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Б88

### **Бронте, Шарлотта.**

**Б88** Джейн Эйр = Jane Eyre: читаем в оригинале с комментарием / Бронте Шарлотта; лексико-грамм. комм. Е. В. Усмановой. — Москва : Издательство АСТ, 2024. — 704 с. — (Комментированное чтение на английском языке).

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Лучший способ учить иностранный язык – это читать художественное произведение, постепенно овладевая лексикой и грамматикой.

Совершенствуйте свой английский язык вместе с одним из самых известных романов Шарлотты Бронте, который распахнёт перед вами двери в строгий, но полный страстей мир викторианской Англии. Здесь вы познакомитесь с Джейн Эйр — девушкой, которая бросает вызов общественным предрассудкам, пытаясь найти свой путь. Судьба сводит Джейн с мистером Рочестером, богатым и загадочным владельцем поместья Торнфилд-холл. Но пусть его очаровательная улыбка не вводит вас в заблуждение — тайна, которую он хранит, не только чудовищна, но и смертельно опасна.

Следуя за Джейн в её борьбе за любовь и независимость, вы погрузитесь в многогранный мир готической Англии XIX века. Роман не только увеличит ваш словарный запас и научит использовать грамматические конструкции в контексте, но и станет настоящим литературным путешествием в мир английской культуры.

Полный текст произведения снабжён подробным лексико-грамматическим комментарием с отсылками на правила в Грамматическом справочнике. В конце книги помещён англо-русский словарь, содержащий лексику из романа. Издание предназначено для всех, кто учит английский язык и стремится читать книги в оригинале.

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## CHAPTER I

There was no possibility of taking a walk that day.<sup>1-2</sup> We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating, that further outdoor exercise was now out of the question.

I was glad of it: I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed.

The said Eliza, John, and Georgiana were now clustered round their mama in the drawing-room: she lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside, and with her darlings about her (**for the time neither quarrelling nor crying**)<sup>3</sup> looked perfectly happy. Me, she had dispensed from joining the group; saying, "She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation, that I was endeavouring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude

1

<sup>1-2</sup> *В тот день не было возможности отправиться на прогулку.*

"There was" — форма прошедшего времени особой грамматической конструкции "there is/there are" со значением "есть", "имеется", "находится"

Существительное "possibility" может означать приятную или неприятную возможность, вероятность чего-либо. Чаще всего после этого существительного стоит предлог *of*, а за ним — герундий (форма на *-ing*), см. Грамматический Справочник (далее ГС)

<sup>3</sup> *в данную минуту они не ссорились и не плакали*  
"Neither" и "nor" являются союзами, используемыми для связи двух или более альтернатив, при этом отрицая каждую из них. Это соединение подчеркивает, что утверждение не применимо ни к одному из случаев.

<sup>4</sup> = to confront/  
challenge people who  
are older than she is  
(her elders)

: me from privileges intended only for contented,  
: happy, little children.”

: “What does Bessie say I have done?” I asked.

: “Jane, I don’t like cavillers or questioners;  
: besides, there is something truly forbidding in a  
: **child taking up her elders**<sup>4</sup> in that manner. Be  
: seated somewhere; and until you can speak pleas-  
: antly, remain silent.”

: A breakfast-room adjoined the drawing-room,  
: I slipped in there. It contained a bookcase: I soon  
: possessed myself of a volume, taking care that  
: it should be one stored with pictures. I mounted  
: into the window-seat: gathering up my feet, I sat  
: cross-legged, like a Turk; and, having drawn the  
: red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrined  
: in double retirement.

: Folds of scarlet drapery shut in my view to the  
: right hand; to the left were the clear panes of  
: glass, protecting, but not separating me from the  
: drear November day. At intervals, while turning  
: over the leaves of my book, I studied the aspect  
: of that winter afternoon. Afar, it offered a pale  
: blank of mist and cloud; near a scene of wet lawn  
: and storm-beat shrub, with ceaseless rain sweeping  
: away wildly before a long and lamentable blast.

<sup>5</sup>Томас Бьюик  
(1753—1828) —  
английский  
художник, резчик  
по дереву и гравёр  
по меди. Создал  
иллюстрации  
к «Общей истории  
четвероногих»  
и двухтомной  
«Истории птиц  
Британии».

