

First Names of Fictional Characters in Novels by Charlotte Bronte

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Abstract

The first name is a distinctive personal label. It usually distinguishes oneself from other family members and from most other people. In common with other novelists, Charlotte Bronte chose for many fictional characters the first name of an actual person who was important to her. Attributes of the fictional character might provide useful information on feelings of the author toward the actual namesake. An unusual attribute of the four novels by Charlotte Bronte is that the author revealed an actual person who was the model for more than two dozen fictional characters.

Experiences of the author are reproduced by some of the fictional characters and by other aspects of the four successive novels, *The Professor*, *Jane Eyre*, *Shirley*, and *Villette*. In each novel, one of the most important characters partially resembles Charlotte Bronte. A very minor character named Charlotte, in *Villette*, is the only fictional namesake of the author. Most of the actions and events in *The Professor* and in *Villette* are in Brussels, Belgium. In that foreign city, Charlotte Bronte was a student and then teacher at a school for young ladies. She fell in love with a teacher who was the husband of the school's director.

Introduction

A fictional character can be associated with an actual person by the author's choice of the same first name for the fictional character. The actual person can be the author, or another family member, or somebody else who is important to the author. The first name is a distinctive identification. The surname is usually shared with multiple family members. A fictional character given the same first name as an actual person thereby has a special association with the actual person. The association is likely to be a general resemblance or a shared specific attribute. The actual person whom the author associates with a fictional character is more likely to be a personal acquaintance than a famous person, past or present, who also shares the same first name.

Another source of association between an actual person and a fictional character was provided by Charlotte Bronte. She identified more than two dozen people who were models for a fictional character. Most of the models and the names of the corresponding fictional characters were identified in the initial biography of Charlotte Bronte, by her close friend Elizabeth Gaskell (1857). When an actual person was the model for a fictional character, Charlotte Bronte usually chose a different name for the fictional character.

The present article distinguishes between the two sources of association between an actual person and a fictional character. For fictional namesakes, the present author specifies the actual person who appears to have been the most important to Charlotte Bronte and therefore the most probable reason for her choice of the same first name for a fictional character.

Methods

The present author recorded on an electronic file the names of all the fictional characters in four novels by Charlotte Bronte. The successive novels are *The Professor*, *Jane Eyre*, *Shirley*, and *Villette*. The same file includes names of family members, friends, and other people associated

with Charlotte Bronte. They were obtained from the biography by Gaskell (1857) and from subsequent biographies, especially Gordon (1994). Detailed biographical information was contributed by Gerin (1968).

Elizabeth Gaskell, a close friend of Charlotte Bronte, identified most of the actual people who were the models for a fictional character. Charlotte Bronte was a partial model for the fictional narrator of *The Professor*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Villette*. Information by Gordon (1994) indicates that in *Villette*, Charlotte Bronte was the principal model for the narrator, Lucy Snowe. The youngest sister of Charlotte Bronte, Anne Bronte, was the principal model for the narrator and title character of *Jane Eyre*.

The four novels differ with respect to the number and attributes of fictional characters associated with actual people. The information therefore is reported separately for each novel. *The Professor* was completed in 1846 but not published until two years after the author's death in 1855. *Jane Eyre* was completed and published in 1847. *Shirley* was completed and published in 1849. *Villette* was completed and published in 1853.

For each novel, separate lists show the two sources of association between an actual person and a fictional character. The pairs of names identify the actual person followed by the associated fictional character. Each list begins with the actual person who was most important to Charlotte Bronte. The progressively diminishing importance ends with the least important person. Family members are generally regarded as more important than people who are not relatives. People early in the author's life are generally regarded as more important than people she met in adulthood. Friends are generally regarded as more important than colleagues and antagonists.

The Professor

Charlotte Bronte's first novel, *The Professor*, was published after her death. Table 1 identifies two actual people whose first name was given to a fictional character and one actual person who was the model for a fictional character. Below the paired names, a separate line briefly describes the actual person and the paired fictional character.

The three actual people listed in Table 1 were English. Brussels, Belgium was the predominant location for the two fictional namesakes. Charlotte Bronte was a student and subsequently a teacher in Brussels, 1842–1843.

