

In this lesson, students will be mastering the following:

Mastery Content:

- Mr Brocklehurst labels Jane a liar in front of the whole school
- Jane is made to stand on a stool in front of the whole school with a board with 'liar' written on it hanging from her neck
- Jane feels completely humiliated

Do Now

What does it mean to humiliate someone?
Which character has been humiliated at Lowood School?
How were they humiliated?

Extension: Did this character deserve to be humiliated?

Recap

Recap Mr Brocklehurst's visit, and how Jane is trying to hide from him because she doesn't want him to tell the school that she is a liar.

Reading

Read the next extract in the original as it is such an iconic scene from 'Jane Eyre'. In it, Jane breaks her slate and is called up to the front of the class.

There are some check for understanding questions here to assess students' comprehension of the passage.

Reading

Continue reading. We see Brocklehurst label Jane a liar in front of the whole school as he warns the students and the teachers to be vigilant of her behaviour.

Jane the liar

Students need to summarise what Brocklehurst says in the preceding passage in four sentences. There is a suggestion there, though other answers will be acceptable. The modelled answer captures the most relevant parts for the subsequent analysis

Closer reading

There are two passages explored in greater depth. Re-read the exact instructions that Brocklehurst gives to the children and to Miss Temple.

Consider what they are being asked to do, and what potential impact this could have on Jane.

Also consider the tone of Brocklehurst's instructions. They sound more like a judge or warden describing the way a convict should be treated. Again, you may wish to consider how this makes Jane feel.

'punish her body to save her soul.'

Look again at this quotation and relate to Brocklehurst's attitude to childhood.

Humiliation

Students write a paragraph each on these questions:

Write one paragraph on each of these questions:

1. **How** did Mr Brocklehurst humiliate Jane Eyre in the extract we have read?
2. **Why** did Mr Brocklehurst humiliate Jane in the extract?

Mastery assessment plenary

Students complete quiz.

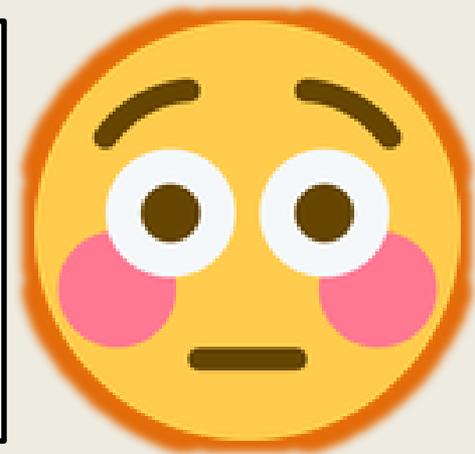
Consider how you will direct and model the close reading here. Model the first example before allowing students to complete the second passage independently?

There is not a summary of Brocklehurst's attitude to childhood in the PowerPoint as students should be encouraged to try to remember it for themselves, however if you feel that having the explanation handy would benefit students, you may want to include it here.

Again, consider how you wish to scaffold or model these questions.

humiliate

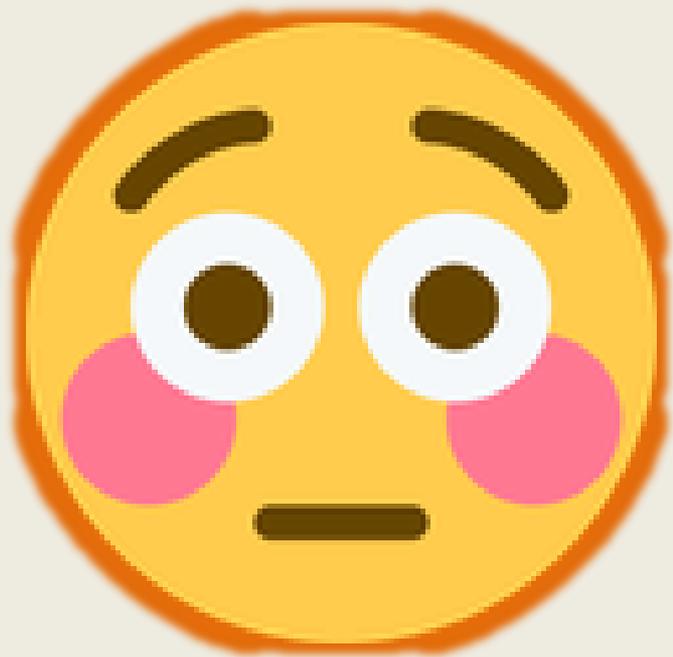
1. What does it mean to humiliate someone?
2. Which character has been humiliated at Lowood School?
3. How were they humiliated?