: I returned to my book—**Bewick’s History of**  
: **British Birds**:<sup>5</sup> the letterpress thereof I cared little  
: for, generally speaking; and yet there were certain  
: introductory pages that, child as I was, I could  
: not pass quite as a blank. They were those which  
: treat of the haunts of sea-fowl; of “the solitary  
: rocks and promontories” by them only inhabited;  
: of the coast of Norway, studded with isles from  
: its southern extremity, the Lindeness, or Naze,  
: to the North Cape—

: “Where the Northern Ocean, in vast whirls,  
: Boils round the naked, melancholy isles Of farthest  
: Thule; and the Atlantic surge Pours in among  
: the stormy Hebrides.”

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Nor could I pass unnoticed the suggestion of the bleak shores of Lapland, Siberia, Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, Iceland, Greenland, with “the vast sweep of the Arctic Zone, and those forlorn regions of dreary space,—that reservoir of frost and snow, where firm fields of ice, the accumulation of centuries of winters, glazed in Alpine heights above heights, surround the pole, and concentrate the multiplied rigours of extreme cold.” Of these death-white realms I formed an idea of my own: shadowy, like all the half-comprehended notions that float dim through children’s brains, but strangely impressive. The words in these introductory pages connected themselves with the succeeding vignettes, and gave significance to the rock standing up alone in a sea of billow and spray; to the broken boat stranded on a desolate coast; to the cold and ghastly moon glancing through bars of cloud at a wreck just sinking.

<sup>6</sup> *to pin somebody down* — фразовый глагол со значениями “поймать на слове”, “припереть к стенке”, “связать обещанием”

I cannot tell what sentiment haunted the quite solitary churchyard, with its inscribed headstone; its gate, its two trees, its low horizon, girdled by a broken wall, and its newly-risen crescent, attesting the hour of eventide.

The two ships becalmed on a torpid sea, I believed to be marine phantoms.

The fiend **pinning down**<sup>6</sup> the thief’s pack behind him, I passed over quickly: it was an object of terror.

So was the black horned thing seated aloof on a rock, surveying a distant crowd surrounding a gallows.

Each picture told a story; mysterious often to my undeveloped understanding and imperfect feelings, yet ever profoundly interesting: as interesting as the tales Bessie sometimes narrated on winter evenings, when she chanced to be in good humour; and when, having brought her ironing-table to the nursery hearth, she allowed us to sit

: about it, and while she got up Mrs. Reed's lace  
: frills, and crimped her nightcap borders, fed our  
: eager attention with passages of love and adven-  
: ture taken from old fairy tales and other ballads;  
: or (as at a later period I discovered) from the  
: pages of Pamela, and Henry, Earl of Moreland.

: With Bewick on my knee, I was then happy:  
: happy at least in my way. I feared nothing  
: but interruption, and that came too soon. The  
: breakfast-room door opened.

: "Boh! Madam Mope!" cried the voice of John  
: Reed; then he paused: he found the room ap-  
: parently empty.

: "Where the dickens is she!" he continued.  
: "Lizzy! Georgy! (calling to his sisters) Joan is  
: not here: tell mama she is run out into the  
: rain—bad animal!"

: "It is well I drew the curtain," thought I;  
: and I wished fervently he might not discover my  
: hiding-place: nor would John Reed have found it  
: out himself; **he was not quick either of vision  
: or conception;**<sup>7</sup> but Eliza just put her head in at  
: the door, and said at once—

: "She is in the window-seat, to be sure, Jack."

: And I came out immediately, for I trembled at  
: the idea of being dragged forth by the said Jack.

: "What do you want?" I asked, with awkward  
: diffidence.

: "Say, 'What do you want, Master Reed?'" was  
: the answer. "I want you to come here;" and seating  
: himself in an arm-chair, he intimated by a gesture  
: that I was to approach and stand before him.