The actual Reverend William Weightman was an attractive curate who died a few years before Charlotte Bronte wrote *The Professor*. The fictional narrator, William Crimsworth, is a young man who reproduces many of the female author's experiences in Brussels. The actual Frances Atkinson was a wealthy Godmother with whom Charlotte Bronte had sporadic contacts. The fictional Frances Evans Henri, who had a French father and English mother, is a student and subsequently the wife of William Crimsworth.

The actual Joshua Taylor was the model for the fictional Hunsden Yorke Hunsden. Joshua Taylor was a neighbor with radical political views. Charlotte Bronte's father was a conservative Church of England clergyman. Joshua Taylor's daughter, Mary Taylor, was a close friend of Charlotte Bronte beginning in childhood. The fictional Hunsden Yorke Hunsden is an Englishman who urges and helps the narrator to undertake the risky adventure of becoming a teacher ("professor") in Brussels, Belgium and subsequently visits him there. Hunsden expresses Charlotte Bronte's need to reject submission to her father and to experience the French culture of Brussels. The middle name, Yorke, probably pertains to Charlotte Bronte's home, Yorkshire, in northeast England.

Table 1

In *The Professor*, the first name of two actual people was given to a fictional character. One actual person was the model for a fictional character.

<u>Actual Person</u>	<i>Fictional Namesakes</i>	<u>Fictional Character</u>
Rev. William Weightman (1814–1842) Attractive curate		William Crimsworth Narrator of novel
Frances Atkinson Godmother of author		Frances Evans Henri Married the narrator
<i>Model for Fictional Character</i>		
Joshua Taylor Blunt, cultured, radical neighbor		Hunsden Yorke Hunsden Competitive friend of narrator

Jane Eyre

The second novel, *Jane Eyre*, was promptly accepted by the publisher and quickly became very popular. The narrative was set entirely in England. Table 2 shows the associations of actual people with fictional characters.

In *The Professor*, all three pairs of an actual person and fictional character are males, listed in Table 1. In *Jane Eyre*, nine of the 11 pairs are females, listed in Table 2.

Three fictional characters were given the first or middle name of a very important actual person. The actual Emily Jane Bronte was the sister with whom Charlotte Bronte had the closest and most prolonged affiliation. The middle name, Jane, was the first name of an aunt and other members of the mother's family. The actual or fictional school was an important adverse experience for both the sister Emily Jane and the fictional Jane.

The actual Elizabeth Bronte was an older sister of Charlotte Bronte. She died while a child but all four sisters and the brother were very important to the author. The same first name was shared by Miss Elizabeth Branwell, maternal aunt and foster mother for Charlotte after the death of her mother. This older actual Elizabeth may have been a reason why the fictional Elizabeth de Rochester was an ancestor of Edward Rochester.

Beginning in childhood, the actual Mary Taylor was a close friend of Charlotte Bronte. The father of Mary Taylor, Joshua Taylor, is listed in Table 1 as the model for an important character in *The Professor*. The fictional Mary Rivers helps to rescue the adult Jane Eyre when she almost dies after running away from Mr. Edward Rochester.

Table 2

In *Jane Eyre*, the first or middle name of six actual people was given to a fictional character. Five actual people were the models for a fictional character.

<u>Actual Person</u>	<u>Fictional Character</u>
<i>Fictional Namesakes</i>	
Emily Jane Bronte (1818–1848) Older sister of author	Jane Eyre Narrator and heroine
Elizabeth Bronte (1815–1825) Older sister of author	Elizabeth de Rochester Ancestor of Edward Rochester
Mary Taylor Close friend of author	Mary Rivers Helps to rescue adult Jane Eyre
Sarah Garrs Early nurse of author	Mrs. Sarah Reed Aunt and foster mother of Jane Eyre
Martha Taylor Sister of Mary Taylor; died young	Martha Abbot Neighbor of Jane Eyre; died young
Robert Southey Poet Laureate; adverse advisor	Rev. Robert Brocklehurst Harsh treasurer of school
<i>Models for Fictional Characters</i>	
Anne Bronte (1820–1849) Youngest sister of author	Jane Eyre Narrator and heroine
Maria Bronte (1814–1825) Oldest sister of author	Helen Burns Friendly schoolmate, died young
Rev. William Carus Wilson Negligent owner of school	Rev. Robert Brocklehurst Harsh treasurer of school
Ann Evans Kind school teacher	Miss Temple Kind school teacher
Miss Andrews Persecuted Maria Bronte	Miss Scatcherd Persecutes Helen Burns

