

Wuthering Heights

By Emily Bronte



Emily Bronte

1818-1848

- Born in northern England; grew up near the Yorkshire moors
- Never had a career, never married, never left her home (isolated from society)
- Fifth of six children; her sister Charlotte Bronte wrote the famous novel *Jane Eyre*
- Her mother died when she was only three
- She was an “intensely private” person
- Published *Wuthering Heights* in 1846

More about Emily

- Extremely intelligent; taught herself to play the piano and speak German
- Unconventional religious beliefs; rarely attended church; unlike the other children.
- Wrote under a male pen name along with her sisters to publish a book of poems
- Extremely thin—said to have starved herself often out of stubbornness
- Refused to see a doctor or rest when she contracted tuberculosis, until it was too late

Strong-willed...like her characters?

- Emily had an unusual character, extremely unsocial and reserved, with few friends outside her family. She preferred the company of animals to people and rarely travelled, forever yearning for the freedom of Haworth and the moors

Byronic Hero

Heathcliff is regarded as a classic Byronic hero. The Byronic hero was defined by Lord Byron's epic narrative poem, *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* in 1812.

Elements of the Byronic hero:

- a distaste for social institutions and social norms
- conflicting emotions or moodiness
- high levels of intelligence and cunning
- self-criticism
- mysterious origins and a troubled past
- self-destructive tendencies
- a loner, rejected from society



Romanticism, the Gothic novel, and *Wuthering Heights*

Wuthering Heights contains elements of Romanticism and the Gothic novel.

Romantic elements:

- nature as a powerful spiritual force
- descriptions of the countryside
- elevated emotional levels and passion
- a desire to rise above the limitations of ordinary human existence
- a strong interest in death
- a portrayal of opposites – escape and pursuit, life and death
- isolation, both emotional and geographical
- elements of the supernatural

The Gothic novel

Elements of the Gothic novel

- a castle, sometimes ruined or haunted
- sinister, ruined buildings
- extreme landscape and weather
- death and madness
- ancestral curses
- terrifying events
- taboo and sensational topics
- a suggestion of the supernatural
- a villain or villain-hero (Byronic hero) driven by passion
- a heroine wooed by both a good and a dangerous suitor
- revenge

Women's Rights...

During this time period women's rights were changing.



Why this is relevant:

- Emily Brontë wrote *Wuthering Heights* during the beginning of the women's rights movement in England.
- The primary concerns of the movement were the lack of women's right to vote and the lack of married women's property rights. The latter issue arises in *Wuthering Heights*.

Yorkshire Moors

- “Wuthering” means stormy or turbulent/wild
- The moor is an essentially hostile environment but also beautiful.
- A desolate and isolated part of England
- The setting in *Wuthering Heights* reflects the area where Emily Bronte grew up
- Characterized by rugged hills with scattered, hard, black stones with little vegetation

Point of View

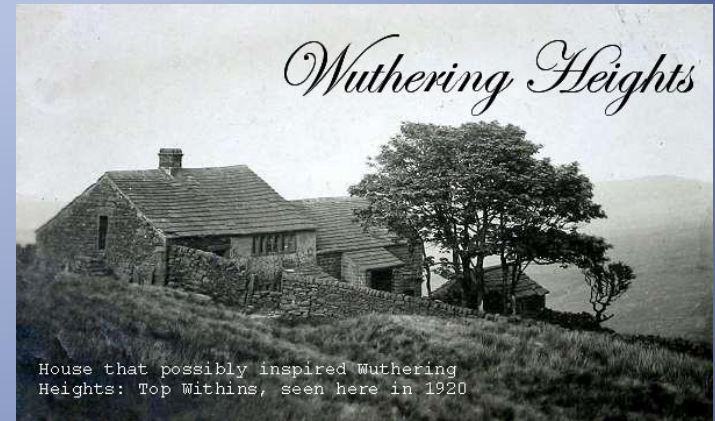
(the perspective from which a story is told)

- Events in *Wuthering Heights* are told from several different points of view
- The novel opens and closes from the point of view of Mr. Lockwood
- The next narrator of the story is Mrs. Ellen (Nelly) Dean; her point of view is “closer” to the story itself than Lockwood’s
- Embedded within the narration of Lockwood and Nelly are points when characters such as Isabella Linton and Cathy Linton speak for themselves.
- The reader must ultimately decide what he/she thinks about each character because of the varying points of view

The Setting

Wuthering Heights is set in three locations:

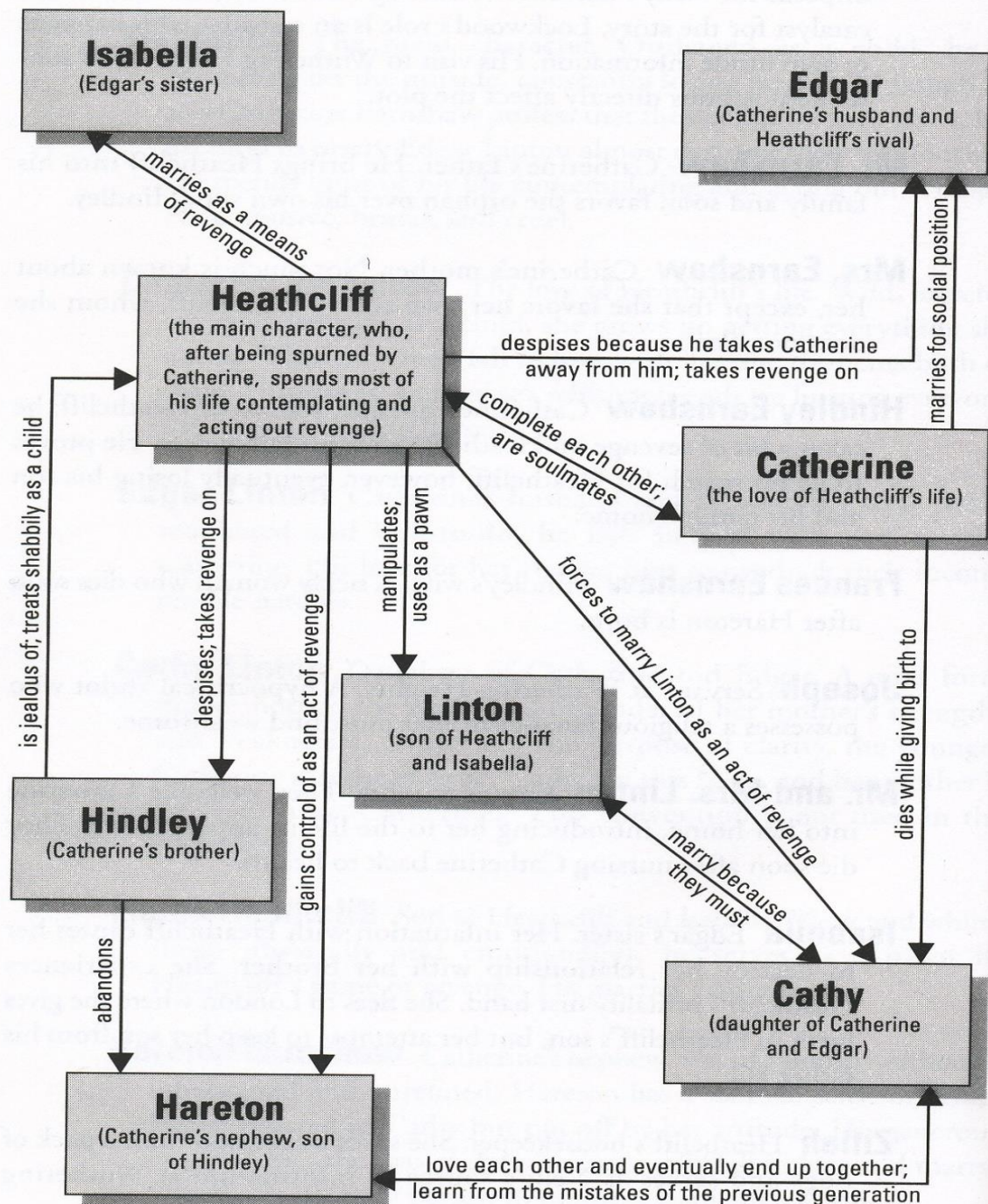
- *Wuthering Heights*
- *Thrushcross Grange*
- *The Yorkshire Moors*



Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange

- Bronte emphasizes the relationship of each house to the natural world around it.
- Wuthering Heights is located on top of a hill where it is exposed to the harsh weather and is dark and gloomy.
- Thrushcross Grange is located in a valley where it is protected by a stone wall. The Grange is also luxuriously decorated.
- The contrasting houses also directly reflect the inhabitants who live inside
- Thrushcross- Lintons; Wuthering Heights- Earnshaws

Character Map of Wuthering Heights



Novel Structure

- Wuthering Heights is told in medias res (Latin for "into the middle of things"). It usually describes a narrative that begins, not at the beginning of a story, but somewhere in the middle — usually at some crucial point in the action. The purpose in *Wuthering Heights* is to add a sense of mystery.

Wuthering Heights

Chapter Summary and Analysis

Chapter 8

- ▶ Hindley's wife Frances gave birth to a child, Hareton, but did not survive long afterwards: she had consumption.
- ▶ Despite the doctor's warnings, Hindley persisted in believing that she would recover, and she seemed to think so too, always saying she felt better, but she died a few weeks after Hareton's birth.
- ▶ Ellen was happy to take care of the baby. Hindley "grew desperate; his sorrow was of a kind that will not lament, he neither wept nor prayed—he cursed and defied—execrated God and man, and gave himself up to reckless dissipation" (65).

Chapter 8

- ▶ The household more or less collapsed into violent confusion—respectable neighbors ceased to visit, except for Edgar, entranced by Catherine.
- ▶ Heathcliff's ill treatment and the bad example posed by Hindley made him "daily more notable for savage sullenness and ferocity."
- ▶ Catherine disliked having Edgar visit Wuthering Heights because she had a hard time behaving consistently when Edgar and Heathcliff met, or when they talked about each other. Edgar's presence made her feel as though she had to behave like a Linton, which was not natural for her.

Chapter 8

- ▶ One day when Hindley was away, Heathcliff was offended to find Catherine dressing for Edgar's visit. He asked her to turn Edgar away and spend the time with him instead but she refused. Edgar was by this time a gentle, sweet young man.
- ▶ He came and Heathcliff left, but Ellen stayed as a chaperone, much to Catherine's annoyance. She revealed her bad character by pinching Ellen, who was glad to have a chance to show Edgar what Catherine was like, and cried out.
- ▶ Catherine denied having pinched her, blushing with rage, and slapped her, then slapped Edgar for reproofing her.

Chapter 8

- ▶ He said he would go; she, recovering her senses, asked him to stay, and he was too weak and enchanted by her stronger will to leave. Brought closer by the quarrel, the two "confess[ed] themselves lovers" (72). Ellen heard Hindley come home drunk, and out of precaution unloaded his gun.

Chapter 9

- ▶ Hindley came in raging drunk and swearing, and caught Ellen in the act of trying to hide Hareton in a cupboard for his safety.
- ▶ Hindley threatened to make Nelly swallow a carving knife, and even tried to force it between her teeth, but she bravely said she'd rather be shot, and spat it out. Then he took up Hareton and said he would crop his ears like a dog, to make him look fiercer, and held the toddler over the banister.
- ▶ Hearing Heathcliff walking below, Hindley accidentally dropped the child, but fortunately Heathcliff caught him.
- ▶ Looking up to see what had happened, he showed "the intensest anguish at having made himself the instrument of thwarting his own revenge" (75). In other words, he hated Hindley so much that he would have liked to have him to kill his own son by mistake.

Chapter 9

- ▶ If it had been dark, Ellen said, "he would have tried to remedy the mistake by smashing Hareton's skull on the steps." Hindley was somewhat shaken, and began to drink more. Heathcliff told Nelly he wished Hindley would drink himself to death, but that was unlikely to happen as he had a strong constitution.
- ▶ In the kitchen Cathy came to talk to Nelly (neither of them knew Heathcliff was in the room, sitting behind the settle).
- ▶ Cathy said she was unhappy, that Edgar had asked her to marry him, and she had accepted.
- ▶ She asked Nelly what she should have answered. Nelly asked her if and why she loved Edgar; she said she did for a variety of material reasons: "he will be rich, and I shall like to be the greatest woman in the neighborhood, and I shall be proud of such a husband" .
- ▶ Nelly disapproved, and Cathy admitted that she was sure she was wrong: she had had a dream in which she went to heaven and was unhappy there because she missed Wuthering Heights. She said:

Chapter 9

- ▶ "I have no more business to marry Edgar Linton than I have to be in heaven; and if the wicked man in there had not brought Heathcliff so low, I shouldn't have thought of it. It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff, now; so he shall never know how I love him; and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same, and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightening, or frost from fire."

Chapter 9

- ▶ Heathcliff left after hearing that it would degrade her to marry him and did not hear Cathy's confession of love.
- ▶ Nelly told Cathy that Heathcliff would be deserted if she married Linton, and Cathy indignantly replied that she had no intention of deserting Heathcliff, but would use her influence to raise him up.
- ▶ Nelly said Edgar wouldn't like that, to which Cathy replied: "Every Linton on the face of the earth might melt into nothing, before I could consent to forsake Heathcliff!".

Chapter 9

- ▶ Later that night it turned out that no one knew where Heathcliff was. Cathy went out in the storm looking for him, unsuccessfully—he had run away.
- ▶ The next morning she was sick. After some time she went to stay with the Lintons a healthier environment and she got better, although Edgar and Isabella's parents caught the fever from her and died.
- ▶ She returned to Wuthering Heights "saucier, and more passionate, and haughtier than ever" (88).

Chapter 9

- ▶ When Nelly said that Heathcliff's disappearance was her fault, Cathy stopped speaking to her. She married Edgar three years after Mr. Earnshaw's death, and Ellen unwillingly went to live with her at the Grange, leaving Hareton to live with his wretched father and Joseph.

Chapter 10

- ▶ Catherine got along surprisingly well with her husband and Isabella, mostly because they never opposed her. She had "seasons of gloom and silence" (92) though. Edgar took these for the results of her serious illness.
- ▶ When they had been married almost a year, Heathcliff came back. Nelly was outside that evening and he asked her to tell Catherine someone wanted to see her.
- ▶ He was quite changed: a tall and athletic man who looked as though he might have been in the army, with gentlemanly manners and educated speech, though his eyes contained a "half-civilized ferocity" (96). Catherine was overjoyed and didn't understand why Edgar didn't share her happiness.