: John Reed was a schoolboy of fourteen years  
: old; four years older than I, for I was but ten:  
: large and stout for his age, with a dingy and  
: unwholesome skin; thick lineaments in a spacious  
: visage, heavy limbs and large extremities. He  
: gorged himself habitually at table, which made  
: him bilious, and gave him a dim and bleared

<sup>7</sup> он не отличался  
ни зоркостью,  
ни сообразительно-  
стью  
В отрицательных  
предложениях  
either означает  
«ни одно, ни дру-  
гое», «ни один  
из двух».

eye and flabby cheeks. **He ought now to have been at school;**<sup>8</sup> but his mama had taken him home for a month or two, “on account of his delicate health.” Mr. Miles, the master, affirmed that he would do very well if he had fewer cakes and sweetmeats sent him from home; but the mother’s heart turned from an opinion so harsh, and inclined rather to the more refined idea that John’s sallowness was owing to over-application and, perhaps, to pining after home.

John had not much affection for his mother and sisters, and an antipathy to me. He bullied and punished me; not two or three times in the week, nor once or twice in the day, but continually: every nerve I had feared him, and every morsel of flesh in my bones shrank when he came near. There were moments when I was bewildered by the terror he inspired, because I had no appeal whatever against either his menaces or his inflictions; the servants did not like to offend their young master by taking my part against him, and Mrs. Reed was blind and deaf on the subject: **she never saw him strike or heard him abuse me,**<sup>9</sup> though he did both now and then in her very presence, more frequently, however, behind her back.

Habitually obedient to John, I came up to his chair: he spent some three minutes in thrusting out his tongue at me as far as he could without damaging the roots: I knew he would soon strike, and while dreading the blow, I mused on the disgusting and ugly appearance of him who would presently deal it. I wonder if he read that notion in my face; for, **all at once, without speaking, he struck suddenly and strongly**<sup>10</sup>. I tottered, and on regaining my equilibrium retired back a step or two from his chair.

“That is for your impudence in answering mama awhile since,” said he, “and for your

<sup>8</sup> *ему следовало быть в школе*  
об употреблении  
формы ought  
см. ГС 31

<sup>9</sup> *Она никогда не видела, как он бьет меня и не слышала, как обижает...*  
Грамматическая  
конструкция  
Complex Object,  
переводится до-  
полнительным  
придаточным  
предложением  
с союзом «как».

<sup>10</sup> *...вдруг, ничего не сказав, он размахнулся и больно ударил...*  
перфектная форма  
герундия (Perfect  
Gerund) с пред-  
логом without,  
указывающая на  
действие, которое  
произошло до дру-  
гого действия, на  
которое указывает  
основной глагол  
в предложении.  
Герундий — не-  
личная форма гла-  
гола, образованная  
прибавлением  
окончания -ing  
к базовой форме  
глагола. Герундий  
не изменяется по  
лицам и числам.  
Подробнее  
см. ГС 54

: sneaking way of getting behind curtains, and  
: for the look you had in your eyes two minutes  
: since, you rat!”

: Accustomed to John Reed’s abuse, I never  
: had an idea of replying to it; my care was how  
: to endure the blow which would certainly follow  
: the insult.

: “What were you doing behind the curtain?”  
: he asked.

: “I was reading.”

: “Show the book.”

: I returned to the window and fetched it thence.

: “You have no business to take our books; you  
: are a dependent, mama says; you have no money;  
: your father left you none; you ought to beg, and  
: not to live here with gentlemen’s children like us,  
: and eat the same meals we do, and wear clothes  
: at our mama’s expense. Now, I’ll teach you to  
: rummage my bookshelves: for they *are mine*<sup>11</sup>;  
: all the house belongs to me, or will do in a few  
: years. Go and stand by the door, out of the way  
: of the mirror and the windows.”

: I did so, not at first aware what was his  
: intention; but when I saw him lift and poise  
: **the book and stand in act to hurl it**<sup>12</sup>, I in-  
: stinctively started aside with a cry of alarm: not  
: soon enough, however; the volume was flung, it  
: hit me, and I fell, striking my head against the  
: door and cutting it. The cut bled, the pain was  
: sharp: my terror had passed its climax; other  
: feelings succeeded.

: “Wicked and cruel boy!” I said. “You are like  
: a murderer—you are like a slave-driver—you are  
: like the Roman emperors!”

