***Jane Eyre* Journal Questions**

**1) The following is an excerpt from *The Madwoman in the Attic*, by Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar. What are your thoughts?**

Curiously enough, it seems not to have been primarily the coarseness and sexuality of *Jane Eyre* which shocked the Victorian reviewers (though they disliked those elements in the book), but …. Its ‘anti-Christian’ refusal to accept the forms, customs, and standards of society—in short, its rebellious feminism. They were disturbed not so much by the proud Byronic sexual energy of Rochester as by the Byronic pride and passion of Jane herself, not so much by the asocial sexual vibrations between hero and heroine as by the heroine’s refusal to submit to her social destiny: “She has inherited in fullest measure the worst sin of our fallen nature—the sin of pride,” declared Miss Rigby.

2) One of the ‘anti-Gothic’ techniques that Charlotte Bronte uses in this novel is humor. Find phrases, scenes or situations that you consider humorous. What effect do these examples of humor have on the Gothic atmosphere of the text?

3) Compare and contrast the two seduction scenes—when Rochester tries to convince Jane to be his mistress and when St. John attempts to convince Jane to marry him.

4) Symbols: Bertha Mason, the tearing of the wedding veil, fire, forest around Ferndean, the blasted chestnut tree, the red room, the “attic”: any others? Discuss each, using the text for support and clarification of your assertions.

5) Characterize (with text) Jane and Rochester.

Stock characters? Archetypes? – flat or round; static or dynamic, direct or indirect characterization?

6) Motifs—find at least three expressions of each motif in the text and discuss the thematic implications—mirrors, shadows, eyes, windows, earthquakes, ice, birds.