Extension: Did this character deserve to be humiliated?

humiliate

1. When you **humiliate** someone, you make them feel stupid or ashamed.
 2. **Helen Burns was humiliated by Miss Scatcherd.**
 3. **Helen was made to stand in front of the whole school, where everyone could stare at her.**
- Helen didn't deserve to be humiliated in this way.**



Mr Brocklehurst is **visiting Lowood School** with his wife and daughters. He is telling Miss Temple **not to give the girls any special treatment**. They should not be allowed to get used to having nice things in their lives because **they are just poor orphan girls**.

All the while, **Jane has been trying to hide her face** from Mr Brocklehurst. **She is worried that he will tell the school that she is a liar**, which Mrs Reed made him believe.



Mr Brocklehurst



Mrs Brocklehurst

Their daughters

So far, Jane has been able to hide from Mr Brocklehurst. But her luck is about to run out.

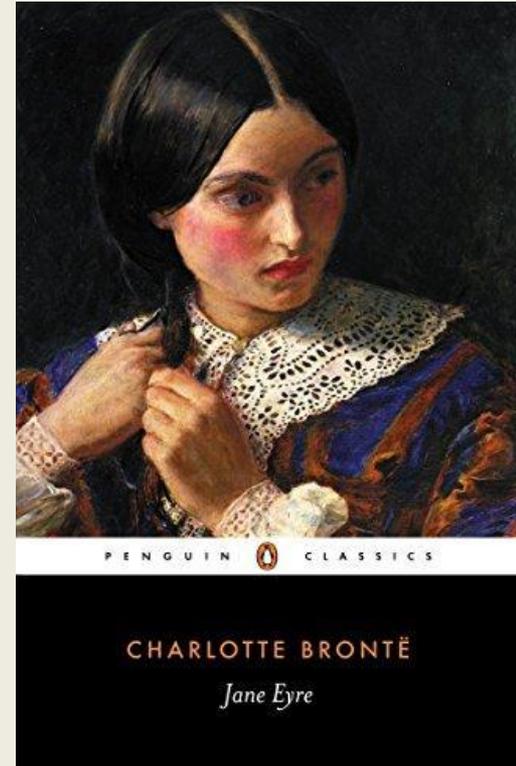
The next scene is one of the most famous parts of Jane's childhood.

We are going to read the passage in the original version.

Let's read.

Read from, 'Hitherto, ...' (line 1)

**Read to, 'Mr Brocklehurst hemmed.'
(line 45)**



Hitherto, while listening to the discourse of Mr. Brocklehurst and Miss Temple, I had not, at the same time, forgotten to secure my personal safety; which I thought would be effected, if I could only avoid being seen. To this end, I had sat well back on the form, and while seeming to be busy with my sum, had held my slate in such a manner as to conceal my face: I might have escaped notice, had not my treacherous slate somehow happened to slip from my hand, and falling with an obtrusive crash, directly drawn every eye upon me; I knew it was all over now, and, as I stooped to pick up the two fragments of slate, I rallied my forces for the worst. It came.

“A careless girl!” said Mr. Brocklehurst, and immediately after—“It is the new pupil, I perceive.” And before I could draw breath, “I must not forget I have a word to say respecting her.” Then aloud: how loud it seemed to me! “Let the child who broke her slate come forward!”

Hitherto – until now
discourse – conversation

slate – thin stone for writing in chalk on

obtrusive – loud

perceive – see

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Foundation pathway



Of my own accord I could not have stirred; I was paralysed: but the two great girls who sit on each side of me, set me on my legs and pushed me towards the dread judge, and then Miss Temple gently assisted me to his very feet, and I caught her whispered counsel—

“Don’t be afraid, Jane, I saw it was an accident; you shall not be punished.”