Chapter 10

- ▶ Heathcliff stayed for tea, to Edgar's peevish irritation. It transpired that Heathcliff was staying at Wuthering Heights, paying Hindley generously, but winning his host's money at cards. Catherine wouldn't let Heathcliff actually hurt her brother.
- ▶ In the following weeks, Heathcliff often visited the Grange. Edgar Linton's sister, Isabella, a "charming young lady of eighteen" (101) became infatuated with Heathcliff, to her brother's dismay. Isabella got angry at Catherine for keeping Heathcliff to herself, and Catherine warned her that Heathcliff was a very bad person to fall in love with and that Isabella was no match for him:

Chapter 10

- ▶ "I never say to him to let this or that enemy alone, because it would be ungenerous or cruel to harm them, I say "Let them alone, because I should hate them to be wronged"; and he'd crush you, like a sparrow's egg, Isabella, if he found you a troublesome charge."
- ▶ Catherine teased Isabella by telling Heathcliff in her presence that Isabella loved him. Humiliated, Isabella tried to run away, but Catherine held her.
- ▶ Isabella scratched Catherine's arm and managed to escape, and Heathcliff, alone with Catherine, expressed interest in marrying Isabella for her money and to enrage Edgar. He said he would beat Isabella if they were married because of her "mawkish, waxen face".

Wuthering Heights

Chapter Summary and Analysis

Chapter 11

- ▶ Nelly went to visit Wuthering Heights to see how Hindley and Hareton were doing.
- ▶ She saw little Hareton outside, but he didn't recognize her as his former nurse, so he threw a rock at her and cursed.
- ▶ She found that his father had taught him how to curse, and that Hareton liked Heathcliff because he defended Hareton from Hindley's curses, and allowed Hareton to do what he liked.
- ▶ Nelly was going to go in when she saw Heathcliff there; frightened, she ran back home.

Chapter 11

- ▶ The next time Heathcliff visited Thrushcross Grange, Nelly saw him kiss Isabella in the courtyard.
- ▶ She told Catherine what had happened, and when Heathcliff came in the two had an argument. Heathcliff said he had a right to do as he pleased, since Catherine was married to someone else.
- ▶ He said: "You are welcome to torture me to death for your amusement, only, allow me to amuse myself a little in the same style".

Chapter 11

- ▶ Nelly found Edgar, who came in while Catherine was scolding Heathcliff.
- ▶ Edgar scolded Catherine for talking to "that blackguard" (113), which made her very angry, since she had been defending the Lintons. Edgar ordered Heathcliff to leave, who scornfully ignored him.
- ▶ Edgar motioned for Nelly to fetch reinforcements, but Catherine angrily locked the door and threw the key into the fire when Edgar tried to get it from her.
- ▶ Catherine and Heathcliff mocked the humiliated and furious Edgar, so he hit Heathcliff and went out by the back door to get help.
- ▶ Nelly warned Heathcliff that he would be thrown out by the male servants if he stayed, so he chose to leave.

Chapter 11

- ▶ Left with Nelly, Catherine expressed her anger at her husband and Heathcliff: "Well, if I cannot keep Heathcliff for my friend—if Edgar will be mean and jealous, I'll try to break their hearts by breaking my own".
- ▶ Edgar came in and demanded to know whether Catherine would drop Heathcliff's acquaintance, and she had a temper tantrum, ending with a faked "fit of frenzy" .
- ▶ When Nelly revealed that the fit was faked, Catherine ran to her room and refused to come out or to eat for several days.

Chapter 12

- ▶ After three days in which Catherine stayed alone in her room, Edgar sat in the library, and Isabella moped in the garden, Catherine called Nelly for some food and water because she thought she was dying.
- ▶ She ate some toast, and was indignant to hear that Edgar wasn't frantic about her. She said: "How strange! I thought, though everybody hated and despised each other, they could not avoid loving me—and they have all turned to enemies in a few hours".
- ▶ It became clear to Ellen that Catherine was delirious, and thought she was back in her room at Wuthering Heights. After seeing her reflection in a mirror, Catherine became frightened because she thought there was no mirror there.

Chapter 12

- ▶ She opened the window and talked to Heathcliff (who was not there) as though they were children again. Edgar came in and was very concerned for Catherine, and angry at Ellen for not having told him what was going on.
- ▶ Going to fetch a doctor, Ellen noticed that Isabella's little dog almost dead, hanging by a handkerchief on the gate. She rescued it, and found Dr. Kenneth, who told her that he had seen Isabella walking for hours in the park with Heathcliff.

Chapter 12

- ▶ Moreover, Dr. Kenneth had heard a rumor that Isabella and Heathcliff were planning to run away together.
- ▶ Ellen rushed back to the Grange found that Isabella had indeed disappeared, and a little boy told her he had seen the girl riding away with Heathcliff.
- ▶ Ellen told Edgar, hoping he would rescue his sister from her ill-considered elopement, but he coldly refused to do so.

Chapter 13

- ▶ In the next two months Catherine "encountered and conquered the worst shock of what was denominated a brain fever" (134), but it became clear that she would never really recover.
- ▶ She was pregnant. Heathcliff and Isabella returned to Wuthering Heights, and Isabella wrote Edgar an apology and a plea for forgiveness, to which he gave no reply. She later sent Ellen a longer letter asking whether Heathcliff were a demon or crazy, and recounting her experiences.

Chapter 13

- ▶ She found Wuthering Heights dirty, uncivilized and unwelcoming: Joseph was rude to her, Hareton was disobedient, Hindley was a half-demented wreck of a man, and Heathcliff treated her cruelly. He refused to let her sleep in his room, which meant she had to stay in a tiny garret.
- ▶ Hindley had a pistol with a blade on it, with which he dreamed of killing Heathcliff, and Isabella coveted it for the power it would have given her. She was miserable and regretted her marriage heartily.

Chapter 14

- ▶ Ellen, distressed by Edgar's refusal to console Isabella, went to visit her at Wuthering Heights. She told Isabella and Heathcliff that Catherine would "never be what she was" (135) and that Heathcliff should not bother her anymore.
- ▶ Heathcliff asserted that he would not leave her to Edgar's lukewarm care, and that she loved him much more than her husband.
- ▶ He said that if he had been in Edgar's place he would never have interfered with Catherine's friendships, although he would kill the friend the moment Catherine no longer cared about him.

Chapter 14

- ▶ Ellen urged Heathcliff to treat Isabella better, and he expressed his scorn and hatred for his wife (in her presence, of course).
- ▶ He said Isabella knew what he was when she married him: she had seen him hanging her pet dog. Isabella told Ellen that she hated Heathcliff, and he ordered her upstairs so he could talk to Ellen.
- ▶ Alone with her, he told her that if she did not arrange an interview for him with Catherine, he would force his way in armed, and she agreed to give Catherine a letter from him.

Chapter 15

- ▶ The Sunday after Ellen's visit to Wuthering Heights, while most people were at church, she gave Catherine Heathcliff's letter.
- ▶ Catherine was changed by her sickness: she was beautiful in an unearthly way and her eyes "appeared always to gaze beyond, and far beyond" (158). Ellen had left the door open, so Heathcliff walked in and Catherine eagerly waited for him to find the right room.
- ▶ Their reunion was bitter-sweet: though passionately glad to be reunited, Catherine accused Heathcliff of having killed her, and Heathcliff warned her not to say such things when he would be tortured by them after her death—besides, she had been at fault by abandoning him.

