

# Charlotte Brontë

# **Book background**

The book traces the lives of Charlotte and her sisters at the Parsonage at Haworth and their development as authors of a number of books. As women were not supposed to write serious novels, they had to write under pseudonyms to disguise their work. Eventually Charlotte was identified as the author of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* by her publisher, but she wished to remain anonymous. This, however, was not to last as local gossip eventually linked her to the authorship of the books.

Charlotte Brontë’s brother and sisters died relatively young from tuberculosis: Charlotte herself married but died in childbirth, having written books which made her a pioneer for the portrayal of women’s lives at the time.

# **Subject areas / curriculum links**

Geography / Art / History

# **Learning objectives**

* Identify features, both rural and urban
* Develop knowledge about a place
* Interpret a range of resources of geographical information
* Recognise change over time

# **Prior knowledge**

It would be helpful if pupils:

* are able to identify features of both urban / rural landscapes
* have had some experience in sketching features
* are able to research information.

# **Activities**

## Resources

* Big Cat *Charlotte Brontë* activity sheet
* Big Cat *Charlotte Brontë* book

## Introduction

1. Discuss with the class what it would have been like to live in Haworth at the time of Charlotte Brontë. How would her daily life differ from ours?
2. Ask what they found out from the book about the village of Haworth. Do they know where it is? Look at a map or atlas to find it and locate towns nearby. Where is it in relation to where you are now?

* What is this place like?
* What are the main features?
* What is the place like today?

Activity

1. Tell the class they are going to be ‘Haworth detectives’ and find out what Haworth is like today. They will need to use the book and other resources that they can find online or in the library. Provide everyone with the activity sheet which asks them to draw places in the Haworth area and write some interesting information about them.

## Plenary / reflect

* Display the sheets and ask individual pupils to identify one important fact they found out. Ask the whole class why so many tourists visit now and what they might do there.
* Why is Charlotte Brontë important today as a role model?

# **Assessing progression**

* Can pupils identify features and successfully draw and describe them?
* Can they find features which remain similar today?
* Can they work out why tourists are drawn to the village today?
* Can they demonstrate the ability toresearch information about a place and use it in their writing?

# **Further ideas**

Use a street map [[www.streetmap.com](http://www.streetmap.com)] to locate Haworth in its region and name nearby towns, motorways and physical features. Zoom in to identify OS symbols used in the village, such as museum, railway station etc., and draw and name these.