Three fictional characters were given the first name of a less important actual person. The actual Sarah Garrs, with her sister Nancy, were briefly nursemaids for the family after Charlotte Bronte, at the age of five years, suffered the death of her mother. The fictional Mrs. Sarah Reed is Jane Eyre's harsh aunt and foster mother who greatly favors her own children. She subsequently tries to deprive the adult Jane Eyre of a large inheritance from a wealthy uncle. The actual Robert Southey was Poet Laureate of England. Prior to Charlotte Bronte's first novel, she wrote to him about her ambition to publish poetry. He responded adversely that in common with all other women, she should only desire to become a good wife and mother. The fictional Reverend Robert Brocklehurst is the negligent and punitive treasurer of the fictional school. Death at a young age connects the actual Martha Taylor, sister of Mary Taylor, with the fictional Martha Abbot, a servant.

Table 2 also lists five actual models for a fictional character. The actual Clergy Daughters' School in Cowan Bridge was the model for the fictional Lowood School. Charlotte Bronte and three of her four sisters were pupils at the actual school for less than one year, between July 1824 and June 1825. The brief experience was traumatic for the pupils because of insufficient food and harsh, punitive treatment. Charlotte blamed the school for the early death of her two older sisters, Maria and Elizabeth. The official cause of their death was tuberculosis. The oldest sister Maria Bronte was a pupil and three other actual models were teachers at the Clergy Daughters' School. All of the five fictional characters paired with an actual model were pupils or teachers at the fictional Lowood School.

Anne Bronte was the youngest sister of Charlotte. She was too young to attend the Clergy Daughters' School. Her persistent striving for independence and achievement in an adverse environment was the model for the same attributes of the fictional Jane Eyre. Maria Bronte, oldest sister of Charlotte Bronte, died soon after she was withdrawn from the school. She was the model for the fictional Helen Burns, who is admirable, suffering, and soon dies. The Reverend William Carus Wilson, founder of the actual school, was the model for the fictional Reverend Robert Brocklehurst, Treasurer of the fictional school. The actual teacher Ann Evans was the model for the fictional Miss Temple, who is a kind teacher in a harsh school. The actual teacher Miss Andrews, who persecuted Maria Bronte, was the model for the fictional teacher Miss Scatcherd, who persecutes Helen Burns.

Shirley

In the third novel, *Shirley*, the characters and actions were entirely in England, in accordance with the successful predecessor, *Jane Eyre*. Contrary to the other three novels, *Shirley* was written in the third person instead of by a fictional narrator. An unusual attribute of *Shirley* is that instead of a single heroine, two principal females are Caroline Helstone and Shirley Keeldar. Table 3 shows 17 pairs of an actual person associated with a fictional character.

Among the four fictional namesakes, the one actual female was more important to the author than the three actual males. Among the 13 actual models for a fictional character, the four most important to the author were females.

Eight of the ten actual males associated with a fictional character were clergymen. These curates or vicars were predominantly satirized in accordance with Charlotte Bronte's dissent from the Church of England. Her father was an authoritarian, conservative clergyman. He severely rejected other Protestant denominations and Roman Catholics. He was emotionally distant from his daughters during their childhoods. Charlotte Bronte, in adulthood, became his principal companion and caretaker.

The association between four actual people and their fictional namesake is not attributable to a general similarity between the namesakes. Anne Bronte's first name was given to a minor fictional character, Miss Anne Pearson. Anne Bronte also was the model for Jane Eyre (Table 2). The actual Reverend James Chesterton Bradley was a likable neighboring curate 1845–1847, shortly before Charlotte Bronte wrote the novel. His fictional namesake, James Helstone, was a profligate husband who died while his daughter, Caroline Helstone, was an infant.

Table 3

In *Shirley*, the first name of four actual people was given to a fictional character. Many more actual people, 13, were the models for a fictional character.

