Uncle John has died. Jane learns that this Uncle John is the very one who is at least partially responsible for the dissipation of the Rivers fortune. After this unfortunate occurrence, their Uncle John was able to rectify his finances and died a wealthy man. There had been some hope that Mary, Diana, and St. John would be beneficiaries in his will, but the letter informs them he left his entire fortune to another cousin whom they never met. This disappointment casts a pall on their already downcast spirits as they each prepare to leave.

## Lesson Summary

In this chapter, Jane develops a wonderful friendship with Diana and Mary while St. John remains aloof and dedicated to his ministerial duties. After a month together, Diana and Mary must return to their governess jobs, and St. John must return to his church. Hannah will go with St. John, and Moor House will be shut up due to insufficient finances. Jane is offered a job as mistress for a new school St. John proposes to open for local girls. She gladly accepts it. The Rivers siblings receive a letter telling them their wealthy Uncle John has died and left them no inheritance. With this depressing news, the four young people prepare to embark on the next phase of their adventures.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

[Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) quickly becomes friends with [Mary](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters) and [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters). They share books and conversation, Jane teaches them drawing, and they all enjoy the hardy natural landscape. A month passes in this way, but then Mary and Diana must leave for their jobs as governesses in wealthy households. The Rivers sisters tell Jane that they suspect that [St. John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/st-john-rivers) will also leave, maybe forever, to become a missionary.

***Analysis Part 1:***

Jane finds kinship and love with Mary and Diana, as she once did with Helen and Ms. Temple. They share an emotional and intellectual bond. The Rivers sisters mirror Jane in their educations, missing parents, and governess jobs.

***Summary Part 2:***

[St. John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/st-john-rivers), unlike his sisters, remains pensive and distant at home. [Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) visits his church and hears him preach a stern sermon that leaves her feeling sad. In conversation, the two of them realize that they both feel restless but in different ways.

***Analysis Part 2:***

Like Jane, St. John is restless for a "new servitude." But he seems to serve out of a cold religious passion that does not allow for any human feelings.

***Summary Part 3:***

[St. John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/st-john-rivers) offers [Jane](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/jane-eyre) a position running a small school for the poor children of his parish in Morton. The pay and lodgings are meager, but Jane is glad for the job's independence, so she accepts.

***Analysis Part 3:***

The teaching job fits Jane's personality: independent, modest, and respectable. Jane can nurture virtues, not empty social conventions, in her students.

***Summary Part 4:***

Soon after, a letter arrives informing [St. John](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters/st-john-rivers), [Mary](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters), and [Diana](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/jane-eyre/characters) that their wealthy uncle John has just died and left them nothing, with his fortune going to an unknown "other relation." They tell Jane that it was their uncle who led their father into his disastrous business failure.

***Analysis Part 4:***

The uncle turns out to be Jane's uncle, too—John Eyre. As his heir, Jane will have the opportunity to reconcile the families and repay the Rivers's charity.