Chapter 15

- ▶ She asked him to forgive her, since she would not be at peace after death, and he answered: "It is hard to forgive, and to look at those eyes, and feel those wasted hands... I love my murderer—but yours! How can I?" (163)
- ▶ They held each other closely and wept until Ellen warned them that Linton was returning. Heathcliff wanted to leave, but Catherine insisted that he stay, since she was dying and would never see him again.

Chapter 15

- ▶ He consented to stay, and "in the midst of the agitation, [Ellen] was sincerely glad to observe that Catherine's arms had fallen relaxed... She's fainted or dead, so much the better..." (164)
- ▶ Linton came in, and Heathcliff handed him Catherine's body and told him to take care of her: "Unless you be a fiend, help her first then you shall speak to me!" He told Nelly he would wait outside for news of Catherine's welfare, and left.

Wuthering Heights

Chapter Summary and Analysis

Chapter 16

- ▶ Around midnight, Catherine gave birth to a daughter (also named Catherine—she is Catherine Linton, the teenage girl Lockwood saw at Wuthering Heights).
- ▶ Catherine Earnshaw died two hours later without recovering consciousness. No one cared for the infant at first, and Ellen wished it had been a boy: with no son, Edgar's heir was Isabella, Heathcliff's wife.
- ▶ Catherine's corpse looked peaceful and beautiful, and Ellen decided that she had found heaven at last.

Chapter 16

- ▶ She went outside to tell Heathcliff and found him leaning motionless against an ash tree.
- ▶ He knew Catherine was dead, and asked Ellen how it had happened, attempting to conceal his anguish. Ellen was not fooled, and told him that Catherine had died peacefully, like a girl falling asleep.
- ▶ Heathcliff cursed Catherine and begged her to haunt him so he would not be left in "this abyss, where I cannot find you!... I *cannot* live without my soul!" (169) He dashed his head against the tree and howled "like a savage beast getting goaded to death with knives and spears." Ellen was appalled.

Chapter 16

- ▶ On Tuesday, when Catherine's body was still lying in the Grange, strewn with flowers, Heathcliff took advantage of Edgar's short absence from the bedchamber to see her again, and to replace Edgar's hair in Catherine's locket with some of his own.
- ▶ Ellen noticed the change, and enclosed both locks of hair together.
- ▶ Catherine was buried on Friday in a green slope in a corner of the kirkyard, where, Ellen said, her husband now lies as well.

Chapter 17

- ▶ The next day, while Ellen was rocking baby Catherine, Isabella came in laughing giddily. Isabella was pale, her face was cut, and her thin silk dress was torn by briars.
- ▶ She asked Ellen to call a carriage for the nearest town, Gimmerton, since she was escaping from her husband, and to have a maid get some clothes ready.
- ▶ Then she allowed Ellen to give her dry clothes and bind up the wound. Isabella tried to destroy her wedding ring by throwing it in the fire, and told Ellen what had happened to her in the last few days.

Chapter 17

- ▶ Isabella said that she hated Heathcliff so much that she could feel no compassion for him even when he was in agony following Catherine's death.
- ▶ He hadn't eaten for days, and spent his time at Wuthering Heights in his room, "praying like a methodist; only the deity he implored was senseless dust and ashes" (175).
- ▶ The evening before, Isabella sat reading while Hindley drank morosely. When they heard Heathcliff returning from his watch over Catherine's grave, Hindley warned Isabella of his plan to lock Heathcliff out, and try to kill him with his bladed pistol if he came in.

Chapter 17

- ▶ Isabella would have liked Heathcliff to die, but refused to help in the scheme, so when Heathcliff knocked she refused to let him in, saying: "If I were you, I'd go stretch myself over her grave, and die like a faithful dog... The world is not worth living in now, is it?" (178)
- ▶ Hindley went to the window to kill Heathcliff, but the latter grabbed the weapon so the blade shut on Hindley's wrist; then he forced his way in. He kicked and trampled Hindley, who had fainted from the loss of blood, then roughly bound up the wound, and told Joseph and Isabella to clean up the blood.

Chapter 17

- ▶ The next morning when Isabella came down, Hindley "was sitting by the fire, deadly sick; his evil genius, almost as gaunt and ghastly, leant by the chimney" (180).
- ▶ After eating breakfast by herself, she told Hindley how he had been kicked when he was down, and mocked Heathcliff for having so mistreated his beloved's brother, saying to Hindley: "everyone knows your sister would have been living now, had it not been for Mr. Heathcliff" (182).
- ▶ Heathcliff was so miserable that he could hardly retaliate, so Isabella went on and said that if Catherine had married him, he would have beaten her the way he beat Hindley. Heathcliff threw a knife at Isabella, and she fled, knocking down Hareton, "who was hanging a litter of puppies from a chairback in the doorway" (183). She ran to the Grange.

Chapter 17

- ▶ That morning, Isabella left, never to return to the moors again. Later, in her new home near London, she gave birth to a son, named Linton, "an ailing, peevish creature." Isabella died of illness when her son was about twelve years old.
- ▶ Edgar grew resigned to Catherine's death, and loved his daughter, who he called Cathy, very much. Ellen points out the difference between his behavior and Hindley's in a similar situation.

Chapter 17

- ▶ Hindley died, "drunk as a lord" (186), about six months after Catherine. He was just 27, meaning that Catherine had been 19, Heathcliff was 20, and Edgar was 21.
- ▶ Ellen grieved deeply for him they had been the same age and were brought up together. She made sure he was decently buried.
- ▶ She wanted to take Hareton back to the Grange, but Heathcliff said he would keep him, to degrade him as much as he himself had been degraded by Hindley. If Edgar insisted on taking Hareton, Heathcliff threatened to claim his own son Linton, so Ellen gave the idea up.

Chapter 18

- ▶ In the next twelve years, Cathy Linton grew up to be "the most winning thing that ever brought sunshine into a desolate house" (189).
- ▶ She was fair like a Linton, except for her mother's dark eyes. High-spirited but gentle, she seemed to combine the good qualities of both the Lintons and the Earnshaws, though she was a little saucy because she was accustomed to getting her way.
- ▶ Her father kept her within the park of the Grange, but she dreamed of going to see some cliffs, Penistone Craggs, which were located not too far away on the moor.

Chapter 18

- ▶ When Isabella fell ill, she wrote to Edgar to come visit her, so he was gone for three weeks.
- ▶ One day Cathy asked Ellen to give her some food for a ramble around the grounds—she was pretending to be an Arabian merchant going across the desert with her caravan of a pony and three dogs.
- ▶ She left the grounds, however, and later Ellen went after her on the road to Penistone Crag, which passed Wuthering Heights. She found Cathy safe and sound there—Heathcliff wasn't home, and the housekeeper had taken her in—chattering to Hareton, now 18 years old.

Chapter 18

- ▶ After Ellen arrived, Cathy offended Hareton by asking whether he was the master's son, and when he said he wasn't, deciding that he must be a servant.
- ▶ The housekeeper told Cathy that Hareton was her cousin, which made her cry. Hareton offered her a puppy to console her, which she refused.
- ▶ Ellen told Cathy that her father didn't want her to go to Wuthering Heights, and asked her not to tell Edgar about the incident, to which Cathy readily agreed.

