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### The Bronte Sisters 勃朗特三姐妹

Andrea: On a wall in the National Portrait Gallery, here in London, there's a famous painting of three sisters.

Jean: 这油画中的三姐妹分别是艾米莉、夏洛特和安妮·勃朗特。

Andrea: The Bronte sisters.

Jean: 很多人都称她们为当时最优秀的三位女作家。

Andrea: And even today!  
Hello, I'm Andrea Rose.

Jean: 大家好，我是董征。在我们今天 BBC Learning English 节目中，我们将会带大家深入了解这文学界的传奇三姐妹以及她们至今广为流传的著名文学作品。

Andrea: Born during the Victorian era, the Brontes wrote the famous novels Wuthering Heights, Jane Eyre and Agnes Grey.

Jean: 而在 150 年后的今天，我们仍然在拜读着这些小说。

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*Their work seemed to be so strong that they cross cultural divides, and the divide of time. Their novels are popular all around the world and have been made into films particularly in all sorts of languages. And they've continued to inspire artists, and people, from them being written 150 years ago.*

Andrea: The novels are so strong they cross cultural divides and the divide of time.

Jean: 这些宝贵的文学作品跨越了时间和文化的界限。

Andrea: They've even been made into films and translated into many different languages.

Jean: 这些文学巨著在 150 年后的今天仍然为当今的文学家艺术家提供着源源不断的灵感。

Andrea: Alan Bentley is the director of the Bronte Parsonage Museum in Haworth, Yorkshire. That's a small village in the North of England.

Jean: 这座博物馆其实就是勃朗特三姐妹的故居。Alan 在现场给我们介绍了在当时 18 世纪勃朗特一家刚刚入住这座城镇时候的情况。

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*They moved to the parsonage in 1820, when their father took up the job as the perpetual curate of Haworth. It was a rocky beginning in that Patrick's appointment wasn't very popular among the local congregation. It was a difficult beginning from that point of view and also of course, within 8 months of them arriving, Mrs Bronte died – she had cancer we think – and she became ill and died very quickly, leaving Patrick with these 6 young children.*

**Andrea:** The Brontes moved to the village in 1820. Their father was a curate or a priest.

**Jean:** But it was a rocky beginning for them. 不过这个他们一开始刚搬来的时候事情并不是很顺利。

**Andrea:** Their father wasn't popular and 8 months after they got there, their mother suddenly died of cancer.

**Jean:** 所以他们的父亲帕特里克不得不只身照顾全家这六个孩子。而安妮勃朗特是年纪最小的一个。

**Andrea:** But that wasn't the end of their tragedy.

**Jean:** 是的，勃朗特一家的悲剧似乎才刚刚开始。 **Tragedy.** 悲剧。

**Andrea:** Two of their sisters died and at that point Emily and Charlotte were sent away to a boarding school.

**Jean:** 一连好几位家人的不幸早亡和她们面临的悲剧性命运对勃朗特姐妹的写作带来了很大的影响。 **Alan Bentley** 给我们讲到，勃朗特姐妹自己的真实生活是如何被反映在她们的小说中。

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*The next deaths contributed to the literature of the Brontes, in that Patrick sent them away – sent the elder girls away to a school which was to become Lowood in 'Jane Eyre' – Charlotte didn't have a good time there. The two older children – Elizabeth and Maria – became ill and died – and Charlotte and Emily were brought back home. And Patrick didn't send them away to school – any of his children away to school – for quite some time after that.*

**Andrea:** Alan explains that when the girls' sisters died, they were sent to a school just like Lowood.

**Jean:** 她们在寄宿学校的日子实在太苦了，所以她们后来回到了作牧师的父亲在教堂的住所。

**Andrea:** Instead their father decided to educate them at home.

## Insert

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Jean: 那这样在家里受到教育的孩子都会去做什么呢？

Andrea: Well, these children decided to create their own imaginary worlds.

Jean: Imaginary worlds – 想象出来的世界。

Andrea: The three sisters and their brother, Bramwell, started to make up their own stories.

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*These lively, intellectual young children, developed these imaginary worlds – these very complex imaginary worlds. Bramwell was brought little wooden soldiers as a present – for his birthday – and they were distributed amongst the children – and they took each one of these and made the characters up. For that they drew complex maps and wrote stories and poetry. These were produced into little magazines and books, that were the size of the soldiers – so this is where we get the famous little books.*

Jean: Alan 说这几个孩子既活泼又聪明。 Lively and intellectual.

