In a patriarchal society, women are dependent on men. According to Janaro and Altshuler, the Victorian model for love “is a blueprint for courtship and marriage with several clear assumptions” (346). For instance, “love…must exist between men and women only” (346). In addition, “[g]ender roles [are] clearly defined” (347). Furthermore, the “husband [is] the dominant figure in the household, making all the ‘big’ decisions regarding…the family…” (347).

In her novel Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte provides for Jane the strength and courage not only to love a man with passion but also to have the pride to remain as herself and not allow anyone else to dictate what she wears or what her gender role will be. Fortunately, Jane reaches a goal of happiness and independence in which she will not have to marry a man who dominates her.

Immediately upon Jane’s first encounter with Rochester, their relationship starts out as servant and master as he claims that “necessity compels me to make you useful” (Bronte 101). Not knowing this gentleman is her master, she obeys his commands as if he were her master. Later, Mr. Rochester affirms a sense of spiritual equality, stating that he believes she “had bewitched [his] horse” (107). There are other episodes that reveal equality; for example, when he responds to her paintings, he is not only aware of his ponderous remarks, but of hers as well.

Format Guidelines:
1. Double-spaced
2. 12 pt. font
3. Times New Roman (font)
4. 1” Margins all around