

Miss Jean Brodie – Narrative technique: flashbacks, flashforwards

Chapter 1

page	when	who	what
5	1936 form four, at the age of sixteen	The Brodie set some boys	“The boys, as they talked to the girls from Marcia Blaine School” (5) “The five girls [...] wore their hats each with a definite difference” (5)
5-6	1932 “at the age of twelve” (5)	The Brodie set	“informed on a lot of subjects irrelevant to the authorized curriculum” (5)
6-10	1936 “By the time they were sixteen and had reached the fourth form” (6) “This is nineteen-thirty-six” (10)	The Brodie set (Joyce Emily Hammond) Miss Brodie	“[they] had adapted themselves to the orthodox regime” (6) “Monica Douglas [...] famous mostly for mathematics” (6) “Rose Stanley was famous for sex” (7) “Eunice Gardiner [...] famous for [...] gymnastics and [...] swimming” (7) “Sandy Stranger [...] famous for her vowel sounds” (7) “Jenny Gray [...] the prettiest and most graceful girl” (7) “Mary Macgregor [...] a silent lump, a nobody” (8) “I am putting old heads on your young shoulders” (8) ”all my pupils are the crème de la crème” (8) “Give me a girl at an impressionable age, and she is mine for life” (9)
10-14	1930 “Six years previously” (10) “that sunny autumn” (10) “at ten years of age” (13)	Miss Brodie The Brodie set (Miss Mackay) Miss Mackay	“a history lesson underneath the big elm” (10) “safety does not come first. Goodness, Truth and Beauty come first.” (10) “we are doing our history lesson [...] Meantime I will tell you about my last summer holiday in Egypt” (11) “Who is the greatest painter in Italy?” (11) “Miss Brodie [...] stood erect [...] like Joan of Arc.” (11) “my prime has truly begun” (11) “[Hugh Carruthers] fell like an autumn leaf” (12) “Crying over a story at ten years of age!” (13) “If only you small girls would listen to me I would make of you the crème de la crème.” (14)

Chapter 2

page	when	who	what
15	1940 “a year after the outbreak of the Second World War” (15)	Mary Macgregor	“the first years with Miss Brodie [...] had been the happiest time of her life” (15)
15-21	1930 “at the beginning of the nineteen-thirties, when Mary Macgregor was ten” (15) “on [Sandy’s] tenth birthday” (16)	Sandy Stranger Jenny Gray	“Sandy had a feeling at the time that they were supposed to be the happiest days of her life” (16) “Little girls, you are going to be the crème de la crème” (16) “They don’t have primes’ [...] ‘They have sexual intercourse’” (16) “The Mountain Eyrie” (18) “Sandy [...] leading a double life” (21)
21-26	1930 “the cold winter sky” (24) “the first winter of the two years [...] spent with Miss Brodie.” (25)	Miss Brodie in class	“Jenny was enthralled by the poem [...] Sandy was never bored, but she had to lead a double life of her own in order never to be bored.” (21) “By what means did your Ladyship write these words?” (21) The Lady of Shalott to Sandy: “That one so young and beautiful should be so ill-fated in love!” (22) “come foul, come fair. Regard the Mona Lisa over yonder!” (22) “If you had been mine when you were seven you would have been the crème de la crème” (22) “You girls are my vocation. [...] I am dedicated to you in my prime.” (23) “One day, Sandy, you will go too far.” (23) “I fear you will never belong to life’s elite, as one might say, the crème de la crème.” (23) “Sometimes the girls would put a little spot of ink on a sleeve [...] a thrilling teacher, Miss Lockhart, [...] she would dab the ink-spot on the sleeve” (23) “Sandy, on that occasion, had the presence of mind to remember that her schooldays were supposed to be the happiest of her life and she took the compelling news back to Jenny that the Senior school was going to be