<u>Actual Person</u>	<i>Fictional Namesakes</i>	<u>Fictional Character</u>
Anne Bronte (1820–1848) Youngest sister of author		Miss Anne Pearson Neighbor of Caroline Helstone
Rev. James Chesterton Bradley Neighboring curate 1845–1847		James Helstone Deceased father of Caroline Helstone
Rev. David Bryce Irish curate, proposed to author		Rev. David Sweeting Affable Irish curate
Robert Southey Poet Laureate, adverse advisor		Robert Gerard Moore Mill owner, marries Caroline
<i>Models for Fictional Characters</i>		
Emily Jane Bronte (1818–1848) Younger sister of author		Shirley Keeldar Title character of novel
Ellen Nussey School mate, close friend of author		Caroline Helstone Heroine of novel
Mary Taylor Early, close friend of author		Rose Yorke Child
Margaret Wooler Friendly school headmistress		Mrs. Agnes Pryor Mother of Caroline Helstone
Rev. Arthur Bell Nicholls Irish curate; married author		Rev. Mr. Macarthey Decent Irish curate
Rev. Joseph Brett Grant Curate for author's father, 1844–1845		Rev. Joseph Donne Presuming, begging curate
Rev. James Chesterton Bradley Neighboring curate, 1845–1847		Rev. David Sweeting Affable curate
Rev. James William Smith Curate for author's father, 1842–1844		Rev. Peter Augustus Malone Vulgar, insensitive curate
Rev. Hammond Roberson Tory with imperial will		Rev. Matthewson Helstone Old, stern, martial patriarch
Mrs. Mary Heald Wife of elderly clergyman		Margaret Hall Sister of Mr. Cyril Hall
Martha Taylor Sister of Mary Taylor		Jessy Yorke Child
Rev. William Margetson Heald Vicar, slight acquaintance		Rev. Cyril Hall Severe, formal vicar
William Cartwright Factory owner who was attacked		Robert Gerard Moore Mill owner, marries Caroline

The Reverend James Chesterton Bradley, whose fictional namesake was the profligate, deceased James Helstone, also was the model for the Reverend David Sweeting, an affable curate in the same novel. David Sweeting was the most admirable of three curates who were introduced at the beginning of the novel. The actual Reverend David Bryce was an Irish curate who lacked dignity and discretion. After a lengthy conversation in his only meeting with Charlotte Bronte, in 1839, he wrote a letter to her proposing marriage. She rejected his proposal but many years later chose his first name for the fictional David Sweeting. The first name of the actual Robert Southey, Poet Laureate of England, was chosen for an admirable and important character, Robert Gerard Moore. The actual Robert Southey was the model for a villainous character in *Jane Eyre* (Table 2). The author's initial antagonistic sentiment against Robert Southey was apparently changed by their subsequent correspondence and by the success of her prior novel *Jane Eyre*.

Six actual females were models for fictional characters in *Shirley*. The younger sister of the author, Emily Jane Bronte, died a few years before the novel was written. She was the model for the fictional Shirley Keeldar, who reproduces Emily's assertive, striving temperament. Contrary to the actual model, the fictional Shirley Keeldar is wealthy and self-reliant. A friend of Charlotte Bronte beginning in childhood, Ellen Nussey, was the model for the fictional Caroline Helstone, who is humble and dependent on her uncle.

Charlotte Bronte's close friend beginning in childhood, Mary Taylor, was the model for the fictional Rose Yorke. The actual Margaret Wooler was a friendly and appreciative headmistress of the school where Charlotte Bronte was a pupil and subsequently a teacher. Margaret Wooler was the model for the fictional Mrs. Agnes Pryor, who is revealed near the end of the novel as the mother of Caroline Helstone. The actual Mrs. Mary Heald was the wife of one of the clergymen in the same list, the Reverend William Margetson Heald. She was the model for the fictional Margaret Hall, sister of the Reverend Cyril Hall. The actual Martha Taylor, daughter of Mary Taylor, died during childhood. She was associated with the fictional Jessie Yorke, who also dies during childhood. Jessie is the sister of Rose Yorke, who is also listed in Table 3.

Six actual clergymen were the models for a fictional clergyman. The actual clergyman who became most important to Charlotte Bronte was Arthur Bell Nicholls. He was very admirable and attractive in spite of the drawbacks that he was Irish, a curate for Charlotte's father, and shared her father's conservative ideology. She married Arthur Bell Nicholls less than a year before her death. He was the model for the fictional Rev. Mr. Macarthey, who appears briefly near the end of the novel as an Irish curate.

