

**Costume Analysis Assignment: Jane Eyre (2011)**

Alyssa Collins

Family and Consumer Sciences, Liberty University

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Mrs. Ruth Gomes

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### **Romantic Period (Year of Publication: 1847)**

#### ***Women's Dress***

By 1840, dress sleeves were narrower and more closely-fitted and skirts were longer. Bodices generally came down to the waist and fastened with laces, hooks, or buttons up the front or back. Sleeve styles included the Bishop sleeve (full from the shoulder to the wrist), the sleeve-en-bouffant (alternating puffs and slim sections), and the Victoria sleeve (with a single puff at the elbow). Skirts were full and were trimmed with ruching. Evening dresses were worn off the shoulder, with a slight V-shape toward the bust. Many dresses had berthas, which were wide, deep collars that followed the neckline. Overskirts on dresses might be puffed up or open at the front to show an underskirt.

Hair was worn pulled back into a bun or chignon, with hair at the temples either hanging in curls or plaited in braids that looped around the ears. Caps were worn indoors and bonnets were worn out-of-doors. A variety of capes or mantles were worn outdoors, and galoshes and fingerless mittens (mitts) were also worn. Accessories included chatelaines and the Jeannete (a velvet ribbon used to hold a cross ornament or heart of pearls).

#### ***Men's Dress***

Men's shirts had deep collars, which were worn with neckcloths, stocks, or cravats. While evening shirts were frilled, daytime shirts had tucked insets. The components of man's suit were coat, waistcoat, and trousers. Waistcoats had a point at the front, called a Hussar beak. Trousers began to have fly-front closures instead of fall-front. Dressing gowns were used for informal morning wear. Gentleman wore either frock coats or tailcoats. Frock coats were

generally worn on less formal occasions. Riding coats, such as the Newmarket coat, were also worn. A variety of overcoats were worn, generally patterned on the greatcoat. Hats included the top hat and the derby hat.

### ***Children's Dress***

Children's dress generally mimicked adult dress, with some alterations. Some child-specific items included leglets for girls (white, lace-trimmed drawers, which were worn under short skirts) and tunic suits for boys (jackets with full, gathered skirts that ended at the knee).

### **Movie Costume**

Regarding women's costume, dresses were high-collared and wide-skirted, with cravats or lace collars worn at the neck. Bodices ended at the waistline. There were examples of slim sleeves, as well as Victoria sleeves and bishop sleeves. Necklines for fancier gowns were V-shaped, some with berthas. Hairstyles were period accurate, with knots at the back of the head and either loops of braids or hair around the ears or curls hanging in front. Poorer women tended to have slimmer sleeves and older matrons wore white frilled caps. Accessories for all classes included bonnets, mitts, shawls, pelisses and fichu pelisses. Men wore coats, trousers, and waistcoats. There were examples of both tailcoats and frock coats. Men's pants had fly-front closures. Accessories for men included top hats and cravats or stocks. In children's wear, a little girl wore leglets with a short skirt. There were a few mistakes, such as what appeared to be a plastic hair pin and a hidden zipper in one dress. However, the writers included the detail of early Victorian clothing for the flashbacks while keeping later Victorian clothing for the "present day."