***Jane Eyre***

Directions: Each person should choose one of these topics. Throughout the book, you will be looking for examples of your topic. At the end, you will examine how those topics develop over the course of the book and develop into a theme. These themes will be discussed during our “whole class thematic” seminars.

Envelope 1: Examine the role of female characters in the work and how they impact Jane’s growth into a strong heroine. Look for passages in the novel that support this transition.

* Tracked by:

Envelope 2:  The color red is used symbolically throughout the novel.- Look for quotes that demonstrate this symbolism and explore the significance in each instance.

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Envelope 3:  How is the concept of forgiveness essential to the growth of Jane Eyre? Throughout her life, Jane is mistreated by different people.  Find examples in the novel where she is mistreated, and subsequently her response to this treatment. How do these instances shape her character?

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Envelope 4: Discuss the role of the supernatural in the novel. How do these events set the mood for the novel and discuss the effect it has on character development?

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Envelope 5: Chart evidence of betrayal against Jane throughout the novel.  Analyze the nature of the each betrayal and show how it contributes to the meaning of the work as a whole.

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Envelope 6: Despite the description of “plain” and unattractive, Jane is the heroine of the novel. What heroic qualities does Jane possess that are more important than her physical appearance? Why would Bronte choose to describe Jane in such terms?

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Envelope 7:  Home and family are of special significance in the novel.  Look for passages that represent these entities or the absence of them in the lives of the characters.

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Envelope 8: Gothic fiction contains “a general mood of decay, suspense, and terror; action that is dramatic and generally violent or otherwise disturbing; loves that are destructively passionate; and landscapes that are grandiose, if gloomy or bleak” (Newman 461). Detail the several gothic elements in *Jane Eyre*, and explain how they contribute to the suspense and mystery of the novel.

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Envelop 9: A bildungsroman, or coming-of-age novel, recounts the psychological or moral development of its protagonist from youth to maturity, when this character recognizes his or her place in the world. Track major events that contribute to Jane’s psychological or moral development.

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Envelope 10: Social status plays a significant role regarding relationships in the novel. Look for passages/quotes that capture the relevance of society and class.

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