: I had read **Goldsmith’s History of Rome**<sup>13</sup>,  
: and had formed my opinion of Nero, Caligula,  
: &c. Also I had drawn parallels in silence, which  
: I never thought thus to have declared aloud.

<sup>11</sup> притяжательное местоимение, которое употребляется без следующего существительного, подробнее см. ГС 9

<sup>12</sup> *я увидела, что он поднял книгу и замахнулся*  
грамматическая конструкция *Complex Object*. *Complex Object* обычно состоит из глагола + объекта + инфинитива или герундия. Он часто появляется после глаголов восприятия и чувственных глаголов, таких как *see, watch, hear, feel, notice*, и других, а также после глаголов, связанных с умственной деятельностью, например *want, would like, expect, prefer, tell, ask*, и так далее.

<sup>13</sup> Гольдсмит Оливер (1728—1774) — английский писатель

“What! what!” he cried. “Did she say that to me? Did you hear her, Eliza and Georgiana? Won’t I tell mama? but first—”

He ran headlong at me: I felt him grasp my hair and my shoulder: he had closed with a desperate thing. I really saw in him a tyrant, a murderer. I felt a drop or two of blood from my head trickle down my neck, and was sensible of somewhat pungent suffering: these sensations for the time predominated over fear, and I received him in frantic sort. I don’t very well know what I did with my hands, but he called me “Rat! Rat!” and bellowed out aloud. Aid was near him: Eliza and Georgiana had run for Mrs. Reed, who was gone upstairs: she now came upon the scene, followed by Bessie and her maid Abbot. We were parted: I heard the words—

“Dear! dear! What a fury to fly at Master John!”

“Did ever anybody see such a picture of passion!”

Then Mrs. Reed subjoined—

“Take her away to the red-room, and lock her in there.” Four hands were immediately laid upon me, and I was borne upstairs.

## CHAPTER II

I resisted all the way: a new thing for me, and a circumstance which greatly strengthened the bad opinion Bessie and Miss Abbot were disposed to entertain of me. The fact is, I was a trifle beside myself; or rather *out* of myself, as the French would say: I was conscious that a moment’s mutiny had already rendered me liable to strange penalties, and, like any other rebel slave, I felt resolved, in my desperation, to go all lengths<sup>1</sup>.

2

<sup>1</sup> *to go all lengths, to go any length* — идти на все, ни перед чем не останавливаться (идиоматическое выражение)

: “Hold her arms, Miss Abbot: she’s like a mad  
: cat.”

: “For shame! for shame!” cried the lady’s-maid.  
: “What shocking conduct, Miss Eyre, to strike  
: a young gentleman, your benefactress’s son! Your  
: young master.”

: “Master! How is he my master? Am I a serv-  
: ant?”

: “No; you are less than a servant, for you do  
: nothing for your keep. There, sit down, and think  
: over your wickedness.”

: They had got me by this time into the apart-  
: ment indicated by Mrs. Reed, and had thrust me  
: upon a stool: my impulse was to rise from it  
: like a spring; their two pair of hands arrested  
: me instantly.

: “If you don’t sit still, you must be tied down,”  
: said Bessie. “Miss Abbot, lend me your garters;  
: she would break mine directly.”

: Miss Abbot turned to divest a stout leg of the  
: necessary ligature. This preparation for bonds, and  
: the additional ignominy it inferred, took a little  
: of the excitement out of me.

: “Don’t take them off,” I cried; “I will not stir.”

: In guarantee whereof, I attached myself to my  
: seat by my hands.

: “Mind you don’t,” said Bessie; and when she  
: had ascertained that I was really subsiding, she  
: loosened her hold of me; then she and Miss Abbot  
: stood with folded arms, looking darkly and doubt-  
: fully on my face, as incredulous of my sanity.

: “She never did so before,” at last said Bessie,  
: turning to the Abigail.

: “But it was always in her,” was the reply. “I’ve  
: told Missis often my opinion about the child,  
: and Missis agreed with me. She’s an underhand  
: little thing: I never saw a girl of her age with  
: so much cover.”

---

Bessie answered not; but ere long, addressing me, she said—

“You ought to be aware, Miss, that you are under obligations to Mrs. Reed<sup>2</sup>: she keeps you: if she were to turn you off, you would have to go to the poorhouse.”