Chapter 19

- ▶ Isabella died, and Edgar returned home with his half-orphaned nephew, Linton, a "pale, delicate, effeminate boy" (200) with a "sickly peevishness" in his appearance.
- ▶ Cathy was excited to see her cousin, and took to babying him when she saw that he was sickly and childish. That very evening, Joseph came to demand the child on Heathcliff's behalf—Linton was, after all, Heathcliff's son.
- ▶ Ellen told him Edgar was asleep, but Joseph went into Edgar's room and insisted on taking Linton. Edgar wished to keep Linton at the Grange, but could not legally claim him, so he could only put it off until the next morning.

Chapter 20

- ▶ The next morning, Ellen woke Linton early and took him over to Wuthering Heights, promising dishonestly that it was only for a little while.
- ▶ Linton was surprised to hear he had a father, since Isabella had never spoken of Heathcliff. When they arrived, Heathcliff and Joseph expressed their contempt for the delicate boy.
- ▶ Heathcliff told Linton that his mother was a "wicked slut" (208) because she did not tell Linton about his father.

Chapter 20

- ▶ Ellen asked Heathcliff to be kind to the boy, and he said that he would indeed have him carefully tended, mostly because Linton was heir to the Grange, so he wanted him to live at least until Edgar was dead and he inherited.
- ▶ So when Linton refused to eat the homely oatmeal Joseph offered him, Heathcliff ordered that his son be given tea and boiled milk instead. When Ellen left, Linton begged her not to leave him there.

Wuthering Heights

CHAPTER SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Chapter 21

- ▶ Cathy missed her cousin when she woke up that morning, but time made her forget him. Linton grew up to be a selfish and disagreeable boy, continually complaining about his health.
- ▶ On Cathy's sixteenth birthday she and Ellen went out on the moors, and strayed onto Heathcliff's land, where he found them.
- ▶ He invited them to come to Wuthering Heights, telling Ellen that he wanted Linton and Cathy to marry so he would be doubly sure of inheriting the Grange.

Chapter 21

- ▶ Cathy was glad to see her cousin, though she was somewhat taken back by his invalidish behavior.
- ▶ Hareton, at Heathcliff's request, showed Cathy around the farm, though he was shy of her and she teased him unkindly. Linton mocked Hareton's lack of education in front of Cathy, showing himself to be mean-spirited.
- ▶ Later, Cathy told her father where she had been, and asked him why he had not allowed the cousins to see each other.
- ▶ Heathcliff had told her that Edgar was still angry at him because he thought Heathcliff too poor to marry Isabella. Edgar told her of Heathcliff's wickedness, and forbade her to return to Wuthering Heights.

Chapter 21

- ▶ Cathy was unhappy, and began a secret correspondence with Linton. By the time Ellen discovered it, they were writing love letters—affected ones on Linton's part, that Ellen suspected had been partially dictated by Heathcliff. Ellen confronted Cathy and burned the letters, threatening to tell her father if Cathy continued to write to Linton.

Chapter 22

- ▶ That fall, Edgar caught a cold that confined him to the house all winter. Cathy grew sadder after the end of her little romance, and told Ellen that she was afraid of being alone after Ellen and her father die. Taking a walk, Cathy ended up briefly stranded outside of the wall of the park, when Heathcliff rode by.
- ▶ He told her that Linton was dying of a broken heart, and that if she were kind, she would visit him. Ellen told her that Heathcliff was probably lying and couldn't be trusted, but the next day Cathy persuaded her to accompany her on a visit to Wuthering Heights.

Chapter 23

- ▶ At Wuthering Heights, Cathy and Ellen heard "a peevish voice" (236) calling Joseph for more hot coals for the fire. Following the sound of the voice, they discovered Linton, who greeted them rather ungraciously: "No don't kiss me. It takes my breath dear me!" (237) He complained that writing to Cathy had been very tiring, and that the servants didn't take care of him as they ought, and that he hated them.
- ▶ He said that he wished Cathy would marry him, because wives always loved their husbands, upon which Cathy answered that this was not always so. Her father had told her that Isabella had not loved Heathcliff.

Chapter 23

- ▶ Upon hearing this, Linton became angry and answered that Catherine's mother had loved Heathcliff and not Edgar. Cathy pushed his chair and he coughed for a long time, for which she was very sorry. Linton took advantage of her regret and bullied her like a true hypochondriac, making her promise to return the next day to nurse him.
- ▶ When Cathy and Ellen were on their way home, Ellen expressed her disapproval of Linton and said he would die young—a “small loss” (242). She added that Cathy should on no account marry him. Cathy was not so sure he would die, and was much more friendly toward him.
- ▶ Ellen caught a cold and was confined to her room. Cathy spent almost all her time taking care of her and Edgar, but she was free in the evenings. As Ellen later found out, she used this time to visit Linton.

Chapter 24

- ▶ Three weeks later, Ellen was much better, and discovered Cathy's evening visits to Wuthering Heights. Cathy told her what had happened:
- ▶ Cathy bribed a servant with her books to take care of saddling her pony and keep her escapades secret. On her second visit, she and Linton had an argument about the best way of spending a summer afternoon: Linton wanted to lie in the heather and dream it away, and she wanted to rock in a treetop among the birds.
- ▶ "He wanted to lie in an ecstasy of peace;" Cathy explained "I wanted all to sparkle, and dance in a glorious jubilee" (248). They made up and played ball until Linton became unhappy because he always lost, but as usual, Cathy consoled him for that.

Chapter 24

- ▶ Cathy looked forward to her next visit, but when she arrived, she met Hareton, who showed her how he had learned to read his name. She mocked him for it. (Here Ellen rebuked Cathy for having been so rude to her cousin. Cathy was surprised by Ellen's reaction, but went on.) When she was reading to Linton, Hareton came in angrily and ordered them into the kitchen.
- ▶ Shut out of his favorite room, Linton staged a frightening temper tantrum, wearing an expression of "frantic, powerless fury" (251) and shrieking that he would kill Hareton. Joseph pointed out that he was showing his father's character.

Chapter 24

- ▶ Linton coughed blood and fainted; Cathy fetched Zillah. Hareton carried the boy upstairs but wouldn't let Cathy follow. When she cried, Hareton began to regret his behavior. Cathy struck him with her whip and rode home.
- ▶ On the third day, Linton refused to speak to her except to blame her for the events of the preceding day, and she left resolving not to return. However, she did eventually, and took Linton to task for being so rude.
- ▶ He admitted that he was worthless, but said that she was much happier than he and should make allowances. Heathcliff hated him, and he was very unhappy at Wuthering Heights. However, he loved Cathy.

Chapter 24

- ▶ Cathy was sorry Linton had such a distorted nature, and felt she had an obligation to be his friend. She had noticed that Heathcliff avoided her, and reprimanded Linton when he did not behave well to her.
- ▶ Ellen told Edgar about the visits, and he forbade Cathy to return to Wuthering Heights, but wrote to Linton that he could come to the Grange if he liked.

Chapter 25

- ▶ Ellen points out to Lockwood that these events only happened the year before, and she hints that Lockwood might become interested in Cathy, who is not happy at Wuthering Heights. Then she continues with the narrative.
- ▶ Edgar asked Ellen what Linton was like, and she told him that he was delicate and had little of his father in him—Cathy would probably be able to control him if they married.
- ▶ Edgar admitted that he was worried about what would happen to Cathy if he were to die. As spring advanced Edgar resumed his walks, but although Cathy took his flushed cheeks and bright eyes for health, Ellen was not so sure. He wrote again to Linton, asking to see him.

