Charlotte Brontë: The Novels

ANALYSING TEXTS

General Editor: Nicholas Marsh

Chaucer: The Canterbury Tales *Gail Ashton*

Shakespeare: The Tragedies *Nicholas Marsh*

Virginia Woolf: The Novels *Nicholas Marsh*

Jane Austen: The Novels *Nicholas Marsh*

Charlotte Brontë: The Novels *Mike Edwards*

Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights *Nicholas Marsh*

John Donne: The Poems *Joe Nutt*

Further titles are in preparation

Analysing Texts

Series Standing Order ISBN 978-0-333-73260-1

(outside North America only)

You can receive future titles in this series as they are published by placing a standing order. Please contact your bookseller or, in case of difficulty, write to us at the address below with your name and address, the title of the series and the ISBN quoted above.

Customer Services Department, Macmillan Distribution Ltd
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS, England

Charlotte Brontë: The Novels

MIKE EDWARDS

© Mike Edwards 1999

All rights reserved. No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with written permission or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, or under the terms of any licence permitting limited copying issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency, 90 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9HE.

Any person who does any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

The author has asserted his right to be identified as the author of this work in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

First published 1999 by
MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-74779-7 ISBN 978-1-349-27691-2 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-27691-2

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and
made from fully managed and sustained forest sources.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
08 07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00 99

Published in the United States of America 1999 by
ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,
Scholarly and Reference Division,
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-22364-9 cloth
ISBN 978-0-312-22366-3 paperback

Contents

<i>General Editor's Preface</i>	vii
<i>Textual Note</i>	viii
Part 1: Analysis	1
1 Narrators	3
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 1, Chapter 1, pp. 13–15	3
<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 1, pp. 39–41	16
<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 3, pp. 79–80	25
2 Characterisation	37
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 1, Chapter 4, pp. 40–1	38
<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 11, pp. 211–12	46
<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 26, pp. 386–8	54
3 Setting	64
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 2, Chapter 8, pp. 278–80	65
<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 18, pp. 314–15	73
<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 12, pp. 172–3	78
4 Dramatisation	87
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 2, Chapter 10, pp. 316–18	88
<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 28, pp. 477–8	95
<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 26, pp. 380–1	101
5 Protestantism, Popery and Other Persuasions	110
<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 3, Chapter 4, pp. 393–4	111
<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 17, pp. 300–1	118
<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 13, pp. 183–5	124

6	Old Maids and Womenites	134
	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 1, Chapter 12, p. 125	135
	<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 18, pp. 322–3	145
	<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 19, p. 277	154
7	Conclusions	169
	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , Volume 3, Chapter 12, pp. 501–2	170
	<i>Shirley</i> , Chapter 37, p. 599	176
	<i>Villette</i> , Chapter 42, pp. 595–6	184
Part 2: The Context and the Critics		193
8	Charlotte Brontë's Life and Works	195
9	The Context of Charlotte Brontë's Work	202
10	Three Critical Approaches	211
	Robert B. Heilman	212
	David Lodge	215
	Shirley Foster	218
	<i>Further Reading</i>	222
	<i>Index</i>	226

General Editor's Preface

This series is dedicated to one clear belief: that we can all enjoy, understand and analyse literature for ourselves, provided we know how to do it. How can we build on close understanding of a short passage, and develop our insight into the whole work? What features do we expect to find in a text? Why do we study style in so much detail? In demystifying the study of literature, these are only some of the questions the *Analysing Texts* series addresses and answers.

The books in this series will not do all the work for you, but will provide you with the tools, and show you how to use them. Here, you will find samples of close, detailed analysis, with an explanation of the analytical techniques utilised. At the end of each chapter there are useful suggestions for further work you can do to practise, develop and hone the skills demonstrated and build confidence in your own analytical ability.

An author's individuality shows in the way they write: every work they produce bears the hallmark of that writer's personal 'style'. In the main part of each book we concentrate therefore on analysing the particular flavour and concerns of one author's work, and explain the features of their writing in connection with major themes. In Part 2 there are chapters about the author's life and work, assessing their contribution to developments in literature; and a sample of critics' views are summarised and discussed in comparison with each other. Some suggestions for further reading provide a bridge towards further critical research.

Analysing Texts is designed to stimulate and encourage your critical and analytic faculty, to develop your personal insight into the author's work and individual style, and to provide you with the skills and techniques to enjoy at first hand the excitement of discovering the richness of the text.

NICHOLAS MARSH

Textual Note

As far as convenient, extracts from the novels are identified by chapter so as to enable them to be found easily in any edition. Page numbers of Charlotte Brontë's novels refer to the latest editions in the Penguin Classics series.

Jane Eyre: first published in 1847; Penguin Classics, 1996

Shirley: first published in 1849; Penguin Classics, 1985

Villette: first published in 1852; Penguin Classics, 1985

The Professor: first published in 1857; Penguin Classics, 1989

Extracts quoted are generally as they appear in the Penguin editions, but I have amended two minor misprints.

Where it is clear which novel, or, in the chapter on critical approaches, which essay, is under discussion, reference is usually by page number alone. Other books are fully identified at the time of reference, and reappear in the recommendations for further reading.