I had nothing to say to these words: they were not new to me: my very first recollections of existence included hints of the same kind. This reproach of my dependence had become a vague sing-song in my ear: very painful and crushing, but only half intelligible. Miss Abbot joined in—

“And you ought not to think yourself on an equality with the Misses Reed and Master Reed, because Missis kindly allows you to be brought up with them. **They will have a great deal of money, and you will have none**<sup>3</sup>: it is your place to be humble, and to try to make yourself agreeable to them.”

“What we tell you is for your good,” added Bessie, in no harsh voice, “you should try to be useful and pleasant, then, perhaps, you would have a home here; but if you become passionate and rude, Missis will send you away, I am sure.”

“Besides,” said Miss Abbot, “God will punish her: He might strike her dead in the midst of her tantrums, and then where would she go? Come, Bessie, we will leave her: I wouldn’t have her heart for anything. Say your prayers, Miss Eyre, when you are by yourself; for if you don’t repent, something bad might be permitted to come down the chimney and fetch you away.”

They went, shutting the door, and locking it behind them.

The red-room was a square chamber, very seldom slept in, I might say never, indeed, unless when a chance influx of visitors at Gateshead Hall rendered it necessary to turn to account all the accommodation it contained: yet it was

<sup>2</sup> *Вы должны понимать, мисс, что вы обязаны миссис Рид...*

Об употреблении формы ought см. ГС 31

<sup>3</sup> *У них будет много денег, а у тебя их не будет...*

Идиома: *a good deal of something / a great deal of something*

Перевод: много чего-либо, большое количество чего-либо

: one of the largest and stateliest chambers in the  
: mansion. A bed supported on massive pillars of  
: mahogany, hung with curtains of deep red damask,  
: stood out like a tabernacle in the centre; the two  
: large windows, with their blinds always drawn  
: down, were half shrouded in festoons and falls of  
: similar drapery; the carpet was red; the table at  
: the foot of the bed was covered with a crimson  
: cloth; the walls were a soft fawn colour with a  
: blush of pink in it; the wardrobe, the toilet-table,  
: the chairs were of darkly polished old mahogany.  
: Out of these deep surrounding shades rose high,  
: and glared white, the piled-up mattresses and pil-  
: lows of the bed, spread with a snowy Marseilles  
: counterpane. Scarcely less prominent was an ample  
: cushioned easy-chair near the head of the bed, also  
: white, with a footstool before it; and looking, as  
: I thought, like a pale throne.

: This room was chill, because it seldom had a  
: fire; it was silent, because remote from the nurs-  
: ery and kitchen; solemn, because it was known  
: to be so seldom entered. The house-maid alone  
: came here on Saturdays, to wipe from the mir-  
: rors and the furniture a week's quiet dust: and  
: Mrs. Reed herself, at far intervals, visited it to  
: review the contents of a certain secret drawer in  
: the wardrobe, where were stored divers parch-  
: ments, her jewel-casket, and a miniature of her  
: deceased husband; and in those last words lies  
: the secret of the red-room—the spell which kept  
: it so lonely **in spite of**<sup>4</sup> its grandeur.

<sup>4</sup> предлог со зна-  
чением "несмотря  
на", который  
всегда употребля-  
ется с *of* (в отличии  
от *despite*)

: Mr. Reed had been dead nine years: it was  
: in this chamber he breathed his last; here he  
: lay in state; hence his coffin was borne by the  
: undertaker's men; and, since that day, a sense  
: of dreary consecration had guarded it from fre-  
: quent intrusion.

: My seat, to which Bessie and the bitter Miss  
: Abbot had left me riveted, was a low ottoman

---

near the marble chimney-piece; the bed rose before me; to my right hand there was the high, dark wardrobe, with subdued, broken reflections varying the gloss of its panels; to my left were the muffled windows; a great looking-glass between them repeated the vacant majesty of the bed and room. **I was not quite sure whether they had locked the door**<sup>5</sup>; and when I dared move, I got up and went to see. Alas! yes: no jail was ever more secure. Returning, I had to cross before the looking-glass; my fascinated glance involuntarily explored the depth it revealed. All looked colder and darker in that visionary hollow than in reality: and the strange little figure there gazing at me, with a white face and arms specking the gloom, and glittering eyes of fear moving where all else was still, had the effect of a real spirit: I thought it like one of the tiny phantoms, half fairy, half imp, Bessie's evening stories represented as coming out of lone, ferny dells in moors, and appearing before the eyes of belated travellers. I returned to my stool.