The kind whisper went to my heart like a dagger.

“Another minute, and she will despise me for a hypocrite,” thought I; and an impulse of fury against Reed, Brocklehurst, and Co. bounded in my pulses at the conviction. I was no Helen Burns.

“Fetch that stool,” said Mr. Brocklehurst, pointing to a very high one from which a monitor had just risen: it was brought.

“Place the child upon it.”

And I was placed there, by whom I don’t know: I was in no condition to note details; I was only aware that they had hoisted me up to the height of Mr. Brocklehurst’s nose, that he was within a yard of me, and that a spread of shot orange and purple silk pelisses and a cloud of silvery plumage extended and waved below me.

Mr. Brocklehurst hemmed.

accord – will

counsel – advice

despise – hate

hypocrite – liar

conviction – label

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Foundation pathway





Discuss the answers to these questions with a partner.

1. What did Jane do to make Mr Brocklehurst notice her?
2. “Don’t be afraid, Jane, I saw it was an accident; you shall not be punished.” Who says this, and why?
3. Where is Jane taken?



Discuss the answers to these questions with a partner.

1. Jane dropped her slate. It broke and made a loud noise. This made Mr Brocklehurst notice Jane.
2. Miss Temple says, “Don’t be afraid, Jane, I saw it was an accident; you shall not be punished.” She wants Jane to remain calm, as she knows that Jane didn’t mean to break her slate. However, Miss Temple doesn’t know that Mr Brocklehurst thinks that Jane is a liar.
3. Jane is taken to the front of the schoolroom and made to stand on top of a stool.

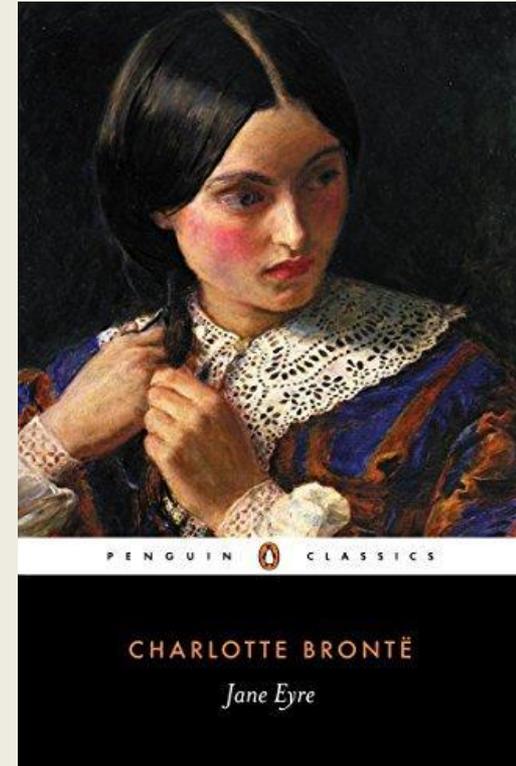


Jane has been spotted by Mr Brocklehurst!
We are going to find out what he has to say about her.

Let's read.

Read from, ““Ladies,” said he...” (line 46)

Read to the end of the extract.



“Ladies,” said he, turning to his family, “Miss Temple, teachers, and children, you all see this girl?”

Of course they did; for I felt their eyes directed like burning-glasses against my scorched skin.

“You see she is yet young; you observe she possesses the ordinary form of childhood; God has graciously given her the shape that He has given to all of us; no signal deformity points her out as a marked character. Who would think that the Evil One had already found a servant and agent in her? Yet such, I grieve to say, is the case.”

A pause—in which I began to steady the palsy of my nerves; and that the trial, no longer to be shirked, must be accepted.

