

# EMILY BRONTE & WUTHERING HEIGHTS

## EMILY BRONTE

Brief Introduction

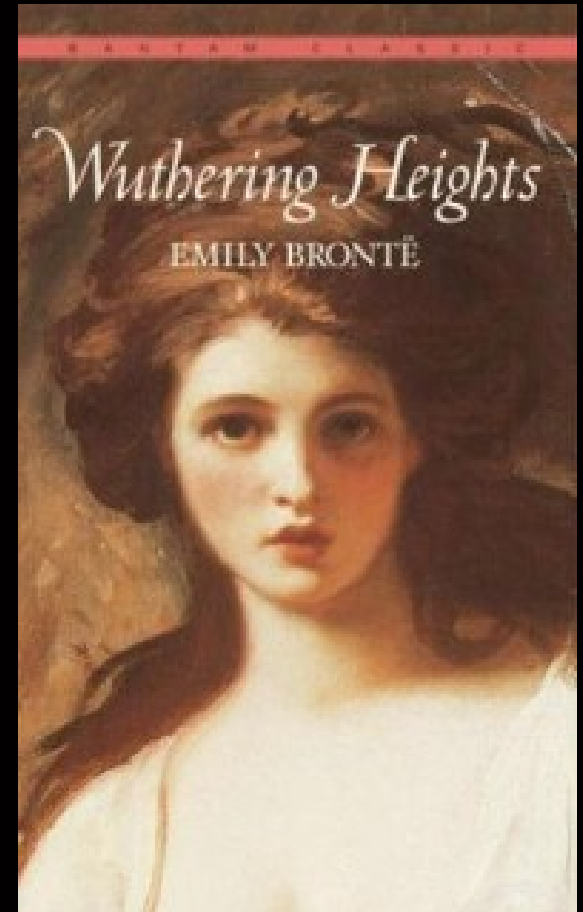
WUTHERING

HEIGHTS

Themes

Symbols

Different versions



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# The Bronte sisters



Charlotte Bronte

*Jane Eyre*

Emily Bronte

*Wuthering Heights*

Anne Bronte

*Agnes Grey*

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Emily Bronte



- Emily Bronte (EB) was born on 30 July 1818 in the village of Thornton some miles to the West of Bradford in **Yorkshire**
- Her father Patrick was a rector.
- She was largely educated at home. Her father's bookshelf offered a variety of reading

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

## Section of England that Wuthering Heights is Set in



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

- **Influenced by her family tragedy**
  - Mother's early death – she was just a toddler
  - Her 2 oldest sisters Maria and Elizabeth were to die in their childhood too
  - Her only brother Branwell was to dissipate his talents and die with all his bright promise come to naught.
- **Emily Bronte's personality:** brilliant but uncommunicative, inward, shy, reserved girl. She never thrived anywhere but at home => taking long walks on the heath( 小荒地 ) and enjoying the company of her dogs.

→ sense of grim fatalism and  
acceptance of tragedy in life in her novel



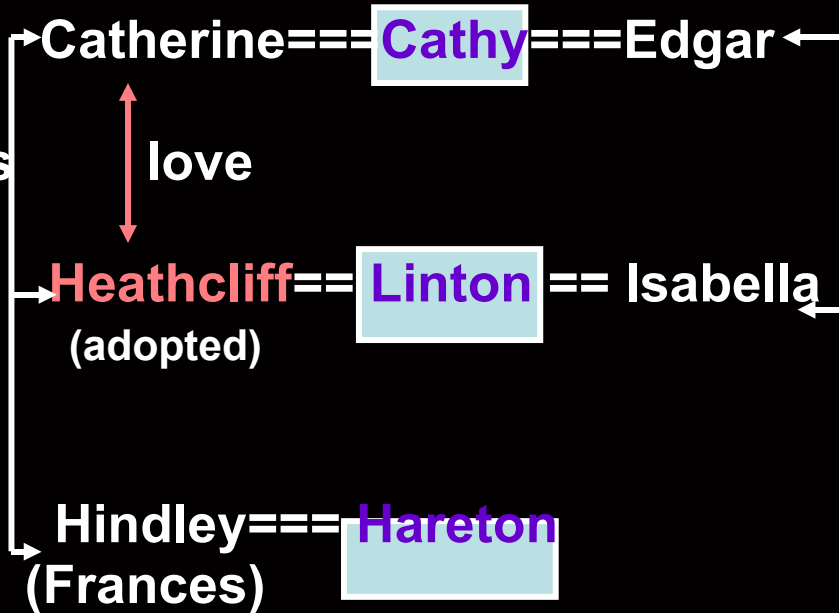
< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

**Wuthering Heights**  
**Mr. Earnshaw**  
**Mrs. Earnshaw**



**Thrushcross Grange**  
**Mr. Linton**  
**Mrs. Linton**

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



## Lovers in the tragedy



Catherine is a strong-willed beauty who shares Heathcliff's wild nature. However, her dual personality contributes to their love tragedy.