Superstition was with me at that moment; but it was not yet her hour for complete victory: my blood was still warm; the mood of the revolted slave was still bracing me with its bitter vigour; I had to stem a rapid rush of retrospective thought before I quailed to the dismal present.

All John Reed's violent tyrannies, all his sisters' proud indifference, all his mother's aversion, all the servants' partiality, turned up in my disturbed mind like a dark deposit in a turbid well. Why was I always suffering, always browbeaten, always accused, for ever condemned? Why could I never please? Why was it useless to try to win any one's favour? Eliza, who was headstrong and selfish, was respected. Georgiana, who had a spoiled temper, a very acrid spite, a captious and insolent carriage, was universally indulged.

<sup>5</sup> *Я не была полностью уверена, закрыли ли они дверь на замок...*  
 Косвенный вопрос с использованием союза "whether" в английском языке используется для введения вопросительного предложения в качестве части другого предложения, при этом не требуя прямого ответа да или нет, как это бывает в прямых вопросах. Союз "whether" переводится как "ли" в русском языке и часто используется для выражения неуверенности или возможности выбора между двумя или более альтернативами.

: Her beauty, her pink cheeks and golden curls,  
: seemed to give delight to all who looked at her,  
: and to purchase indemnity for every fault. John  
: no one thwarted, much less punished; though he  
: twisted the necks of the pigeons, killed the little  
: pea-chicks, set the dogs at the sheep, stripped  
: the hothouse vines of their fruit, and broke the  
: buds off the choicest plants in the conservatory:  
: he called his mother "old girl," too; sometimes  
: reviled her for her dark skin, similar to his own;  
: bluntly disregarded her wishes; not unfrequently  
: tore and spoiled her silk attire; and he was still  
: "her own darling." I dared commit no fault:  
: I strove to fulfil every duty; and I was termed  
: naughty and tiresome, sullen and sneaking, from  
: morning to noon, and from noon to night.

: My head still ached and bled with the blow and  
: fall I had received: no one had reproved John for  
: wantonly striking me; and because I had turned  
: against him to avert farther irrational violence,  
: **I was loaded with general opprobrium.**<sup>6</sup>

: "Unjust!—unjust!" said my reason, forced by  
: the agonising stimulus into precocious though  
: transitory power: and Resolve, equally wrought  
: up, instigated some strange expedient to achieve  
: escape from insupportable oppression—as running  
: away, or, if that could not be effected, never  
: eating or drinking more, and letting myself die.

: What a consternation of soul was mine that  
: dreary afternoon! How all my brain was in tumult,  
: and all my heart in insurrection! Yet in what  
: darkness, what dense ignorance, was the mental  
: battle fought! I could not answer the ceaseless  
: inward question—*why* I thus suffered; now, at  
: the distance of—I will not say how many years,  
: I see it clearly.

: I was a discord in Gateshead Hall: I was like  
: nobody there; I had nothing in harmony with  
: Mrs. Reed or her children, or her chosen vas-

<sup>6</sup> Я была облита  
общим порицанием.

"Was loaded" —

это глагольная  
форма, состоящая  
из вспомогатель-  
ного глагола "was"  
(прошедшее время  
от "be") и прича-  
стия прошедшего  
времени "loaded"  
от глагола "load".  
Это пассивная  
конструкция  
(страдательный за-  
лог), где действие  
выполняется над  
подлежащим, а  
не подлежащим  
самим. В русском  
языке для выра-  
жения страдатель-  
ного залога часто  
используются  
конструкции с  
глаголом "быть"  
и краткими форма-  
ми прилагательных  
или причастий.

salage. If they did not love me, in fact, as little did I love them. They were not bound to regard with affection a thing that could not sympathise with one amongst them; a heterogeneous thing, opposed to them in temperament, in capacity, in propensities; a useless thing, incapable of serving their interest, or adding to their pleasure; a noxious thing, cherishing the germs of indignation at their treatment, of contempt of their judgment. I know that had I been a sanguine, brilliant, careless, exacting, handsome, romping child—though equally dependent and friendless—Mrs. Reed would have endured my presence more complacently; her children would have entertained for me more of the cordiality of fellow-feeling; the servants would have been less prone to make me the scapegoat of the nursery.