Three actual curates, Joseph Brett Grant, James Chesterton Bradley, and James William Smith, were models for three fictional curates, who are introduced at the beginning of the novel and recur several times subsequently. The actual Joseph Brett Grant was the most recent former curate employed by the author's father (1844–1845) when the novel was written in 1849. He is satirized as the fictional presuming, begging Joseph Donne. This is the only occurrence when Charlotte Bronte gave the first name of an actual model to the associated fictional character. The actual Reverend James Chesterton Bradley was an affable Irish neighbor. He was not a curate for the author's father. He was the model for the fictional David Sweeting. The fictional surname suggests his genial personality. The actual James William Smith, who was vulgar and insensitive, had earlier been a curate employed by the author's father, 1842–1844. He was the model for the fictional Peter Augustus Malone.

Charlotte Bronte had only slight acquaintance with an elderly clergyman, Hammond Roberson. He was the model for the fictional Matthewson Helstone, the stern uncle and foster father of Caroline Helstone. Charlotte Bronte also had slight acquaintance with another elderly clergyman, William Margetson Heald. He was the model for a minor fictional character, Cyril Hall.

William Cartwright was not a clergyman, contrary to the six other male models for a fictional character. He was a nearby mill owner. During Charlotte Brontë's childhood, he successfully defeated workers who attacked him for replacing workers with machines. He was the model for the fictional Robert Gerard Moore, a mill owner who marries Caroline Helstone.

Villette

The title of Charlotte Brontë's last novel, *Villette*, is the fictional name for the city of Brussels, Belgium. This is the location of most of the fictional events and characters. The novel reproduces Charlotte Brontë's deep feelings about her two years at a school in that foreign city. Brussels is also the principal location for the first novel, *The Professor*. Charlotte Brontë's experiences and feelings are reproduced more fully and accurately in *Villette*. Table 4 lists 12 actual people who were associated with a fictional character.

The first name of three actual people was chosen for a fictional character in *Villette*. The most important first name for the author, Charlotte, was chosen for an extremely minor fictional character. She occurs only because Lucy Snowe hears a conversation by the fictional Charlotte's mother and brother. Charlotte's surname is not revealed. Her plan for a romantic and imprudent marriage is deplored by her mother and defended by her brother. The fictional Charlotte appears to express the author's realistic self evaluation and also her wish fulfillment. The realistic self evaluation is the prevalently withdrawn and inconspicuous social role of Charlotte Brontë. The wish fulfillment is the romantic passion that dominated Charlotte Brontë's feelings and desires but not her behavior and decisions.

The first name of the actual Maria Brontë, the oldest sister of the author, was given to the fictional Miss Maria Marchmont, who is old, wealthy, and crippled. She dies soon after the narrator, Lucy Snowe, becomes her caretaker. The actual sister Maria Brontë was also the model for the fictional Helen Burns in *Jane Eyre*, listed in Table 2. The same first name was shared by Mrs. Maria Brontë (1789–1821), the mother of Charlotte Brontë. Neither actual family member named Maria was old, wealthy, or crippled. Both died at a young age.

The actual Paul Heger was the young son of Constantin Heger. The fictional namesake, Professor Paul Carlos David Emanuel, is the fictional character associated with the actual model Constantin Heger. Charlotte Brontë might have displaced her passionate love for the actual Constantin Heger onto his actual young son Paul.

Charlotte Brontë disliked the actual Reverend John Collins, a former curate employed by her father. His fictional namesake is Dr. John Graham Bretton, who does not reciprocate the romantic interest in him by his fictional cousin, Lucy Snowe. In Table 4, George Murray Smith was the actual model for the fictional John Graham Bretton. Charlotte Brontë had a romantic interest in George Murray Smith, which he did not adequately reciprocate. The author's association of the fictional John Graham Bretton with the actual John Collins and with the actual George Murray Smith might have expressed Charlotte Brontë's anger at George Murray Smith.

Table 4

In *Villette*, the first name of five actual people was given to a fictional character. Nine actual people were the model for a fictional character.