Chapter 25

- ▶ Linton answered that his father refused to let him visit the Grange, but that he hoped to meet Edgar outside sometime. He also wrote that he would like to see Cathy again, and that his health was improved.
- ▶ Edgar could not consent, because he could not walk very far, but the two began a correspondence. Linton wrote well, without complaining about his health (since Heathcliff carefully edited his letters) and eventually Edgar agreed to Cathy's going to meet Linton on the moors, with Ellen's supervision.
- ▶ Edgar wished Cathy to marry Linton so she would not have to leave the Grange when he died—but he would not have wished it if he knew that Linton was dying as fast as he was.

Wuthering Heights

CHAPTER SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Chapter 26

- ▶ When Ellen and Cathy rode to meet Linton, they had to go quite close to Wuthering Heights to find him. He was evidently very ill, though he claimed to be better: "his large blue eyes wandered timidly over her; the hollowness round them, transforming to haggard wildness, the languid expression they once possessed" (261).
- ▶ Linton had a hard time making conversation with Cathy, and was clearly not enjoying their talk, so she decided to leave. Surprisingly, Linton then looked anxiously towards Wuthering Heights and begged her to stay longer, and to tell her father he was in "tolerable health" (262).
- ▶ Cathy half-heartedly agreed, and Linton soon fell into some kind of slumber. He woke suddenly and seemed to be terrified that his father might come. Eventually, Cathy and Ellen returned home, perplexed by his strange behavior.

Chapter 27

- ▶ A week later, Ellen and Cathy were to visit Linton again. Edgar was much sicker, and Cathy didn't want to leave him, but he encouraged her relationship with Linton, hoping to ensure his daughter's welfare thereby. Linton "received us with greater animation on this occasion; not the animation of high spirits though, nor yet of joy; it looked more like fear" (266).
- ▶ Cathy was angry that she had had to leave her father, and she was disgusted by Linton's abject admissions of terror of his father. Heathcliff came upon them, and asked Ellen how much longer Edgar had to live: he was worried that Linton would die before Edgar, thus preventing the marriage.

Chapter 27

- ▶ Heathcliff then ordered Linton to get up and bring Cathy into the house, which he did, against Cathy's will: "Linton... implored her to accompany him, with a frantic importunity that admitted no denial" (269). Heathcliff pushed Ellen into the house as well and locked the door behind them.
- ▶ When Cathy protested that she must get home to her father, Heathcliff slapped her brutally and made it clear that she wouldn't leave Wuthering Heights until she married Linton. Linton showed his true character: as Heathcliff said, "He'll undertake to torture any number of cats if their teeth be drawn, and their claws pared" (274).

Chapter 27

- ▶ Cathy and Heathcliff declared their mutual hatred. Ellen remained imprisoned separately from Cathy for five days with Hareton as her jailer: he gave her food but refused to speak to her beyond what was necessary. She did not know what was happening to Cathy.

Chapter 28

- ▶ On the fifth afternoon of the captivity, Zillah released Ellen, explaining that Heathcliff said she could go home and that Cathy would follow in time to attend her father's funeral. Edgar was not dead yet, but soon would be.
- ▶ Ellen asked Linton where Catherine was, and he answered that she was shut upstairs, that they were married, and that he was glad she was being treated harshly.
- ▶ Apparently he resented that she hadn't wished to marry him. He was annoyed by her crying, and was glad when Heathcliff struck her as punishment.

Chapter 28

- ▶ Ellen rebuked Linton for his selfishness and unkindness, and went to the Grange to get help. Edgar was glad to hear his daughter was safe and would be home soon: he was almost dead, at the age of 39. Upon hearing of Heathcliff's plot to take control of his estate, Edgar sent for Mr. Green the local attorney, to change his will so that his money would be held in a trust for Cathy.
- ▶ However, Heathcliff bought off Mr. Green and the lawyer did not arrive until it was too late to change the will. The men sent to Wuthering Heights to rescue Cathy returned without her, having believed Heathcliff's tale that she was too sick to travel. Very early the next morning, however, Catherine came back by herself, joyful to hear that her father was still alive.

Chapter 28

- ▶ She had convinced Linton to help her escape. Ellen asked her to tell Edgar that she would be content with Linton so that he could die happy, to which she agreed. Edgar died "blissfully" (283). Catherine was stony-eyed with grief. Mr. Green, now employed by Heathcliff, gave all the servants but Ellen notice to quit, and hurried the funeral.

Chapter 29

- ▶ Heathcliff came to the Grange to fetch Catherine to Wuthering Heights to take care of Linton, who was dying in terror of his father. When Ellen begged him to allow Cathy and Linton to live at the Grange, Heathcliff explained that he wanted to get a tenant for the estate (Mr. Lockwood, as it turned out).
- ▶ Catherine agreed to go because Linton was all she had to love, and explained that she pitied Heathcliff because no one loved him. Then she left the room.
- ▶ Heathcliff, in a strange mood, told Ellen what he had done the night before. He had bribed the sexton who was digging Edgar's grave to uncover his Catherine's coffin, so he could see her face again—he said it was hers yet.

Chapter 29

- ▶ The sexton told him that the face would change if air blew on it, so he tore himself away from contemplating it, and struck one side of the coffin loose and bribed the sexton to put his body in with Catherine's when he was dead.
- ▶ Ellen was shocked, and scolded him for disturbing the dead, at which he replied that on the contrary she had haunted him night and day for eighteen years, and—"yesternight, I was tranquil.
- ▶ I dreamt I was sleeping my last sleep, by that sleeper, with my heart stopped, and my cheek frozen against hers" (289).

Chapter 29

- ▶ Heathcliff then told Ellen what he had done the night after Catherine's burial (the night he beat up Hindley). He had gone to the kirkyard and dug up the coffin "to have her in his arms again" (289), but while he was wrenching at the screws he suddenly felt sure of her living presence.
- ▶ He was consoled, but tortured as well: from that night for 18 years he constantly felt as though he could almost see her, but not quite. He tried sleeping in her room, but constantly opened his eyes to see if she were there, he felt so sure she was.
- ▶ Heathcliff finished his story, and Cathy sadly bade farewell to Ellen.

Chapter 30

- ▶ Ellen has now more or less reached the present time in her narrative, and tells Lockwood what Zillah told her about Cathy's reception at Wuthering Heights. Cathy spent all her time in Linton's room, and when she came out she asked Heathcliff to call a doctor, because Linton was very sick.
- ▶ Heathcliff replied: "We know that! But his life is not worth a farthing" (292). Cathy was thus left to care for her dying cousin all by herself—Zillah, Hareton and Joseph would not help her—and became haggard and bewildered from lack of sleep. Finally Linton died, and when Heathcliff asked Cathy how she felt, she said: "He's safe and I'm free."
- ▶ I should feel very well but you have left me so long to struggle against death, alone, that I feel and see only death! I feel like death!" (294) Hareton was sorry for her.

Chapter 30

- ▶ Cathy was ill for the next two weeks. Heathcliff informed her that Linton had left all of his and his wife's property to himself.
- ▶ One day when Heathcliff was out, Cathy came downstairs. Hareton made shy, friendly advances, which she angrily rejected.
- ▶ He asked Zillah to ask Cathy to read for them (he was illiterate, but wished to learn) but she refused on the grounds that she had been forsaken during Linton's illness, and had no reason to care for Hareton or Zillah.
- ▶ Hareton said that he had in fact asked Heathcliff to be allowed to relieve her of some of her duties, but was denied.