	1931 “It had turned nineteen-thirty-one.” (25)		marvellous and Miss Lockhart beautiful.” (24) “Art is greater than science. Art comes first, and then science.” (25) “Miss Brodie had already selected her favourites” (26) “Miss Brodie’s special girls were taken home to tea and bidden not to tell others, they were taken into her confidence, they understood her private life and her feud with the headmistress and the allies of the headmistress.” (26) ”Miss Brodie was an Edinburgh spinster of the deepest dye.” (26)
26-27	1959 “twenty-eight years after” (26)	Eunice and her husband	“remind me while we’re there to go and visit Miss Brodie’s grave” (27) “When did she die?’ – ‘Just after the war [in 1945]. She was retired by then. Her retirement was rather a tragedy, she was forced to retire before time. [...] She was betrayed by one of her own girls.” (27)
27-33	1931 “one Friday in March” (27) “Rose Stanley’s eleventh year” (29) Sandy: “there were other people’s nineteen-thirties” (33)	Miss Brodie and her girls (“on the winter’s walk” (38) through the old town of Edinburgh)	“Rose Stanley [...] a tomboy” (29) “Eunice Gardiner who [...] said [...], ‘I must visit her grave’” (28) “Sandy, who had been reading <i>Kidnapped</i> , was having a conversation with the hero, Alan Breck” (28) Alan Breck: “Sandy, you are a brave lass and want nothing in courage that any King’s man might possess” (30) “You are all heroines in the making” (30) “a group of Girl Guides came by” (31) “It occurred to Sandy [...] that the Brodie set was Miss Brodie’s fascisti.” (31) “Perhaps the Guides were too much of a rival fascisti” (32)
33-35	~1960 “in [Sandy’s] middle age” 33)	Sandy Stranger	“Sandy who was now some years Sister Helena of the Transfiguration” (34) “What was your biggest influence, then, Sister Helena? Was it political, personal? Was it Calvinism?’ – ‘Oh no,’ said Sandy. ‘But there was a Miss Jean Brodie in her prime.’” (35) “Sister Helena [...] had published her psychological book which was so unexpectedly famed.” (35)
35-38	1931	Miss Brodie and her	“Sandy, who believed in ghosts, felt that the Holy Ghost was a feasible

	that Friday in March “this winter term” (36)	girls (“on the winter’s walk” (38) through the old town of Edinburgh)	proposition.” (36) “I am summoned to see the headmistress at morning break on Monday” (36) “The word ‘education’ comes from the root <i>e</i> from <i>ex</i> , out, and <i>duco</i> , I lead. it means a leading out. To me education is a leading out of what is already there in the pupil’s soul. To Miss Mackay it is a putting in of something that is not there” (36) “Never let it be said that I put ideas into your heads.” (37) (> p. 8) “Sandy was composing a formal invitation to Alan Breck [...] “Alan Breck would arrive in full Highland dress. Supposing that passion struck upon them in the course of the evening and they were swept away into sexual intercourse?” (37)
38	~ 1933-39 “later, while still in her teens” (38)	Rose Stanely	“Rose, who later, while still in her teens, was to provoke Miss Brodie’s amazement and then her awe and finally her abounding enthusiasm for the role which Rose then appeared to be enacting: that of a great lover, magnificently elevated above the ordinary run of lovers, above the moral laws, Venus incarnate, something set apart.” (38)
38	1931 “in her mere eleventh year” (38)	Miss Brodie and her girls (“on the winter’s walk” (38) through the old town of Edinburgh)	“so long as the girls are in the least equipped for the end-of-term exami- nation. I trust you girls to work hard and try and scrape through, even if you learn up the stuff and forget it next day.” (38) “I do not think ever to be betrayed.” (39) “In Italy the unemployment problem has been solved.” (39) “Sandy excused herself from tea with Miss Brodie” (40)

Chapter 3

page	when	who	what
42-44	<p>the 1930's “during the nineteen-thirties” (42)</p> <p>“when the girls were well on in their teens” (44)</p>	<p>Miss Brodie and “women from the age of thirty and upward” (42) “spinsters of Edinburgh” (42)</p>	<p>“those of Miss Brodie’s kind were great talkers and feminists and, like most feminists, talked to men as man-to-man.” (43) “the rest of the teaching staff [...] had only too understandably not trusted themselves to change their minds, particularly on ethical questions, after the age of twenty” (43) Miss Brodie “was still in a state of fluctuating development” (43) “it was not a static Miss Brodie” (43) “this prime of Miss Brodie’s [was] still in the making” (44)</p>
44-47	<p>1931 “The summer holiday of nineteen-thirty-one” (44) “the Brodie set, who were now turned eleven and twelve” (44)</p> <p>“We are now well into the nineteen-thirties” (47)</p>	<p>Miss Brodie and her girls</p>	<p>“the first anniversary of the launching of Miss Brodie’s prime” (44) “the year to come was in many ways the sexual year of the Brodie set” (44) “I have spent most of my summer holidays in Italy once more” (44) “My friend kissed [the Pope’s] ring but I thought it proper only to bend over it.” (44) “Mussolini is one of the greatest men in the world” (44) “As you know, I don’t believe in talking down to children, you are capable of grasping more than is generally appreciated by your elders.” (45) “I have four pounds of rosy apples in my desk, a gift from Mr Lowther’s orchard, let us eat them now while the coast is clear” (47)</p>
47-48	<p>~1929 “Even before the official opening of her prime” (47)</p>	<p>Miss Brodie, Gordon Lowther, Teddy Lloyd and colleagues</p>	<p>“Miss Brodie’s colleagues in the Junior school had been gradually turning against her” (47) “There were two exceptions on the staff, who felt neither resentment nor indifference towards Miss Brodie, but were, on the contrary, her supporters on every count. [...] Mr Gordon Lowther, the singing master [and] Mr Teddy Lloyd, the Senior girls’ art master [...] were already a little in love with Miss Brodie [...] the only sex-bestirred object in their daily environment [...] both were already beginning to act as rivals” (48)</p>
49	<p>1931</p>	<p>Miss Brodie, Mr Lloyd and the girls</p>	<p>Botticelli’s <i>Primavera</i> (49) “[Lloyd] kept on passing the pointer along the lines of their bottoms” (49)</p>

	<p>“Christmas [1931]” (53)</p> <p>“before Christmas” (55)</p>		<p>“Monica Douglas [...] claimed that she had seen Mr Lloyd in the act of kissing Miss Brodie” (50)</p> <p>“The question of whether Miss Brodie was actually capable of being kissed and of kissing occupied the Brodie set till Christmas.” (53)</p> <p>“There was a change in Miss Brodie [...] She wore newer clothes” (53)</p> <p>“Sandy, who had turned eleven, perceived that the tone of ‘morning’ in good morning made the word seem purposely to rhyme with ‘scorning’” (54)</p> <p>“Miss Brodie in the time before Christmas used the sewing period each week to read Jane Eyre to her class” (55)</p> <p>“[Miss Brodie] wore her newest clothes on singing days” (55)</p>
55	<p>~1958</p> <p>“the late nineteen-fifties” (55)</p>	Sandy and Rose	Rose to Sandy: “I really did see Teddy Lloyd kiss Miss Brodie” (55)
55	<p>1946</p> <p>“one day after the end of the war” (55)</p> <p>“the year after the war” (56)</p>	Sandy and Miss Brodie	<p>“I am past my prime” (56)</p> <p>“Teddy Lloyd was greatly in love with me [...] and I with him. [...] We never became lovers” (56)</p> <p>“She had reckoned on her prime lasting till she was sixty. But this, the year after the war, was in fact Miss Brodie’s last and fifty-sixth year.” (56)</p> <p>“She was suffering from an internal growth” (56)</p>
56	<p>1931</p> <p>“In the late autumn of nineteen thirty-one” (56)</p>	The Brodie set, Miss Gaunt, (Miss Brodie)	<p>“Miss Brodie was away from school for two weeks. It was understood she had an ailment.” (56)</p> <p>“Miss Gaunt’s horrible sharpness and strict insistence on silence throughout the day.” (57)</p> <p>“Sandy had done with Alan Breck and had taken up with Mr Rochester, with whom she now sat in the garden.” (58)</p> <p>“Mr Lowther is not at school this week [...] Miss Brodie [...] too is expected to be absent for another week” (58)</p>
59	<p>1946</p> <p>“In that year after the war” (59)</p>	Sandy and Miss Brodie	“I renounced Teddy Lloyd. But I decided to enter into a love affair [...] with Gordon Lowther, he was a bachelor and it was more becoming.” (60)
60	<p>1939</p>	Sandy	<p>“It is seven years, thought Sandy, since I betrayed this tiresome woman”</p> <p>“Miss Brodie, indifferent to criticism as a crag” (60)</p>