<u>Actual Person</u>	<i>Fictional Namesakes</i>	<u>Fictional Character</u>
Charlotte Bronte (1816–855) Author of novel		Charlotte Relatives discuss her plan to marry
Maria Bronte (1814–1825) Mother of author of novel		Miss Maria Marchmont Old, wealthy, crippled; died
Paul Heger Young son of Constantin Heger		Prof. Paul Carlos David Emanuel Mutual love with Lucy Snowe
Rev. John Collins Formerly curate for author's father		Dr. John Graham Bretton Physician; cousin of Lucy Snowe
Louise de Bassompierre Pupil admired sister Emily		Louise Vanderkelkov Narrator replaces her as actress
<i>Models for Fictional Characters</i>		
Charlotte Bronte (1816–1855) Author of novel		Lucy Snowe Narrator of novel
Constantin Heger Author loved this teacher		Prof. Paul Carlos David Emanuel Mutual love with Lucy Snowe
Mme Claire Zoe Heger Wife of Constantin Heger		Mme Modeste Marie Beck Employer of narrator
George Murray Smith Author's publisher		Dr. John Graham Bretton Physician; cousin of Lucy Snowe
Elizabeth Smith Mother of George Murray Smith		Louisa Lucy Bretton Aunt of narrator
Maria Miller Fashionable, dashing pupil		Ginevra Fanshawe Flirtatious, mischievous pupil
Julia Gaskell Daughter of Elizabeth Gaskell		Paulina Mary Home Pupil of narrator
Mlle Blanche Actress		Mlle Zelig St. Pierre Actress
Rachel Actress		Vashti Actress

The first name of the actual Louise de Bassompierre was given to the fictional Louise Vanderkelkov. The actual person and fictional character both are pupils in Antwerp and their different surnames are not English.

Charlotte Bronte was foremost among the nine actual models for fictional characters in *Villette*. The fictional Lucy Snowe, in common with her actual model, is an anxious and introspective English woman who teaches and falls in love in Brussels. Constantin Heger, a

teacher in the same school where Charlotte Bronte taught, was the model for the fictional Professor Paul Carlos David Emanuel. The author's love for Constantin Heger probably was not sexually consummated, but she was subsequently obsessed with him. Constantin Heger's wife, Mme Claire Zoe Heger, was the model for the fictional Mme Modeste Marie Beck. The fictional Mme. Beck is a highly competent but dominating and improperly inquisitive owner of the school. She is a widow who unsuccessfully tries to become the wife of Professor Emanuel.

George Murray Smith, the publisher of Charlotte Bronte's novels, was the model for the fictional John Graham Bretton, who is a cousin of Lucy Snowe. They are playmates in early childhood. He subsequently becomes a physician who is friendly to Lucy but without romantic attachment when she teaches and he is a doctor in Brussels. The actual Mrs. Elizabeth Smith, the mother of George Murray Smith, was the model for Mrs. Louisa Lucy Bretton, aunt and admirable helper of Lucy Snowe. The actual Maria Miller, a dashing pupil taught by Charlotte Bronte, was the model for the fictional Ginevra Fanshawe, a mischievous pupil taught by Lucy Snowe.

The actual Julia Gaskell was one of four daughters of Elizabeth Gaskell, a friend and biographer of Charlotte Bronte. The attractive Julia Gaskell was the model for a fictional pupil, Paulina Mary Home. The actual dramatic actress Rachel was the model for the fictional actress Vashti, who greatly impresses Lucy Snowe on the only occasion when she attends the performance.

Discussion

Associations between actual people and fictional characters express differences among the four novels by Charlotte Bronte. The French speaking city of Brussels, Belgium, is the principal location for the first novel, *The Professor*, and the fourth novel, *Villette*. Both novels reproduce experiences and feelings of Charlotte Bronte during two years, 1842–1843, in Brussels. A prominent difference between the novels is a much larger number of fictional characters associated with actual people in *Villette*. The models for fictional characters in *Villette* indicate that Charlotte Bronte's experiences and observations in Brussels were reproduced more closely in her last novel than in her first novel, *The Professor*. A possible reason why her first novel contains only one actual model for a fictional character is that Charlotte Bronte might have limited her disclosures of actual models because the novel was not published during her lifetime.