“My dear children,” pursued the black marble clergyman, with pathos, “this is a sad occasion; for it becomes my duty to warn you, that this girl, who might be one of God’s own lambs, is a little castaway: not a member of the true flock, but evidently an interloper and an alien. You must be on your guard against her; you must shun her example; if necessary, avoid her company, exclude her from your sports, and shut her out from your converse.”

deformity – bad mark

Evil One – the devil

palsy – trembling

shirked – avoided

pathos – emotion

interloper – unwanted

converse – conversation

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Foundation pathway



Teachers, you must watch her: keep your eyes on her movements, weigh well her words, scrutinise her actions, punish her body to save her soul: if, indeed, such salvation be possible, for (my tongue falters while I tell it) this girl, this child, the native of a Christian land—this girl is—a liar!”

Now came a pause of ten minutes, during which I, by this time in perfect possession of my wits, observed all the female Brocklehursts produce their pocket-handkerchiefs and apply them to their glasses, while the elderly lady swayed herself to and fro, and the two younger ones whispered, “How shocking!” Mr. Brocklehurst resumed.

scrutinise – pay attention to
salvation – saviour

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Foundation pathway



“This I learned from her benefactress; from the pious and charitable lady who adopted her in her orphan state, reared her as her own daughter, and whose kindness, whose generosity the unhappy girl repaid by an ingratitude so bad, so dreadful, that at last her excellent patroness was forced to separate her from her own young ones, fearful that her vicious example should contaminate their purity: she has sent her here to be healed.”

With this conclusion, Mr. Brocklehurst adjusted the top button of his surtout, muttered something to his family, who rose, bowed to Miss Temple, and then all the great people sailed in state from the room. Turning at the door, my judge said—

“Let her stand half-an-hour longer on that stool, and let no one speak to her during the remainder of the day.”

i.e. Mrs Reed
pious – holy

ingratitude –
ungratefulness

stagnate – go
mouldy

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Brontë

Foundation pathway





...

This image illustrates what has happened in the passage we have just read.

Summarise what Mr Brocklehurst said in four sentences.

Jane Eyre



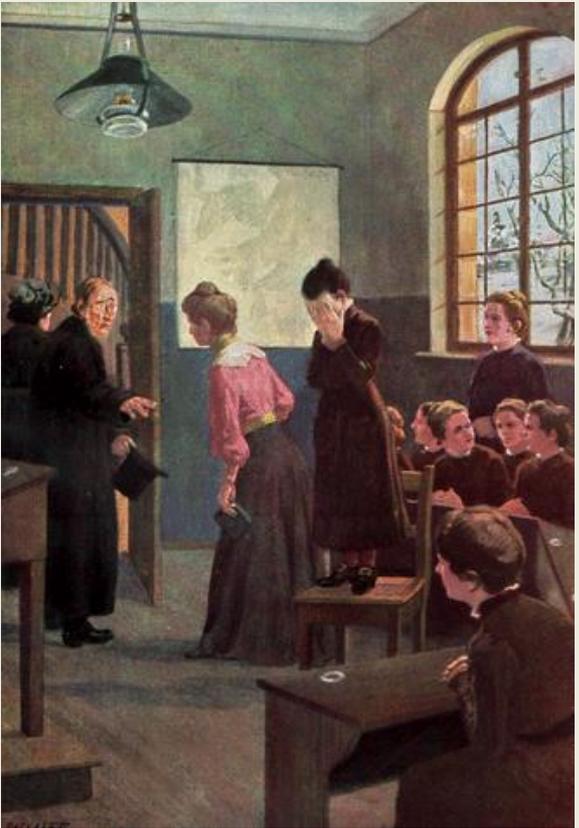
- This girl is a **liar**.
- **Children:** do not become friends with her!
- **Teachers:** be careful, because she lies.
- She must stand there **for half an hour longer**.



Let's look closely at some quotations from the passage we have just read.

“My dear children, ... You must be on your guard against her; you must shun her example; if necessary, avoid her company, exclude her from your sports, and shut her out from your converse.

