

**Jane the liar From Chapter 4 – Helen Burns (pages 43 – 44)**

Mr Brocklehurst tells everyone at Lowood School that Jane is a liar.

<p>“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!”</p>	<p>5</p>	<p><b>slate</b> – thin stone for writing in chalk on</p>
<p>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—</p>	<p>10</p>	<p><b>perceive</b> – see</p> <p><b>accord</b> – will</p>
<p>“Don’t be afraid, Jane, I saw it was an accident; you shall not be punished.”</p>		<p><b>counsel</b> – advice</p>
<p>The kind whisper went to my heart like a dagger.</p>	<p>15</p>	
<p>“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.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p><b>despise</b> – hate</p> <p><b>hypocrite</b> – liar</p>
<p>“Fetch that stool,” said Mr. Brocklehurst, pointing to a very high one from which a monitor had just risen: it was brought.</p>		<p><b>conviction</b> – label</p>
<p>“Place the child upon it.”</p>		
<p>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.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>30</p>	
<p>Mr. Brocklehurst hemmed.</p>		
<p>“Ladies,” said he, turning to his family, “Miss Temple, teachers, and children, you all see this girl?”</p>	<p>35</p>	
<p>Of course they did; for I felt their eyes directed like burning-glasses against my scorched skin.</p>		
<p>“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.”</p>	<p>40</p>	<p><b>deformity</b> – bad mark</p> <p><b>Evil One</b> – the devil</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>45</p>	<p><b>palsy</b> – trembling</p> <p><b>shirked</b> – avoided</p>
<p>“My dear children,” pursued the black marble clergyman, with pathos, “this is a sad occasion; for</p>		

Homework week 3 Due in: .....

Name: .....

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.	50	<b>pathos</b> – emotion
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!"	55	<b>interloper</b> – unwanted
“Let her stand half-an-hour longer on that stool, and let no one speak to her during the remainder of the day.”	60	<b>converse</b> – conversation <b>scrutinise</b> – pay attention to
	65	<b>salvation</b> – saviour

**Read the extract and answer the following questions in full sentences.**

1. What is Jane forced to do as a punishment for breaking her slate? (Lines 25-20)

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2. In your own words, describe Mr Brocklehurst's attitude to children.

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Brocklehurst says, 'punish her body to save her soul.' How does this statement relate to Brocklehurst's attitude to raising children?

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3. How does Mr Brocklehurst tell the others to be around Jane and how should they treat her?

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