

Brontë Family NWR Online Talk by Margaret Mills Suggested Follow up Activities:

A. Quiz – see attached. (*Recommend to your group that everyone watches the talk quite *near* to the meeting to help them remember the answers!)

B. Debate which is the best Brontë novel *Jane Eyre* or *Wuthering Heights*?

- This could involve everyone reading both books, then at the meeting, the group discusses and decides which is its favourite.

OR

- One member could research *Jane Eyre*, and another member could research *Wuthering Heights*. Each of these members could make a case to the group as to why she believes her chosen novel is the best, the group then votes.

C. Discussion questions:

1. How did the deaths of their mother and two sisters, Maria and Elizabeth, impact the Brontë family?
2. What was life like for the Brontë family at the parsonage in Haworth?
3. In what ways do you think the Brontës' childhood games benefitted them?
4. How do you think Haworth's landscape affected the early lives of the Brontë children?
5. What kind of education did the Brontë sisters receive, and how did it influence their writing and worldview?
6. Why did the Brontë sisters choose to publish their works under male pseudonyms (Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell)? What does this reveal about the societal expectations and limitations placed on women writers in the 19th century?
7. a. Gender Roles and Expectations: How do the Brontë sisters challenge or reinforce the traditional gender roles of their time?
b. What does the portrayal of the female characters in *Jane Eyre* reveal about Victorian attitudes towards women?