Many fictional characters are associated with actual people in *Jane Eyre*, the second novel, and in *Shirley*, the third novel. In *Jane Eyre*, most of the associations between actual people and fictional characters pertain to the one year Charlotte Bronte was a pupil at the Clergy Daughters' School in Cowan Bridge. In *Shirley*, the associations between actual people and fictional characters pertain more generally to Charlotte Bronte's experiences in England. The two principal fictional characters are young women who are orphans. Most of the males are clergymen, as were Charlotte Bronte's father and future husband.

In all the novels by Charlotte Bronte, a prevalent feature of fictional namesakes of actual people is that they shared the first name. An exception is that the middle name of the actual Emily Jane Bronte was given to the fictional Jane Eyre. Another exception is that in *Villette*, the surname of the actual Louise de Bassompierre, a pupil of Emily Jane Bronte in Brussels, was given to the fictional Countess de Bassompierre. Prior to her marriage, the fictional Countess was Paulina Mary Home, a fictional pupil in Brussels.

The first name represents individuality, distinguishing the person from other family members and from most other people. The surname is collective, shared by members of the same family. Charlotte Bronte's many fictional namesakes expressed her recognition that different people can share the same first name. Her first name Charlotte was shared with many other people. She gave popular instead of unusual first names to most of her characters.

Dale Carnegie (1981) stated the astounding importance people place on their own name. Charlotte Brontë's fictional namesake appears to express both a realistic self evaluation and a wish fulfillment. The fictional Charlotte is so remote that she is only talked about and her surname is unknown. Charlotte Brontë was shy and spent much time as a solitary writer. The imprudent marriage plan of the fictional Charlotte fulfills the author's wish for romantic passion, contrary to most of her behavior.

Jane Austen's six novels included two important but not heroic characters named Jane (Barry, 2001). They expressed the author's realistic self evaluation as socially withdrawn and her wish for marriage with a rich man. The 14 completed novels by Charles Dickens include twelve characters named Charles or his childhood nickname, Charley (Barry, 2007). They are diverse, including a female, Charlotte, who is always called Charley. Their comic attributes and close social relationships express the humorous and gregarious author's realistic self evaluation. Their predominant happy outcomes fulfill the author's wishful fantasy.

Charlotte Brontë was a highly emotional person. She had strong attachments to her sisters. She became the main caretaker of her father. She had close friendships with several women. She fell passionately in love with Constantin Heger in Brussels. She subsequently formed strong attachments with her publisher and other men. She eventually married Arthur Bell Nicholls in spite of an aversion to becoming the wife of a clergyman.

An important basis for Charlotte Brontë's strong attachments to other people was a craving for dependency. Barry, Barry and Lindemann (1965) described intense dependency of psychiatric patients who were less than seven years old when their mother died. Charlotte was five years old when her mother died. The effect of the mother's death on her five daughters and one son is described by Gerin (1968, page 4). "Throughout life, strangers who met them—even at home—remarked on the clinging nature of their love for each other: 'clinging' in the real physical sense of holding tight together when confronted by an intruder."

The principal fictional characters in Charlotte Brontë's novels reproduced the author's loss of her mother at an early age. In *The Professor* the narrator and hero is William Crimsworth. His mother died soon after his birth, and his father had died before his birth. In *Jane Eyre*, the title character and heroine is an orphan, raised by the hostile sister of her mother. In *Shirley*, the two principal characters are Caroline Helstone and Shirley Keeldar. Caroline was raised by her father's brother. Her father had died and her mother had disappeared. Shirley Keeldar at the age of 21 years is a rich heiress following the death of her father. Shirley Keeldar's principal childhood affiliation appears to have been with her governess, Mrs. Agnes Pryor, who is subsequently revealed to have been the wife of Caroline Helstone's father when their daughter Caroline Helstone was born. In *Villette*, the narrator and heroine, Lucy Snowe, is an orphan.

Fictional characters were associated with the first names of the author and each of her sisters. Her mother shared the first name of her oldest sister. No fictional character was associated with the first name of the author's father, Patrick, nor with the middle name Bramwell of her brother, Patrick Bramwell Brontë. The author developed strong although not fully recognized adverse feelings toward her father and brother. In the last three novels, the principal and most admirable characters were females. Her closest and most enduring friends were women. Her passionate dependency on men was not reciprocated. She generally felt disappointed by the men in her family as a child, outside her family as an adult, and in her novels.

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