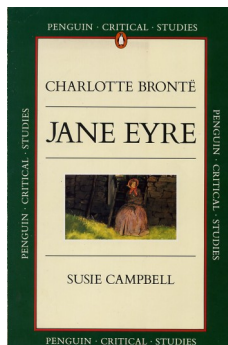
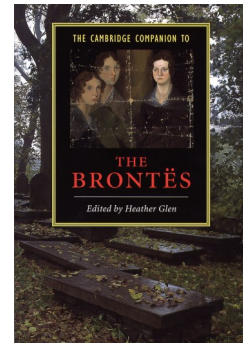


The Oxford Companion to the Brontës
edited by Christine Alexander & Margaret Smith
Oxford University Press, September 2003

A bible of Brontë studies. The first place to go on anything you want to know. And addictive: look up one thing and you find yourself looking up lots of other things! For example, look up entries on: Brontë, Charlotte; *Jane Eyre*; imagery in the Brontës' work; Bewick, Thomas; Cowan Bridge; Wilson, Revd William Carus—and follow up whatever interests you.

The Cambridge Companion to the Brontës
edited by Heather Glen
Cambridge University Press, 2002

Where the above is more like an encyclopaedia, this is a collection of essays. Especially good are Juliet Barker on 'The Haworth Context', Rick Rylance on social and literary contexts, Kate Flint on 'Women writers, women's issues' and Patsy Stoneman on 'The Brontë myth'.

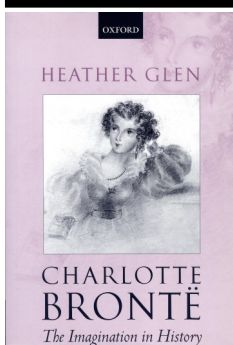
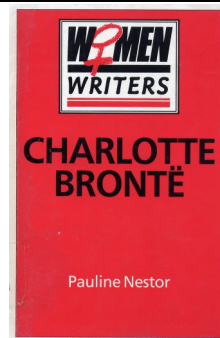


Susie Campbell
Charlotte Brontë: 'Jane Eyre'
Penguin Critical Studies, 1988

The simplest of the titles on this list. A good, very readable introduction to the novel and its contexts—thoughtfully provocative on symbolism in the novel and on how Charlotte Brontë adapts motifs (of Gothic novel, the Byronic hero, the quest story). Useful series—unfortunately, this title is out of print and difficult to find. But worth looking out for.

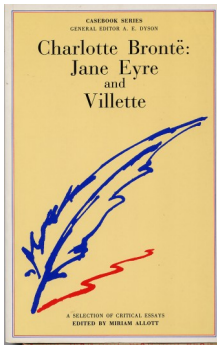
Pauline Nestor
Charlotte Brontë
Women Writers, 1987

Unfortunately, also out of print and difficult to find. A short book, thoroughly engaging. Full of challenging insight: the series is consciously women on women ('men have held the floor quite long enough'). You will decide for yourself how helpful the insistently feminist perspective is. It rarely distracts from a thoroughly absorbing response to CB.



Heather Glen
Charlotte Brontë: The Imagination in History
Oxford University Press, 2002

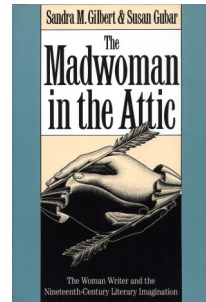
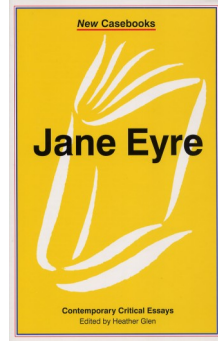
The best book I have read on CB. Three of its chapters are on *Jane Eyre*. A bit of a specialised interest and not one for very early in your study of *JE*: places CB in her historical moment and demonstrates how richly she connects in her novels with the concerns of her time.



Miriam Allot (editor)
Charlotte Brontë: 'Jane Eyre' and 'Villette'
 Casebook series, 1973

Collects the best of modern criticism and also includes earlier comments and reviews. The *New Casebooks* series collects important examples of more recent responses to the novel.

Heather Glen (editor)
'Jane Eyre', New Casebook series, 1997



Sandra M Gilbert & Susan Gubar
The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-Century Literary Imagination
 Yale University Press, 1979 (latest edition: 2000)

Most brilliant on *Wuthering Heights*, but Chapter 10 is a very engaging and influential chapter on *Jane Eyre*.

Juliet Barker
The Brontës
 Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 1994 (second edition, Abacus, 2010)

An important revisionist work—overturns many Brontë myths. Wonderfully absorbing book (1000+ pages). Brilliant on the men—father (Patrick) and brother (Branwell)—and on the Yorkshire in which the Brontës lived. Not a work of literary criticism and more than you will need for AS Level. But if you get hooked on the Brontë story, contexts, wider picture—this is an utterly magnificent book.