Andrea: When Bramwell, their brother, was given some wooden toy soldiers as a birthday present, they decided to create stories around them.

Jean: 他们给这些木头兵都编排了角色 – characters – 还设计了复杂的地图 – complex maps.

Andrea: Soon they had created lots of stories and poetry.

Jean: 他们甚至还把创作出来的故事书写在很小的本子上让玩具兵去读！这就是他们所谓的“小小书”，现在在约克郡的博物馆还有展出。

Andrea: How amazing! They really had fertile imaginations.

Jean: Fertile imaginations. 丰富的想象力。

Andrea: But if you were a woman in the 1800s you were expected to be a teacher or look after children.

Jean: 而当时的勃朗特姐妹更愿意去从事写作。

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*They were quite ambitious and there was the economic thing – that they needed to earn money, so there was that side of it as well. They really didn't like teaching. Only Anne could be said to be a successful teacher and governess. Emily I think had two very short-lived jobs; Charlotte, while she did work, she hated it – really didn't like dealing with the children. So they needed to find another way out.*

Andrea: Alan says that the Brontes were ambitious.

Jean: 勃朗特姐妹抱负不凡。

Andrea: They didn't like teaching so they needed to find another way to make some money.

Jean: 他们开始靠写作来赚钱糊口，因为他们并不喜欢做老师的那份工作。

Andrea: Ann was successful as a teacher but the others' jobs as teachers were short-lived.

Jean: 他们的老师都没做长 - short-lived.

## Insert

*They were quite ambitious and there was the economic thing – that they needed to earn money, so there was that side of it as well. They really didn't like teaching. Only Anne could be said to be a successful teacher and governess. Emily I think had two very short-lived jobs; Charlotte, while she did work, she hated it – really didn't like dealing with the children. So they needed to find another way out.*

Andrea: So they started writing their wonderful novels. Jean, I wonder, have you ever read any of the Bronte's novels?

Jean: Andrea, of course I have. 呼啸山庄和简爱都是我们中国人特别喜爱的经典著作。

Andrea: And I really loved Wuthering Heights. Heathcliff is so passionate and the story is so romantic.

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*I suppose immediately peoples' reaction was that it was very shocking – both the subject matter and the way that it was written. Jane Eyre, and Wuthering Heights, I suppose, the central characters are not nice people. It's a study of Heathcliff's revenge really, on the family.*

Jean: Alan 给我们说到当时象呼啸山庄这样的小说刚出版的时候，人们的反应是怎样的。

Andrea: People found the subject matter shocking.

Jean: 小说的主要人物都不是完全正面的角色。

**Andrea:** Imagine if people had known that the writers were in fact women.

**Jean:** 是的，如果他们知道小说的作者是女性的话，肯定会更吃惊的。

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*It was obviously – it wasn't a socially acceptable thing. There were female authors, but they were certainly seen as unusual and not really socially acceptable. On a practical basis the Bronte sisters used pseudonyms – quite sort of androgynous pseudonyms – they wrote as men to their publisher.*

**Andrea:** It wasn't socially acceptable to be a female writer during the Victorian times.

**Jean:** 这在当时的社会是不可接受的。 It wasn't socially acceptable.

**Andrea:** It was strange or unusual.

**Jean:** 所以勃朗特姐妹决定使用笔名。 Pseudonyms.

**Andrea:** Pseudonyms.

**Jean:** 他们用过的笔名有 Currer, Ellis 还有, Acton Bell.

**Andrea:** How clever! Sadly, all three sisters had their lives cut short by illness.

**Jean:** 不幸的是，这三位姐妹的生命都相当短暂，和当时很多人的命运一样，他们都相继患上了肺结核，提早夭折了。

**Andrea:** But there is no doubt that their writing will continue to live on. So which is Alan Bentley's favourite Bronte book?

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*I'm a Wuthering Heights person I think. It's the power of it and the writing in fact – and the fact that it's perhaps not what people expect – it's this tale of revenge really. But also the way that it evokes both the Yorkshire people and also the Yorkshire landscape.*

**Jean:** Alan 自己就很喜欢呼啸山庄的震撼力和出人意料的故事情节。

**Andrea:** It's all about revenge.

**Jean:** 这部作品生动再现了英国的约克郡乡间，高原沼地和荒野。而勃朗特姐妹曾经居住和描写过的这一带现在已经被命名为勃朗特地区。

**Andrea:** And you can visit some of the places these talented women wrote about, as well as the museum on a visit to England! On that note, it's time for us to say goodbye from us and the Brontes at BBC Learning English.

**Jean:** Bye.