



# WUTHERING HEIGHTS

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*Book by Emily Bronte*

*Overview by Claire Q*

# SETTING

Yorkshire Moor: Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange.

Linton and the Earnshaw family. 1770s to early 1800s.



# MAIN CHARACTERS



## **Heathcliff**

An orphan brought to live at Wuthering Heights by Mr. Earnshaw who falls in unbreakable love with his daughter, Catherine.

### **Physical Description**

Dark skinned. Gypsy. Thick, low brows. Black hair and whiskers. Built, tall, athletic.

### **Personality**

Heathcliff had pride and determination. When he was ordered to shake hands with Catherine by Hindley, he refuses by saying: "I shall not stand to be laughed at, I shall not hear it".

### **What other characters think of him**

Hindley, Mrs. Earnshaw all alienated Heathcliff when he was brought to the house. He was treated as a "thing" than a human being. This motivated him more to change his status from a humble beginning to a gentlemen.

He also brings a roughness and mysteriousness to people.



# MAIN CHARACTERS

## **Catherine Earnshaw**

The daughter of Mr. Earnshaw. She is free-spirited, beautiful, and often arrogant. Torn between her passion for Heathcliff and her social ambition.

### **Physical Description**

Thick and long brown hair. Very pretty, with the “bonniest eyes” and “sweetest smile”.

### **Personality**

Catherine is vain and spiteful, ruled by her passion: “At fifteen she was the queen of the countryside; she had no peer; and she did turn out a haughty, headstrong creature!”

### **What other characters think of her**

Heathcliff thinks Catherine as strong-willed, headstrong and independent. “She stamped her foot, wavered a moment, and then, irresistibly impelled by the naughty spirit within her, slapped me on the cheek: a stinging blow that filled both eyes with water.”



# ANTAGONISTS



Edgar Linton

- ❖ **Edgar Linton:** He contrasts Heathcliff with his manners and lifestyle. Catherine chooses him over Heathcliff.
- ❖ **Isabella Linton:** She fell in love with Heathcliff and becomes a chess piece in Heathcliff's revenge. She gave birth to Linton, her and Heathcliff's son.
- ❖ **Hindley Earnshaw:** Catherine's brother who use to abuse Heathcliff. He marries Frances, and had a son called Hareton.

# ANTAGONISTS

- ❖ **Hareton Earnshaw:** The son of Hindley and Frances, raised by Nelly. His look reminds Heathcliff of Catherine.
- ❖ **Catherine Linton (Cathy):** The daughter of Catherine and Edgar. She is unaware of her parent's history and like her mother, a free spirit.
- ❖ **Linton Heathcliff:** The son of Heathcliff and Isabella. He is a very weak and resembles Heathcliff's.



Cathy Linton

# OTHER CHARACTERS

- ❖ **Lockwood:** The first narrator of the novel. He rents Thrushcross Grange from Heathcliff.
- ❖ **Ellen Dean (Nelly):** A servant for both generations of the Earnshaw and Linton families.
- ❖ **Mr. Earnshaw:** Catherine and Hindley's father. He adopts Heathcliff.
- ❖ **Mrs. Earnshaw:** Catherine and Hindley's mother who hates Heathcliff.
- ❖ **Joseph:** An elderly servant at Wuthering Heights.
- ❖ **Frances Earnshaw:** Hindley's wife, who treats Heathcliff cruelly.
- ❖ **Mr. Linton:** Edgar and Isabella's father. He raised Isabella and Edgar with manners.
- ❖ **Mrs. Linton:** Edgar and Isabella's mother. Taught Catherine to be a lady and have social ambitions.
- ❖ **Zillah:** The housekeeper at Wuthering Heights later in the story.
- ❖ **Mr. Green:** Edgar Linton's lawyer.



Brontë

# Linton





# EXPOSITION

The story starts with Mr. Lockwood arrival at Wuthering Heights during a fierce storm. He is forced to stay overnight, as Heathcliff refuses to lend him a hand and help him get back to Thrushcross Grange. While there, Mr. Lockwood meets Nelly, a servant who recalls a series of events that have taken over the past 20 years.



# RISING ACTION

After Heathcliff is brought to Wuthering Heights by Mr. Earnshaw, followed by his death, he was abused by Hindley. Catherine had her first visits to Thrushcross Grange and major conflicts start to bubble after Heathcliff hears Catherine say it would “degrade” her to marry him. This drives Heathcliff to pursue a life of revenge. He escapes Wuthering Heights and comes back as a wealthy gentleman for revenge.



Linton siblings

# CLIMAX

The culmination of Heathcliff and Catherine's conflict is when Catherine dies. This deepens Heathcliff's revenge and drives him deeper into cruelty and sanity.





# FALLING ACTION

After marrying Heathcliff, Isabella is torn by his violence that drove her to England. There she gave birth to young Linton. Heathcliff then forces Cathy to marry Linton and inherit Thrushcross Grange. Later, Heathcliff finally gives up his revenge and dies.



# RESOLUTION

Heathcliff has a moment of redemption in death and joins Catherine once more on the moors. The marriage of Cathy and Hareton give readers a sense of hope for the future of these families, as they marry for love and leave behind the tainted memories of their parents mistakes.



# CONFLICTS

## **Character vs. Character**

Heathcliff fell in love with Catherine Earnshaw when they first met. It motivates him to raise himself to the status of a wealthy gentleman after Catherine marries Edgar. His revenge on Hindley, Edgar and Catherine leads him into a life of hatred and vengeance.

## **Character vs. Self**

Catherine is torn between her love for Heathcliff and her desire of social status. Her decision to marry Edgar Linton drags almost all the characters into conflict.



# THEMES

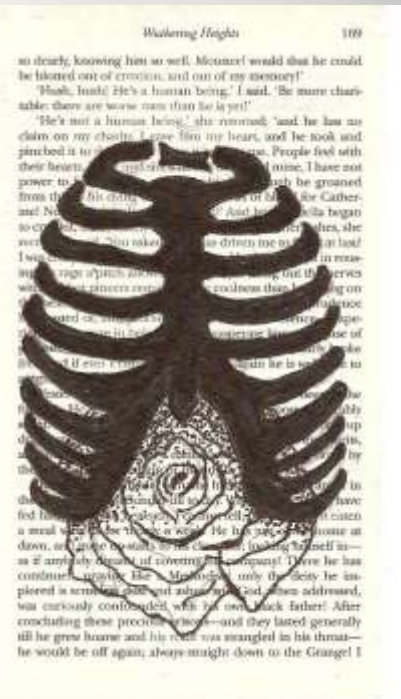
Revenge is self-destructive

The precariousness of social class

The destructiveness of a love that never changes

Cruelty begets cruelty

Lure of success trumps love





The End