Liar

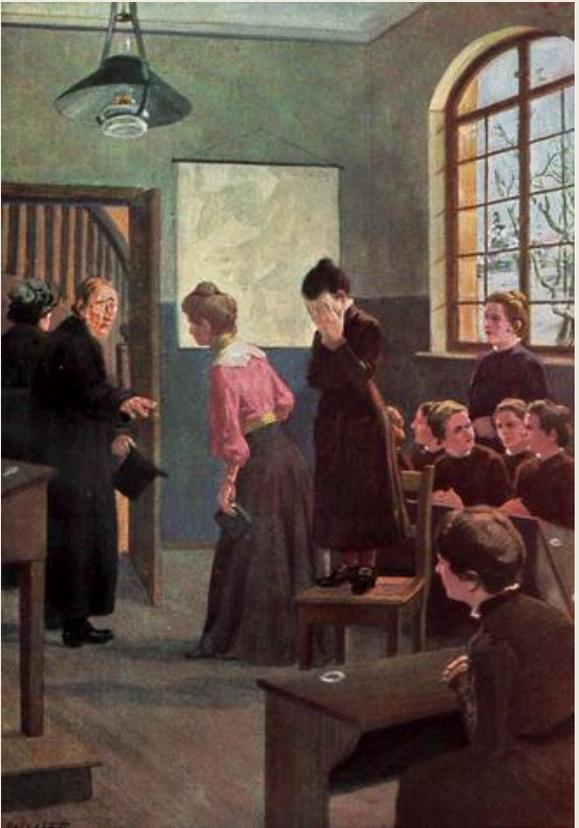


Find this passage in your extract (lines 65 – 68).
Underline all of the **commands** Brocklehurst gives the children (the **verbs** in the passage).



Let's look closely at some quotations from the passage we have just read.

“My dear children, ... You must **be on your guard** against her; you must **shun her example**; if necessary, **avoid her company**, **exclude her** from your sports, and **shut her out** from your converse.



- ‘be on your guard’
- ‘shun her example’
- ‘avoid her company’
- ‘exclude her’
- ‘shut her out’

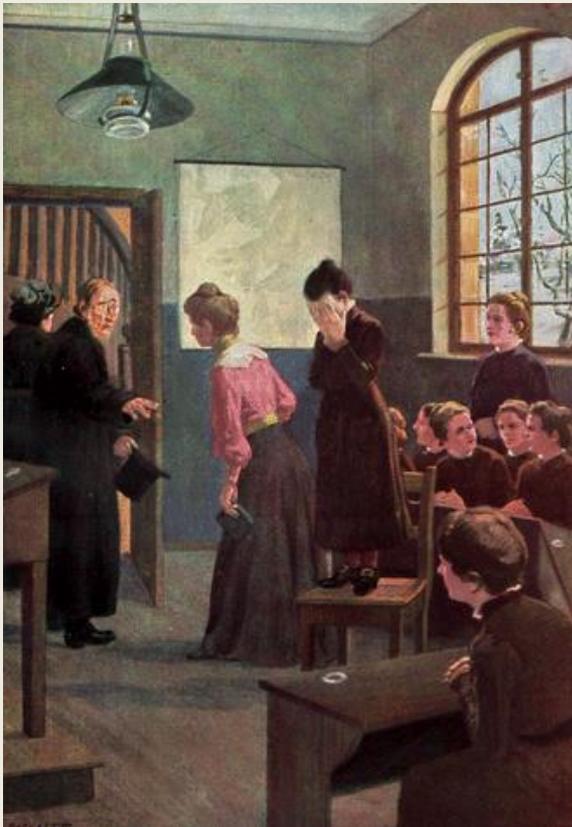
With a partner, come up with a list of ideas why Brocklehurst tells the other girls to avoid Jane Eyre.



Let's look closely at another quotation from the passage we have just read.

“Teachers, you must watch her: keep your eyes on her movements, weigh well her words, scrutinise her actions, punish her body to save her soul”

