

Character Breakdown

Jane Eyre (vocal range F#3–E5): Our story's protagonist. A young, strong-willed woman who is outwardly quiet, watchful, and shy. Her beauty comes from her character, humor, and strength. Late teens to 20s. (*Actresses auditioning for Jane must be strong, controlled singers possessing great stamina and a wide vocal range. Please select an audition piece that best showcases your ability.*)

Young Jane Eyre (vocal range D4–D5): Full of soul. Strong and willful. Age 9–12.

John Reed: Young Jane's cruel cousin. Age 10 to mid-teens.

Mrs. Reed: Young Jane's aunt who looks after her at Gateshead. Mrs. Reed is cruel towards Jane, offering her little happiness and punishing her relentlessly before sending her to the Lowood School.

Mr. Brocklehurst (vocal range D3–G4): The owner of Lowood School. He must be an imposing and frightening figure to Young Jane; cold-eyed, zealous, and pontifical. Age 40s–60s.

Miss Scatcherd (vocal range D4–D5): A teacher at Lowood, she is hard-faced and an embittered woman whose nature has been warped by dogged obedience to Mr. Brocklehurst and a natural distrust of anything unusual or imaginative. Age 40s–50s.

Helen Burns (vocal range A3–C#5): A girl of calm and spiritual demeanor. She is intellectually and spiritually engaging. Teaches young Jane her most important lesson in life. Helen's quiet dignity and inner strength is mirrored by the same qualities in her vocals. Age 12–16.

Mrs. Fairfax (alto, recitative, *sprechgesang* or "talk sing," vocal range F3–C5): Rochester's elderly relation and the housekeeper of Thornfield Hall who is fussy, garrulous, and kind-hearted. Age 40s–60s.

Robert (vocal range Bb2–Bb3): The butler at Thornfield, he is dry and intelligent, and a martyr to Mrs. Fairfax's whims. An understanding and reliable servant to Rochester. Age 40s–60s.

Adele: Mr. Rochester's ward. A spirited young girl. Age 6–12. (*Actresses auditioning for Adele should prepare a monologue with French dialect.*)

Edward Fairfax Rochester (baritone/high baritone, vocal range B2–G4): An intelligent and powerful male presence, he has been greatly damaged by life and is therefore quite prickly and demanding, but has a keen sense of humor and engaging personality. Age 30s–40s.

Blanche Ingram (coloratura soprano, vocal range B3–B5): The clever, sophisticated, and stunningly beautiful woman who is to be married to Rochester. She is witty and graceful, but shallow. Age 20s.

Richard Mason (tenor, vocal range C3–G4): Bertha Mason's brother. He is a well-educated gentleman, but mentally and emotionally weak because he is haunted by the wrong he has done to Rochester and the need to care for his deranged, unhappy sister. Age 40s–60s.

Bertha Mason (vocal range C#4–C#5): Rochester's mad wife, kept in the attic of Thornfield Hall. She is strangely beautiful yet a criminally deranged bride stuck in the moment of her final happiness. Age late 20s–40s.

St. John Rivers (tenor, vocal range C3–G4): The appealing and handsome curate of the parish of Gateshead who is caring for Mrs. Reed at her death. He is a complex young man, passionately devoted to his faith and duty. Age 20s–30s.

A small but active ensemble of all ages to play a number of parts.