Chapter 30

- ▶ Cathy was in no mood to forgive, however, and thus became the unfriendly young woman whom Lockwood had seen at Wuthering Heights. According to Zillah: "She'll snap at the master himself, and as good dares him to thrash her; and the more hurt she gets, the more venomous she grows" (297).
- ▶ Ellen wanted to get a cottage and live there with Cathy, but Heathcliff would not permit it. Ellen now believes that the only way Cathy might escape from Wuthering Heights is to marry a second time.

Wuthering Heights

CHAPTER SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS

Chapter 31

- ▶ Lockwood goes to Wuthering Heights to see Heathcliff and tell him he is moving to London and thus doesn't want to stay at the Grange any longer.
- ▶ He notices that Hareton is "as handsome a rustic as need be seen" (299). He gives Cathy a note from Ellen.
- ▶ Initially, Cathy thinks it is from Lockwood and rejects it, but when Lockwood makes it clear that it isn't, Hareton snatches it away, saying that Heathcliff should look at it first (he isn't home yet).
- ▶ Cathy tries to hide her tears, but Hareton notices and lets the letter drop beside her seat. She reads it and expresses her longing for freedom, telling Lockwood that she can't even write Ellen back because Heathcliff has destroyed her books. Hareton has all the other books in the house: he has been trying to learn to read.

Chapter 31

- ▶ Catherine mocks him for his clumsy attempts at self-education: "Those books, both prose and verse, were consecrated to me by other associations, and I hate to hear them debased and profaned in his mouth!" (302) Poor Hareton fetches the books and throws them into her lap, saying he doesn't want to think about them any longer.
- ▶ She persists in her mockery, reading aloud in "the drawling tone of a beginner," for which Hareton slaps her and throws the books into the fire. Lockwood "read[s] in his countenance what anguish it was to offer that sacrifice to spleen."
- ▶ Heathcliff enters and Hareton leaves, "to enjoy his grief and anger in solitude" (303). Heathcliff moodily confides to Lockwood that Hareton reminds him more of Catherine Earnshaw than he does of Hindley.

Chapter 31

- ▶ He also tells Lockwood that he will still have to pay his full rent even if he leaves the Grange, to which Lockwood, insulted, agrees. Heathcliff invites Lockwood to dinner, and informs Cathy that she can eat with Joseph in the kitchen.
- ▶ Lockwood eats the cheerless meal and leaves, contemplating the possibility of his courting Cathy and bringing her "into the stirring atmosphere of the town" (304).

Chapter 32

- ▶ In the fall of 1802, later that year, Lockwood returns to the Grange because he is passing through the area on a hunting trip.
- ▶ He finds the Grange more or less empty: Ellen is now at Wuthering Heights, and an old woman had replaced her. Lockwood visits Wuthering Heights to see what has changed.
- ▶ He notices flowers growing around the old farm house, and overhears a pleasant lesson from indoors.
- ▶ Cathy, sounding "sweet as a silver bell" (307) is teaching Hareton, now respectably dressed, to read.

Chapter 32

- ▶ The lesson is interspersed with kisses and very kind words. Lockwood doesn't want to disturb them, and goes around to the kitchen to find Ellen singing and Joseph complaining as usual.
- ▶ Ellen is glad to see Lockwood and tells them that he will have to settle the rent with her, since she is acting for Cathy. Heathcliff has been dead for three months. Ellen tells Lockwood what has happened in his absence.
- ▶ A fortnight after Lockwood left the Grange the previous spring, Nelly was summoned to Wuthering Heights, where she gladly went, hoping to keep Cathy out of Heathcliff's way. She was pleased to see Cathy, but saddened by the way the young woman's personality had changed.

Chapter 32

- ▶ One day when Cathy, Ellen, and Hareton were sitting in the kitchen, Cathy grew tired of the animosity between herself and her cousin and offered him a book, which he refused.
- ▶ She left it close to him, but he never touched it. Hareton was injured in a shooting accident in March, and since Heathcliff didn't like to see him, he spent a lot of time sitting in the kitchen, where Cathy found many reasons to go.
- ▶ Finally her efforts at reconciliation succeeded, and they became loving friends, much to Joseph's indignation.

Chapter 33

- ▶ The next morning Ellen found Catherine with Hareton in the garden, planting a flower garden in the middle of Joseph's cherished currant bushes.
- ▶ She warned them that they would be punished for destroying the bushes, but Hareton promised to take the blame.
- ▶ At tea, Cathy was careful not to talk to Hareton too much, but she put flowers into his porridge, which made him laugh and made Heathcliff angry.
- ▶ Heathcliff assumed Cathy had laughed, but Hareton quietly admitted his fault. Joseph came in and incoherently bewailed the fate of his bushes.

Chapter 33

- ▶ Hareton said he had uprooted some, but would plant them again, and Cathy said it had been at her instigation. Heathcliff called her an "insolent slut" (319) and Cathy accused him of having stolen her land and Hareton's.
- ▶ Heathcliff commanded Hareton to throw her out. The poor boy was torn between his two loyalties and tried to persuade Catherine to leave.
- ▶ Heathcliff seemed "ready to tear Catherine in pieces" (319) when he suddenly calmed down and told everyone to leave.
- ▶ Later Hareton asked Catherine not to speak ill of Heathcliff in front of him because Hareton considers him to be his father.

Chapter 33

- ▶ Cathy understood his position and refrained from insulting her oppressor from then on. Ellen was glad to see her two 'children' happy together; Hareton quickly shook off his ignorance and boorishness and Catherine became sweet again.
- ▶ When Heathcliff saw them together he was struck by their resemblances to Catherine Earnshaw, and told Ellen that he had lost his motivation for destruction. He no longer took any interest in everyday life.
- ▶ Catherine and Hareton didn't appear to him to be distinct characters of their own, but apparitions that evoked his beloved.
- ▶ He also felt Hareton to be very much like himself as a youth. But most importantly, his Catherine haunted him completely: "The most ordinary faces of men, and women my own features mock me with a resemblance."

Chapter 33

- ▶ The entire world is a dreadful collection of memoranda that she did exist, and that I have lost her!" (324) He told Nelly that he felt a change coming—that he could no longer exist in the living world when he felt so close to that of the dead, or the immortal.
- ▶ Nelly wondered whether he was ill, but decided that he was in fine health and mind, except for his “monomania” (324) for Catherine Earnshaw.

Chapter 34

- ▶ In the next few days Heathcliff all but stopped eating, and spent the nights walking outside.
- ▶ Catherine, happily working on her garden, came across him and was surprised to see him looking "very much excited, and wild, and glad" (327).
- ▶ Ellen urged him to eat, and indeed at dinner he took a heaping plate, but abruptly lost interest in food, seemed to be watching something by the window, and went outside.

Chapter 34

- ▶ Hareton followed to ask him what was wrong, and Heathcliff told him to go back to Catherine and not bother him.
- ▶ He came back an hour or two later, with the same "unnatural appearance of joy" (328), shivering the way a "tight-stretched cord vibrates a strong thrilling, rather than trembling."
- ▶ Ellen asked him what was going on, and he answered that he was within sight of his heaven, hardly three feet away. His heaven, needless to say, was being buried alongside Catherine Earnshaw.