Liar



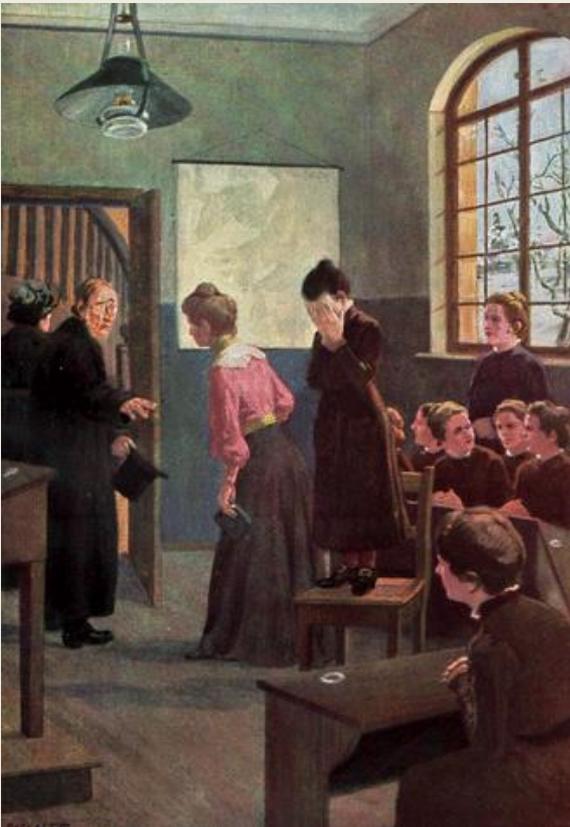
Find this passage in your extract (lines 69 – 71).

Underline all of the **commands** Brocklehurst gives the teachers (the **verbs** in the passage).

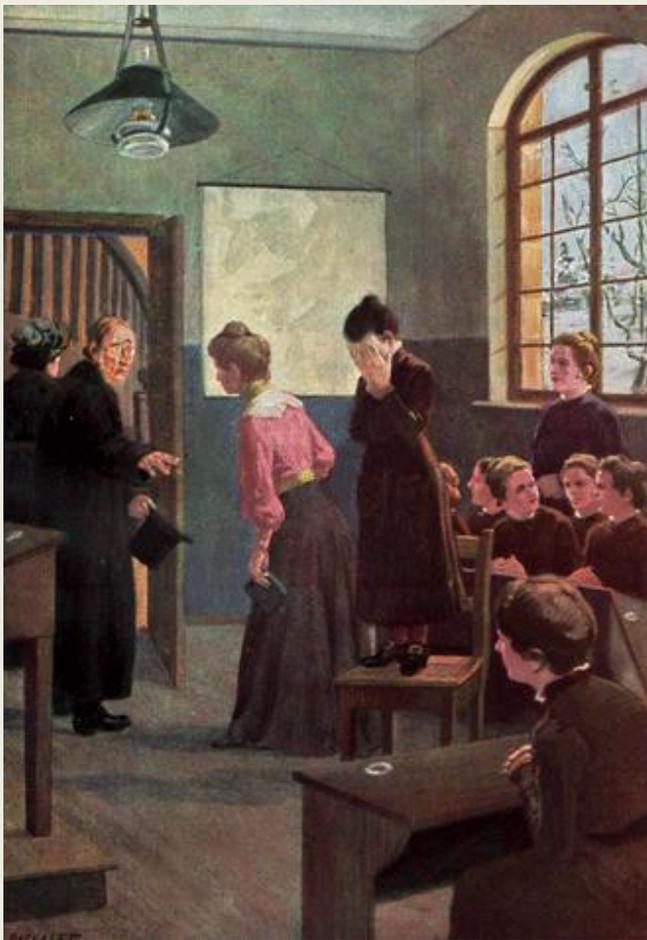
Let's look closely at another quotation from the passage we have just read.

“Teachers, you must watch her: keep your eyes on her movements, weigh well her words, scrutinise her actions, punish her body to save her soul”

Liar



- ‘watch her’
- ‘keep your eyes on her’
- ‘weigh her words’
- ‘scrutinise her actions’
- ‘punish her body’



- ‘watch her’
 - ‘keep your eyes on her’
 - ‘weigh her words’
 - ‘scrutinise her actions’
 - ‘punish her body’
- scrutinise* – pay close attention to

Look at these commands and think about these questions on your own.

Do they sound like a teacher discussing a child?
Why? Why not?



This is one of the most famous quotations from 'Jane Eyre'.