Daylight began to forsake the red-room; it was past four o'clock, and the beclouded afternoon was tending to drear twilight. I heard the rain still beating continuously on the staircase window, and the wind howling in the grove behind the hall; I grew by degrees cold as a stone, and then my courage sank. My habitual mood of humiliation, self-doubt, forlorn depression, fell damp on the embers of my decaying ire. All said I was wicked, **and perhaps I might be so**<sup>7</sup>; what thought had I been but just conceiving of starving myself to death? That certainly was a crime: and was I fit to die? Or was the vault under the chancel of Gateshead Church an inviting bourne? In such vault I had been told did Mr. Reed lie buried; and led by this thought to recall his idea, I dwelt on it with gathering dread. I could not remember him; but I knew that he was my own uncle—my mother's brother—that he had taken me when a parentless infant to his house; and that in his last moments he had required a promise of Mrs. Reed that she would rear and maintain

<sup>7</sup> и, возможно, это так  
 "And" (и) является соединительным союзом, а "perhaps" (возможно) вводит элемент неопределенности.  
 "I might be so" — это употребленіе модального глагола "might" с инфинитивом "be", где "so" отсылает к предыдущему утверждению (быть злым). Эта конструкция выражает возможность или гипотетическую ситуацию.

: me as one of her own children. Mrs. Reed prob-  
 : ably considered she had kept this promise; and  
 : so she had, I dare say, as well as her nature  
 : would permit her; but how could she really like  
 : an interloper not of her race, and unconnected  
 : with her, after her husband's death, by any tie?  
 : It must have been most irksome to find herself  
 : bound by a hard-wrung pledge to stand in the  
 : stead of a parent to a strange child she could not  
 : love, and to see an uncongenial alien permanently  
 : intruded on her own family group.

: A singular notion dawned upon me. I doubted  
 : not—never doubted—that if Mr. Reed had been  
 : alive he would have treated me kindly; and now,  
 : as I sat looking at the white bed and overshad-  
 : owed walls—occasionally also turning a fascinated  
 : eye towards the dimly gleaming mirror—I began  
 : to recall what I had heard of dead men, troubled  
 : in their graves by the violation of their last  
 : wishes, revisiting the earth to punish the per-  
 : jured and avenge the oppressed; and I thought  
 : Mr. Reed's spirit, harassed by the wrongs of his  
 : sister's child, might quit its abode—**whether in**  
 : **the church vault or in the unknown world of the**  
 : **departed**<sup>8</sup>—and rise before me in this chamber.  
 : I wiped my tears and hushed my sobs, fearful  
 : lest any sign of violent grief might waken a pre-  
 : ternatural voice to comfort me, or elicit from the  
 : gloom some haloed face, bending over me with  
 : strange pity. This idea, consolatory in theory,  
 : I felt would be terrible if realised: with all my  
 : might I endeavoured to stifle it—I endeavoured  
 : to be firm. Shaking my hair from my eyes,  
 : I lifted my head and tried to look boldly round  
 : the dark room; at this moment a light gleamed  
 : on the wall. Was it, I asked myself, a ray from  
 : the moon penetrating some aperture in the blind?  
 : No; moonlight was still, and this stirred; while  
 : I gazed, it glided up to the ceiling and quivered

<sup>8</sup> *будь то в церков-  
 ном склепе или в не-  
 изведанном мире  
 ушедших*

Союз "whether"  
 переводится на  
 русский как "будь  
 то", используется  
 для введения не-  
 определённости  
 или возможности  
 выбора между  
 двумя или более  
 вариантами и мо-  
 жет сопровождать-  
 ся словом *or* или  
*or not*. Само слово  
*whether* может  
 намекать как на  
 положительную,  
 так и на отрица-  
 тельную возмож-  
 ность.