

Jane Eyre—published 1847

Wide Sargasso Sea—published 1966 (begun 1945)

Jean Rhys:

b. 1890 in Dominica—Welsh father and White Creole mother

1907—Rhys left Dominica for education in England

1936—brief and only visit back to Dominica

Rhys hated England, never considered herself “English”; thought of herself as a displaced colonial. Ironically, in 1978 at age 88, Rhys was awarded an OBE for her contributions to English Literature!

Charlotte Brontë

1816—Charlotte born as third child (older Maria and Eliza); Bramwell (1817), Emily (1818), Anne (1820).

1820—father (Patrick Brontë, Irish but English University educated) became the Perpetual Curate in Haworth, Yorkshire.

1821—mother (Maria Brontë) dies, Her sister comes to run the household.

1824—Maria, Elizabeth, Charlotte and Emily were sent to the Clergy Daughter’s School at Cowan Bridge (the model for Lowood) where Maria (model for Helen Burns) and Elizabeth dies from TB in 1825. Charlotte and Emily are removed from the school.

1826-1835—Glass Town and Angrian sagas

1831—Charlotte goes to Miss Wooler’s Roe Head School where she makes life-long best friends Mary Taylor and Charlotte Nussey.

1832—Charlotte at home teaching and running the Brontë household.

1835—Charlotte teaches at Roe Head. In 1836, she sends her writing to Robert Southey who discourages her as a woman from writing!

1839—Charlotte refuses two marriage proposals.

1841—Charlotte is a governess and treated like scum

1842—Charlotte and Emily to Pensionnat Heger in Brussels where Charlotte falls passionately (platonically) in love with Msr. Heger (perhaps a model for Edward Rochester) to whom she writes passionate letters and he responds until his wife stops all the correspondence. Deep depression!

1846—Currer, Ellis, Acton Bell created. Charlotte begins writing *Jane Eyre*

1847—*Wuthering Heights*, *Agnes Grey*, and *Jane Eyre* all published by Thomas Newby.

1847—Smith, Elder becomes Charlotte's publisher. She falls in love with George Smith who never proposes because his mother opposed it.

1848—Anne's *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* is published. Bramwell dies in September and Emily in December of TB and dissipation in Bramwell's case.

1849—Anne dies in October of TB.

1849-1851—Charlotte visits publisher and his family and meets literary luminaries such as Thackeray in London. Another marriage proposal refused.

1852—Charlotte refuses Arthur Bell Nicholls proposal because her father is vehemently opposed!

29 June 1854—Charlotte marries Arthur Bell Nicholls

31 March 1855—Charlotte dies from pregnancy complications.

1861—Patrick Brontë dies, having outlived his wife and five children.