

KIEZgroup ^13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Pancake Tuesday and Brontes chapters 7 and 8.

First we'll talk about Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Tuesday.

Then:

In pairs:

Chapter 7 (p. 31)

1. There is a lot to talk about in the context of Bronte losing his sight.

a) Do you know many people who don't see well or are blind? How do they manage? Reading? Shopping? What are the other things that are difficult?

b) Read the passage starting: 'When you are blind...' out loud.

Can you understand what he means?

c) What are the most important inventions that are useful for blind people?

Which would have helped Bronte and which would not?

2. Emily kept her desk locked (p. 32). Can you understand that? What do you lock away or did you lock away (in the way of papers)?

3. Bronte wants to 'tell them not to do it' (p. 33). How do you feel about this statement? It is like an order! When should parents interfere/advise and when not?

In this case Bronte wants to warn his children that self-publishing is a waste of money. Would you have agreed with him? How have things changed since then?

4. Do you have any experience with eye operations? (pp 33-34) Do you think he was lucky?

5. Bronte calls his son (p.35) 'a drunken animal' - is that being rude to animals? Why do we consider animals to be lower than humans?

Maybe I'll read the exercise on my page 62 to you - a right/wrong exercise.

Chapter 8 (p. 37)

1. Sometimes it's dangerous if parents are too proud of their children (cf. p. 39 bottom). Can you think of any examples?

2. 'But why do you use these strange names?' 'Because people are stupid, Papa.' (p. 40) Which other examples do you know of women using men's names in order to achieve something? In Nineteenth century England there were 2 other famous authors who used male pseudonyms. Cf Isak Dinesen, J K Rowling.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/10/14/us/delta-black-doctor-discrimination-claim/>

(CNN)An African-American OB-GYN says she was discriminated against on a flight when attendants refused to let her help with an in-flight medical emergency.

Tamika Cross was a passenger on an early-morning Delta flight from Detroit to Minneapolis on Sunday when a woman two rows in front of her screamed that her husband was unresponsive.

An example:

Flight attendants made an announcement asking if there were any doctors on board, and Cross says she immediately volunteered to help.

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"I raised my hand to grab (the flight attendant's) attention. She said to me 'oh no sweetie put ur hand down,'" Cross wrote on Facebook. Cross said the flight attendant told her they were looking for "actual" physicians or nurses.

When a second plea for assistance went out, Cross said she went to push her call button and the same flight attendant told her to show her credentials (*Zeugnisse oder ähnlich*) to prove she was a doctor. Cross told CNN she didn't have any credentials with her. Meanwhile, she said, the man still needed medical attention.

Cross said a white man approached the flight attendants saying he was also a doctor. According to Cross, the flight attendant told her, "Thanks for your help but he can help us, and he has his credentials."

3. 'Now they all say Currer Bell is a writer who understands women very well.' (p. 40) Do you think that men can write convincing books about women and vice versa?

4. Are many novels autobiographical? cf the Bronte girls' books

5. Why does Bronte think it strange that a quiet girl like Anne should write a frightening story like 'Wuthering Heights'? (pp. 41/42)

6. Nobody could explain to Keeper that Emily was dead. Do you know the story of Greyfriars Bobby? (p. 46) (Edinburgh)

At the end of at the beginning next week, we'll sum up what we know about the differences between the three girls in their characters.

### **About their books:**

Which of you has read or seen a film of any of the Bronte sisters?

Now let's talk more generally about which nineteenth century books (or early 20<sup>th</sup>) you have read, like reading, think it is a good idea or not a good idea to read: