



ELEMENTS OF GOTHIC LITERATURE IN WUTHERING HEIGHTS



presented by

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A. THEMES

1. Violence
2. Revenge
3. Madness
4. Decay
5. Death
6. Superstition and the Paranormal



A photograph showing a person from the waist down, wearing a white, long-sleeved garment that is heavily stained with bright red blood. The person is standing in a chaotic environment filled with debris, including wood and metal fragments. The background is blurred, showing more debris and a structure. The word "VIOLENCE" is superimposed in large, bold, black capital letters across the center of the image.

VIOLENCE

A1. VIOLENCE

- *Hindley **threw it [iron weight]**, hitting him [Heathcliff] on the breast, and down he fell,... (V1 ch. 4, pg 41)*
- *... irresistibly **impelled by the naughty spirit** within her [Catherine], **slapped me [Ellen]** on the cheek a stinging blow that filled both eyes with water. (V1 ch.8, pg 75)*
- *...his [Hindley] **wild-beast's fondness**, or his **madman's rage** – for his one he [Hareton] ran a chance of being **squeezed and kissed to death**, and in the other of being **flung into the fire, or dashed against the wall...***
- *He [Hindley] held the **knife** in his hand, and pushed its point **between my [Ellen] teeth**: ... (V1 ch. 9. pg 78)*

- *‘[Heathcliff] **I have no pity!** I have no pity! The more worms writhe, the **more I yearn to crush** out their entrails! It is a moral teething, and I grind with greater energy, in proportion to the **increase of pain.**’ (V1 ch. 14, pg 160)*
- *“He **trampled** on, and **kicked** you, and **dashed you on the ground,**” I [Isabella] whispered...*
- *‘...; so instead of endeavoring to reach me, he [Heathcliff] **snatched a dinner knife from the table, and flung it at my head.** (V2 ch. 2, pg 193 - 294)*

- *...he [Heathcliff] seized her [Cathy] with the liberated hand and, pulling her on his knee, administered, with the other, **a shower of terrific slaps on both sides of the head**, each sufficient to have fulfilled his threat... (V2 ch. 13, pg 285)*

revenge



A2. REVENGE

- Could be majorly seen in the actions of **Heathcliff**:

- **Vs. Hindley**

- Enjoys Hindley shameful state when he declines
- Steals Hareton's affection and loyalty from his father

*I asked if he **liked Mr Heathcliff**?*

*'**Aye!**' he answered again.*

*Desiring to have his **reasons for liking**, I could only gather the sentences. 'I known't – **he pays Dad back what he gies** to me – **he curses Daddy for cursing me** – He says I mun do as I will.'* (V1 ch. 11, pg 116)

- Programs Hareton to become a servant— illiterate, ignorant and savage
- Arranges Hindley to financial ruin – takes over Wuthering Heights

*The **guest was now the master of Wuthering Heights**: he held firm possession, and proved to the attorney, who, in his turn, proved it to Mr. Linton, that **Earnshaw had mortgaged every yard of land** he owned for cash to supply his mania for gaming: and he, **Heathcliff, was the mortgagee.***

*In that manner, **Hareton... lives in his own house as a servant** deprived of the advantages of wages, and quite **unable to right himself**, because of his friendlessness, and his **ignorance that he has been wronged.***

(V2 ch. 3, pg. 200)

– Vs. Catherine

- Spoils Catherine's health and happiness after her marriage to Edgar
- Marries another woman

– Vs. Edgar

- Visits Catherine often, even after their marriage
 - Marries his only sibling, Isabella
 - Separates his only daughter, Cathy from him
 - Takes ownership of Thrushcross Grange
 - Arranges to have Edgar's corpse transferred away from his wife
- Isabella also took revenge on Heathcliff in a way, by naming their son Linton.

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a woman's face. She is lying down, her head tilted back, with her mouth wide open in a scream or gasp. Her eyes are wide and staring, and her hair is dark and messy. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on her face and deep shadows in the background. The word "MADNESS" is superimposed in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the center of the image.

MADNESS

A3. MADNESS

- Catherine descended to the road to madness:
 - Tossing about, she **increased her feverish bewilderment to madness, and tore the pillow with her teeth**,... (V1 ch. 12, pg 128)
 - But I soon found **her delirious strength much surpassed mine** (she was delirious, I became convinced by their subsequent actions and ravings. (V1 ch. 12, pg 132)
 - A **maniac's fury kindled under her brows: she struggled desperately** to disengage herself from Linton's arms. (V1 ch. 12, pg 135)

- Afterwards, she refused to eat, and now she **alternately raves, and remains in a half dream**, knowing those about her, but having her mind filled with all sorts of **strange ideas and illusions.**' (V1 ch. 12, pg 136)

- Heathcliff guiltlessly meddles with Catherine's corpse:

You were wicked, Mr. Heathcliff!' I exclaimed; '**were you not ashamed to disturb the dead?**'

'I disturbed no body, Nelly,' he replied; 'and I gave some ease to myself...Disturbed her? No! she has disturbed me, night and day, through eighteen years – incessantly – remorselessly – till yesternight... (V2 ch. 16, pg 304)

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a broken, frosted light bulb. The bulb is lying on a surface of sand and sparse grass. The word "DECAY" is superimposed in large, bold, yellow-green capital letters across the center of the image, partially covering the hand and the bulb. The lighting is dim, creating a somber and contemplative mood.

DECAY

A4. DECAY

- Decay in **landscape**:

When beneath its walls, I perceived decay had made progress, even in seven months- many a window showed black gaps deprived of glass; and slates jutted off, ...
(V2 ch. 20, pg 356)

- Decay in **human health and appearances:**

- **Mr. Earnshaw**

*Then personal appearance, sympathized with **mental deterioration**; he acquired a **slouching gait, and ignoble look**; his naturally reserved disposition was exaggerated into **an almost idiotic excess of unsociable moroseness**; and he took a **grim pleasure**, apparently, in exciting the aversion rather than the esteem of his few acquaintance. (V1 ch. 8, pg 72)*

- **Linton**

*“I swear **Linton is dying**,” repeated Heathcliff... (V2 ch. 8, pg 247)*

- **Edgar**

*He lay an image of sadness, and **resignation, waiting his death**. (V2 ch. 14, pg 297)*

- **Hindley**

- changed from a healthy man of status into a irrational, violent drunkard who is addicted to gambling

- **Heathcliff**

- Those deep black eyes! That smile, and **ghastly paleness!** It appeared to me, not Mr Heathcliff, but a goblin... Your **cheeks are hollow**, and your **eyes blood-shot**. Like a **person starving with hunger**, and going **blind with loss of sleep**" "I am too happy, and yet I'm not happy enough. **My soul's bliss kills my body**, but does not satisfy itself."* (V2 ch. 20, pg 351)



DEATH

A5. DEATH

- **8 out of 10** members of the Earnshaw and Linton families **died** by the end of the story:

- **Mr Earnshaw**

He died quietly in his chair one October evening, seated by the fire side. (V1 ch. 5, pg 44)

- **Frances** [Hindley's wife]

... her face changed, and she was dead. (V1 ch. 8, pg 69)

- **Catherine Earnshaw Linton**

... having never recovered sufficient consciousness to miss Heathcliff, or know Edgar. (V2 ch. 2, pg 176)

- **Hindley Earnshaw**

He died true to his character, drunk as a lord... (V2 ch. 3, pg 197)

- **Isabella Linton Heathcliff**

Isabella was dead; and he wrote to bid me get mourning for his daughter, ...(V2 ch. 5, pg 212)

- **Edgar Linton**

He died blissfully, Mr Lockwood; he died so. (V2 ch. 14, pg 299)

- **Linton Heathcliff**

"He's safe, and I'm free," she [Cathy] answered.. (V2 ch. 16, pg 310)

- **Heathcliff**

... - he was dead and stark! (V2 ch. 20, pg 353)

A woman with long blonde hair, wearing a black hooded cloak, stands in a dark, misty forest at night. She is looking directly at the camera. Behind her, a large, full moon is visible through the bare, dark branches of trees. The ground is covered in green grass and some fallen leaves. The overall atmosphere is eerie and mysterious.

SUPERSTITION AND THE PARANORMAL

A6. SUPERSTITION AND THE PARANORMAL

- Heathcliff's hint of **Necromancy**:
 - ***"Come in! come in!"*** he sobbed. *"Cathy, do come. Oh do – once more! Oh! My heart's darling, **hear me this time** – Catherine, at last!"* (V1 ch. 3, pg 30)
 - *You know, I was wild after she died, and eternally, from dawn to dawn, **praying her to return to me** – her spirit – **I have a strong faith in ghosts**; I have a conviction that they can, and do exist; among us!* (V2 ch. 15, pg 304)

- The **ghost** of Catherine:
 - ... [Lockwood] I tried to draw back my arm, but the hand clung to it, and a most melancholy voice sobbed, ‘Let me in – let me in!’ ... As it spoke, I discerned, **obscurely, a child’s face looking through the window** - ... (V1 ch. 3, pg 26)
 - ... so certainly I felt that **Cathy was there, not under me**, but on the earth.
 - Her **presence was with me**; it remained while I re-fill the grave, and led me home. (V2 ch. 15, pg 305)

- The **ghost** of Heathcliff:
 - *But the country folks, if you ask them, **would swear on their Bible that he walks.** There are those who speak to having met him near the church, and on the moor, and even within this house - ... (V2 ch. 20, pg 354)*
 - *[little boy] **They's Heathcliff and a woman,** yonder, under t'Nab... (V2 ch. 20, pg 354)*

B. SETTINGS

- 1. Extreme weather and landscapes**
- 2. Isolated and haunted houses**

A dramatic landscape photograph featuring a sunset or sunrise with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm orange glow. A large, bright lightning bolt strikes down from a cloudy sky on the right side. Silhouetted trees and hills are visible in the foreground and background.

EXTREME WEATHER AND LANDSCAPE

B1. EXTREME WEATHER AND LANDSCAPE

- *...on that bleak hill-top the **earth was hard** with a **black frost** and **the air made me shiver through every limb.....**, till my **knuckles tingled** and the **dogs howled..** (V1 ch.2, pg 9)*
- *We came to the chapel. I have passed it really in my walks, twice or thrice; it **lies in a hollow, between two hills: an elevated hollow, near a swamp**, whose **peaty moisture** is said to **answer all the purposes of embalming** on the few corpses deposited there. (V1 ch. 3, pg 24)*

- ...it was a **very dark evening for summer**: the clouds appeared inclined to **thunder**...
- About midnight, while we still sat up, **the storm came rattling over the heights in full fury**. There was a **violent wind**, as well as thunder, and either one or the other split a tree off at the corner of the building: **a huge bough fell across the roof**, and knocked down a portion of the east chimney stack, sending a clatter of stones and soot into the kitchen-fire. (V1 ch. 9, pg 89 – 90)
- ...she crossed the room, walking very uncertainly, threw it back, and bent out, careless of the **frosty air that cut about her shoulders as keen as a knife**. There was **no moon**, and everything beneath lay in **misty darkness**: not a light gleamed from any house, far or near all had been extinguished long ago:.... ‘ (V1 ch. 12, pg 132)

A dark, overgrown, and dilapidated house with vines covering the exterior and a porch, set against a cloudy sky. The house has a complex roofline with multiple gables and a small decorative finial on the ridge. The porch is partially visible, showing a railing and some overgrowth. The overall atmosphere is eerie and abandoned.

ISOLATED AND HAUNTED HOUSE

B2. ISOLATED AND HAUNTED HOUSE

- Estates on the moors are distanced from one another:
 - *I had on one side of the road,...a line of upright stones continued through the **whole length of the barren**: these were erected and daubed with lime on purpose to serve as guides in the dark,...deep swarms on either hand with the firmer path...' (V1 ch 3, pg 39)*
- Old, dark, haunting feel of Wuthering Heights:
 - *'It is not so buried in tress,' I replied, ;and it is not quite so large... You will perhaps, think the **building old and dark at first**' (V2 ch. 20, pg 223)*

- *[Lockwood] I supposed that she wanted to get another proof that the **place was haunted**, at my expense – Well, it is – **swarming with ghosts and goblins!** (V1 ch. 3, pg 28)*
- *But the country folks, if you ask them, **would swear on their Bible that he walks**. There are those who speak to having met him near the church, and on the moor, and even **within this house** - ... (V2 ch. 20, pg 354)*



C. CHARACTER: TYRANTS

C. TYRANTS

- **Tyrant 1 - Hindley:**
 - Motivation : hate and envy
 - Focus of oppression : **Heathcliff**
 - *Poor Heathcliff! Hindley calls him a vagabond, and **won't let him with us, nor eat with us** anymore; and **threatens to turn him out of the house** if we break his orders.*
(V1 ch. 3, pg 23)
 - *He drove him from the their **company to the servants, deprived him of the instruction of the curate, and insisted that he should labour out of doors** instead...(V1 ch. 5, pg 48)*
 - *'You may come and wish Miss Catherine welcome, **like the other servants.**' (V1 ch. 7, pg 56)*

- **Tyrant 2 - Heathcliff :**

- Motivation : revenge
- Focus of oppression : **anyone** standing in his way

- **Ellen**

- **threatens** Ellen who refuses to execute his orders

'In that case, I'll take measures to secure you woman!'" (V1 ch. 13, pg 161)

- **Linton**

- **Disregards** Linton's poor health and **forces** him towards his own benefit

I could not picture a father treating a dying child as tyrannically and as wickedly... (V2 ch. 11, pg 273)

- **Cathy**

- **Reduces** his own niece/daughter-in-law to a staff

*[Heathcliff] - besides, that lass **owes me her services for her bread; I am not going to nurture her in luxury and idleness after Linton is gone.** (V2 ch. 15, pg 302)*

- **Conquers her inheritance** from Edgar and Linton, leaving her nothing (V2 ch. 16, pg 311)

- **Hareton**

- **Deprives** his own nephew from education and turns him to a servant
- **Conquers his proper rights** to the family fortune/estate
- Pays the sexton to switch Catherine's, Edgar's and his own corpse after his death to **torment Edgar in the afterlife** (V2 ch. 15, pg 304)

A woman in a long white dress lies motionless on a forest floor covered with ferns. Another woman with long dark hair, wearing a patterned top, stands over her, looking down with a somber expression. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source filtering through the trees in the background.

The End

Thank you for paying
attention!