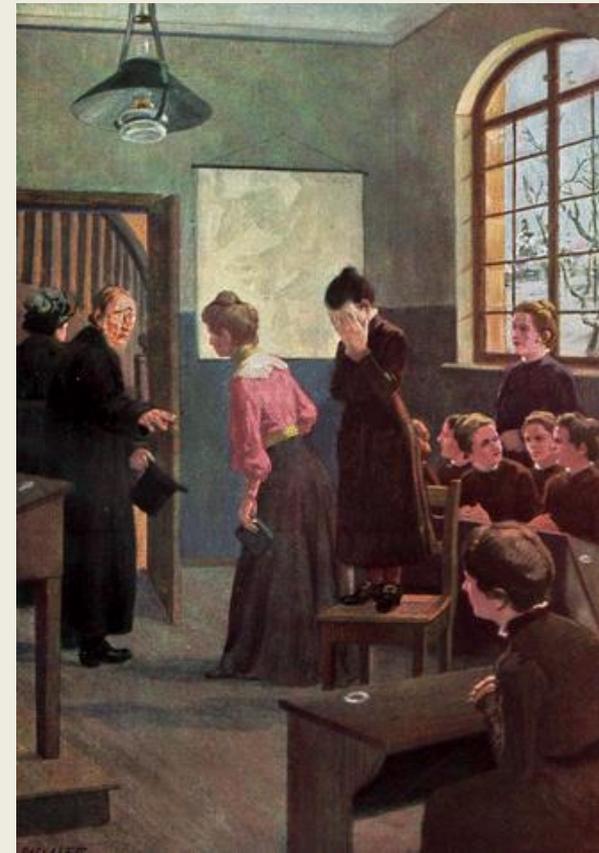
Liar



Brocklehurst said,
'punish her body to save her soul.'

Discuss this question with a partner:
How does this statement relate to Mr Brocklehurst's attitude to childhood?

Brocklehurst believes that children are born evil, and they need to have the sin beaten out of them with strict discipline. He says that by punishing Jane in a harsh way, he will make her good, and stop her soul from going to hell.

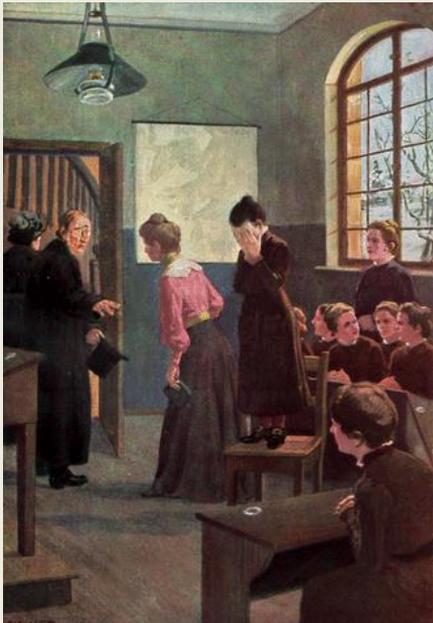




Here is a summary of what has happened in the extract we have read today:

1. Jane broke her slate, making Mr Brocklehurst notice her.
2. Brocklehurst called Jane to the front of the schoolroom.
3. He warned the other girls not to play with Jane.
4. He told the teachers to be careful of her.
5. He told the teachers to punish Jane's body to make her a good person.
6. Brocklehurst said Jane must stand in front of the whole school for another half hour.

Liar



Write one paragraph on each of these questions:

1. **How** did Mr Brocklehurst humiliate Jane Eyre in the extract we have read?
2. **Why** did Mr Brocklehurst humiliate Jane in the extract?

What feelings has Jane experienced in the passage we have read?

- a) **Hope**, because Jane knew that Miss Temple would stick up for her with Mr Brocklehurst.
- b) **Humiliation**, as everyone at Lowood School thinks that she is a liar.
- c) **Anger**, because one of the other girls made her drop her slate.
- d) **Relief**, because Helen was also punished, which meant that everyone was looking at Helen for a while.
- e) **Acceptance**, because she knows that she deserves to be punished for being a lying girl.

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English Mastery

Love the lesson? Have some suggestions for improvements? Noticed a mistake or an error?

Please let us know!

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