60	<p>1931 late autumn</p> <p>“During the Easter term” (61)</p>	Miss Brodie and her girls	<p>“After her two weeks’ absence Miss Brodie returned [to her class]” (60)</p> <p>“the singing master was in love with Miss Brodie and [...] Miss Brodie was in love with the art master. Rose Stanley had not yet revealed her potentialities in the working-out of Miss Brodie’s passion for one-armed teddy Lloyd, and Miss Brodie’s prime still flourished unbetrayed.” (61)</p> <p>“the headmistress, had the girls in to tea in her study in small groups and, later, one by one. This was a routine of inquiry” (61)</p> <p>Classical versus modern education (61-2)</p> <p>“All that term [Miss Brodie] tried to inspire Eunice to become at least a pioneer missionary in some deadly and dangerous zone of the earth.” (62)</p> <p>“Sandy,’ said Anna Pavlova, ‘you are the only truly dedicated dancer” (63)</p> <p>Miss Brodie: “You must all grow up to be dedicated women as I have dedicated myself to you.” (63)</p>
63	<p>1945 “A few weeks before she died” (63)</p>	Miss Brodie and Monica Douglas	Miss Brodie “learnt [...] that Sandy had gone to a convent, she said: ‘What a waste. That is not the sort of dedication I meant. [...] I begin to wonder if it was not Sandy who betrayed me.’” (63)
63	<p>1931 “before the Easter holidays” (63)</p> <p>“towards the end of the Easter holidays” (66)</p> <p>“At school after the holidays” (69)</p>	<p>Miss Mackay, Sandy, Jenny and Mary</p> <p>Jenny, a policewoman, Sandy</p> <p>Miss Brodie and her girls</p>	<p>“The headmistress invited Sandy, Jenny and Mary to tea [...] and asked them the usual questions” (63)</p> <p>“at the mention of Mr Lowther, even slow-minded Mary suspected what Miss Mackay was driving at.” (65)</p> <p>“Does Miss Brodie tell you stories?” (65)</p> <p>a “noteworthy speech” (see p. 66)</p> <p>“Jenny, out walking alone, was accosted by a man joyfully exposing himself” (66)</p> <p>Sandy “quite deserted Alan Breck and Mr Rochester and all the heroes of fiction for the summer term, and fell in love with the unseen policewoman who had questioned Jenny” (67)</p> <p>“Sandy decided to call her Sergeant Anne Grey” (68)</p> <p>the “affair was kept a secret between Jenny and Sandy” (69)</p> <p>Miss Brodie: “I have spent Easter at the little Roman village of Cramond.’ That was where Mr Lowther lived all alone” (69)</p> <p>Jenny: “Rose has changed in the holidays, hasn’t she? This was true.” (70)</p>

<p>“During the last few months” (71) “That spring” (71)</p> <p>“as their last term with Miss Brodie drew to a close” (72)</p>	<p>Sandy and Jenny</p>	<p>Miss Brodie “made herself adorable” (71) “That spring she monopolized with her class the benches under the elm” (71) “That spring Jenny’s mother was expecting a baby” (71) “Miss Brodie’s old love story was newly embroidered, under the elm, with curious threads: [...] ‘Sometimes Hugh would sing [like Lowther] [...] At other times he fell silent and would set up his easel and paint [like Lloyd]’” (72) “Miss Brodie was making her new love story fit the old.” (72) “Sandy was fascinated by this method of making patterns with facts, and was divided between her admiration for the technique and the pressing need to prove Miss Brodie guilty of misconduct.” (72) “Sandy and Jenny completed the love correspondence between Miss Brodie and the singing master at half-term. “(72) “‘It had been a delicate question how to present Miss brodie in both a favourable and unfavourable light, for now, [...],nothing less than this was demanded.” (72) “‘The last letter” (72) “Sandy found a damp hole half-hidden by a stone at the back of the cave and they pressed into it the notebook containing the love correspondence of Miss Jean Brodie, and never saw it again.” (74)</p>
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