

## *Jane Eyre* Synthesis Essay

Respond to one (1) of the following prompts with a multi-paragraph argumentative essay that includes all necessary elements:

- a primary claim that answers the question (takes a side)
- textual evidence from multiple sources
- in-text citations that give the source of the textual evidence
- reasoning that explains how the evidence logically supports the claim
- acknowledgment and rebuttal of counterclaims

### **Option #1**

In the novel *Jane Eyre*, Jane constantly describes herself as “plain,” yet Edward Rochester doesn’t see her that way at all. We hear that “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” but there appears to be a standard of beauty that most people seem to agree on in any particular culture or context. (In the Victorian era, that standard had more to do with the size and shape of one’s forehead than it does today, but we still seem to have a cultural obsession with the size and shape of other body parts.) **How do we define beauty? What is beautiful? Write an essay in which you define beauty.** Use the information presented in the passages to support your definition and reasons and to provide examples. Make sure to use evidence from multiple sources (not just the novel), and make sure you cite the sources when you use them.

### **Option #2**

“You can’t judge a book by its cover.” We hear that all the time, yet the truth seems to be that many people *do* judge others by appearance. However, beauty can be both a blessing and a curse. **Write an essay in which you explain how appearance contributes to the way people are perceived and treated, in both positive and negative ways.** Use the information presented in the passages to support your points and to provide examples. Make sure to use evidence from multiple sources (not just the novel), and make sure you cite the sources when you use them.

### **Option #3**

Oftentimes there is a conflict between intellect and beauty. For example, we have all hear the “dumb blonde” jokes where the beautiful blonde lacks understanding of the world around her because she just isn’t smart enough. Jane Eyre is not a beautiful woman, yet she is quick and witty and intelligent. **Write an essay in which you address this question: Is the conflict between beauty and intelligence impossible to avoid?** If you believe it is impossible to avoid, explain why. If you believe it can be avoided, explain how. Either way, use the information presented in the passages to support your points and to provide examples. Make sure to use evidence from multiple sources (not just the novel), and make sure you cite the sources when you use them.

### **Sources:**

*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (novel)

“Pretty Beyond Belief” by Amy Tan (essay)

“Phenomenal Woman” by Maya Angelou

*Final draft of the essay must be posted to Utah Compose by \_\_\_\_\_.*