Heathcliff arrives as a gypsy orphan. Cathy's father, Mr. Earnshaw, raises him as a son. Except Cathy, all looked down upon him. After Cathy left him, he took furious revenge.



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# A woman with two men

- Catherine and Heathcliff's love is based on their shared perception that they are identical.
  - Catherine declares, famously,
  - "I *am* Heathcliff,"
  - while Heathcliff, upon Catherine's death, wails that he cannot live without his "soul," meaning Catherine.
  - The two do not kiss in dark corners or arrange secret dating, as adulterers do..
- 
- Linton is rich,gentle and well-educated.
  - Catherine's decision to marry Edgar so that she will be "the greatest woman of the neighborhood", she want to live a comfortable and wealthy life .



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



- Years after Catherine left him, Heathcliff came back a rich man
- To take revenge, he seduced Edgar's sister, then deserted her and their child, Linton
- He cheated Cathy's brother, and got the Wuthering Heights
- After little Cathy grew up, he intended to force her to marry his pale son, Linton. However, failed .



< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Themes

Love and Passion

Revenge

Lure of Success and Social Stance  
Class distinctions and Prejudice

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Love and Passion

- Passion, particularly unnatural passion, is a predominant theme of *Wuthering Heights*. The first Catherine's devotion to Heathcliff is immediate and absolute, though she will not marry him, because to do so would degrade her. "Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same, and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire."
- Catherine's passion is contrasted to the coolness of Linton, whose "cold blood cannot be worked into a fever." When he retreats into his library, she explodes, "What in the name of all that feels, has he to do with *books*, when I am dying?"

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Revenge

- Revenge is a major theme of the novel.
- Early in the novel Heathcliff is described as plotting revenge, and the second half of the novel is dominated by Heathcliff's revenge against Hindley and their descendants. Heathcliff's revenge affects everyone in the novel, and he seems to think that if he can revenge Catherine's death, he can be with her.
- However, it is only at the end of the novel, when he has given up his plans for revenge, that he is able to see Catherine and that he is reunited with her.
- Therefore the book also suggests that revenge and vengeance is pointless

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Lure of Success and Social Standing

- Cathy marries Edgar after becoming infatuated with his image as a cultured gentleman with wealth enough to meet her every need.
- Isabella marries Heathcliff after becoming infatuated with an idealized, romantic image of him.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X



# Class distinctions and Prejudice

- Heathcliff's fury erupts after Cathy decides to marry “up” into the world of the Lintons, and not down into the world of Heathcliff.
- The upper crust, the Lintons, look down upon the lower crust, Heathcliff and his kind.

< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

# Moors

- Wide, wild expanses, high but somewhat soggy, and thus infertile.
- Moorland cannot be cultivated, and its uniformity makes navigation difficult.
- The moors serve very well as symbols of the wild threat posed by nature. As the setting for the beginnings of Catherine and Heathcliff's bond (the two play on the moors during childhood),
- the moorland transfers its symbolic associations onto the love affair

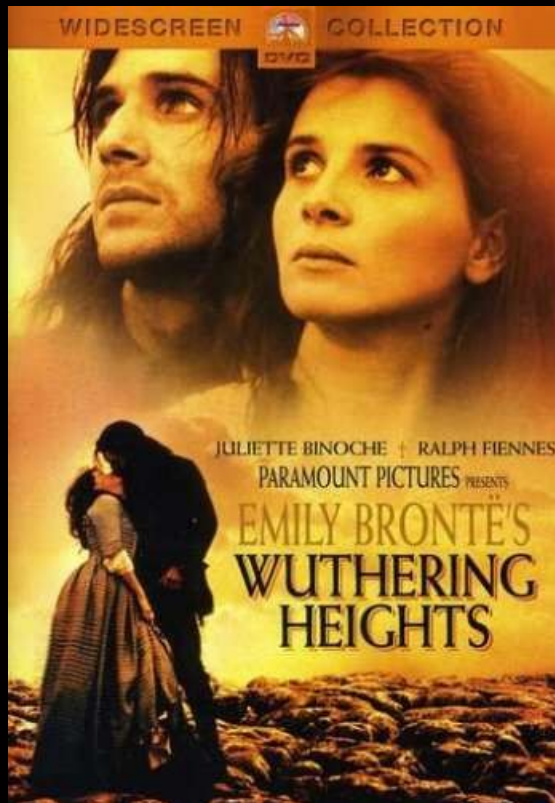
< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X

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< Back

Next >

Lesson Menu

Exit X