Chapter 34

- ▶ Later that evening, Ellen found Heathcliff sitting in the dark with all the windows open. His black eyes and pale face frightened her.
- ▶ Ellen half-wondered if he were a vampire, but told herself that she was foolish, since she had watched him grow up.
- ▶ The next day he was even more restless and could hardly speak coherently, and stared with fascination at nothing with an "anguished, yet raptured expression" (331).
- ▶ Early the next morning, \neg he declared he wanted to settle things with his lawyer, Mr. Green . Ellen said he should eat, and get some sleep, but he replied that he could do neither: "My soul's bliss kills my body, but does not satisfy itself" (333).

Chapter 34

- ▶ Ellen told him to repent his sins, and he thanked her for the reminder and asked her to make sure that he was buried next to Catherine: "I have nearly attained my heaven; and that of others is altogether unvalued, and uncoveted by me." Heathcliff behaved more and more strangely, talking openly of Catherine.
- ▶ Ellen called the doctor, but Heathcliff refused to see him. The next morning she found him dead in his room, by the open window, wet from the rain and cut by the broken window-pane, with his eyes fiercely open and wearing a savage smile.
- ▶ Hareton mourned deeply for him. The doctor wondered what could have killed him, although Ellen knew that it was Heathcliff's depression.

Chapter 34

- ▶ He was buried alongside Catherine's remains, as he had asked. People claim that his ghost roams the moors with Catherine. Ellen once came across a little boy crying because he believed he had seen Heathcliff's phantom with a woman and dared not pass them.
- ▶ Cathy and Hareton are engaged, and they plan to move to the Grange, leaving Wuthering Heights to Joseph and the ghosts.
- ▶ Lockwood notices on his walk home that the church was falling apart from neglect, and he found the three headstones—Catherine's, Edgar's, and Heathcliff's—covered by varying degrees of heather. He "wondered how anyone could ever imagine unquiet slumbers, for sleepers in that quiet earth" (337).

Wuthering Heights

Chapter Summary and Analysis

Chapter One

- ▶ It is 1801, and the narrator, Mr. Lockwood relates how he has just returned from a visit to his new landlord, Mr. Heathcliff.
- ▶ Lockwood, a self-described misanthropist, is renting Thrushcross Grange in an effort to get away from society following a failure at love.
- ▶ He had fallen in love with a "real goddess" (6), but when she returned his affection he acted so coldly she "persuaded her mamma to decamp." He finds that relative to Heathcliff, however, he is extremely sociable.

Chapter One

- ▶ Heathcliff, "a dark skinned gypsy, in aspect, in dress and manners a gentleman" (5) treats his visitor with a minimum of friendliness, and **Wuthering Heights** the farm where Heathcliff lives, is just as foreign and unfriendly.
- ▶ 'Wuthering' means stormy and windy in the local dialect. As Lockwood enters, he sees a name carved near the door: Hareton Earnshaw.

Chapter One

- ▶ Dangerous-looking dogs inhabit the bare and old-fashioned rooms, and threaten to attack Lockwood: when he calls for help Heathcliff implies that Lockwood had tried to steal something.
- ▶ The only other inhabitants of Wuthering Heights are an old servant named Josef and a cook—neither of whom are much friendlier than Heathcliff.

Chapter One

- ▶ Despite his rudeness, Lockwood finds himself drawn to Heathcliff: he describes him as intelligent, proud and morose—an unlikely farmer.
- ▶ Heathcliff gives Lockwood some wine and invites him to come again. Although Lockwood suspects this invitation is insincere, he decides he will return because he is so intrigued by the landlord.

Chapter Two

- ▶ Annoyed by the housework being done in the Grange, Lockwood pays a second visit to Wuthering Heights, arriving there just as snow begins to fall.
- ▶ The weather is cold, the ground is frozen, and his reception matches the bleak unfriendliness of the moors.
- ▶ After yelling at the old servant Joseph to open the door, he is finally let in by a peasant-like young man.

Chapter Two

- ▶ The bare kitchen is warm, and Lockwood assumes that the young and beautiful girl there is Mrs. Heathcliff.
- ▶ He tries to make conversation but she is consistently scornful and inhospitable, and he only embarrasses himself.
- ▶ There is "a kind of desperation" (11) in her eyes. She refuses to make him tea unless Heathcliff said he could have some.
- ▶ The young man and Heathcliff come in for tea.

Chapter Two

- ▶ The young man behaves boorishly and seems to suspect Lockwood of making advances to the girl.
- ▶ Heathcliff demands tea "savagely" (12), and Lockwood decides he doesn't really like him.
- ▶ Trying to make conversation again, Lockwood gets into trouble first assuming that the girl is Heathcliff's wife, and then that she is married to the young man, who he supposes to be Heathcliff's son.
- ▶ He is rudely corrected, and it transpires that the girl is Heathcliff's daughter-in-law but her husband is dead, as is Heathcliff's wife.

Chapter Two

- ▶ The young man is Hareton Earnshaw. It is snowing hard and Lockwood requests a guide so he can return home safely, but he is refused: Heathcliff considers it more important that Hareton take care of the horses.
- ▶ Joseph, who is evidently a religious fanatic, argues with the girl, who frightens him by pretending to be a witch.

Chapter Two

- ▶ The old servant doesn't like her reading.
- ▶ Lockwood, left stranded and ignored by all, tries to take a lantern, but Joseph offensively accuses him of stealing it, and sets dogs on him.
- ▶ Lockwood is humiliated and Heathcliff and Hareton laugh. The cook, Zilla , takes him in and says he can spend the night.

Chapter Three

- ▶ Zillah quietly shows Lockwood to a chamber which, she says, Heathcliff does not like to be occupied.
- ▶ She doesn't know why, having only lived there for a few years. Left alone, Lockwood notices the names " Catherine Earnshaw " "Catherine Linton," and "Catherine Heathcliff" scrawled over the window ledge.
- ▶ He leafs through some old books stacked there, and finds that the margins are covered in handwriting—evidently the child Catherine's diary.

Chapter Three

- ▶ He reads some entries which evoke a time in which Catherine and Heathcliff were playmates living together as brother and sister, and bullied by Joseph (who made them listen to sermons) and her older brother Hindley.
- ▶ Apparently Heathcliff was a 'vagabond' taken in by Catherine's father, raised as one of the family, but when the father died Hindley made him a servant and threatened to throw him out, to Catherine's sorrow.

Chapter Three

- ▶ Lockwood then falls asleep over a religious book, and has a nightmare about a fanatical preacher leading a violent mob.
- ▶ Lockwood wakes up, hears that a sound in his dream had really been a branch rubbing against the window, and falls asleep again.
- ▶ This time he dreams that he wanted to open the window to get rid of the branch, but when he did, a "little, ice-cold hand" (25) grabbed his arm, and a voice sobbed "let me in."

Chapter Three

- ▶ He asked who it was, and was answered: "Catherine Linton. I'm come home, I'd lost my way on the moor."
- ▶ He saw a child's face and, afraid, drew the child's wrist back and forth on the broken glass of the window so that blood soaked the sheets.
- ▶ Finally he gets free, and insists that he won't let the creature in, even if it has been lost for twenty years, as it claims. He wakes up screaming.

Chapter Three

- ▶ Heathcliff comes in, evidently disturbed and confused, unaware that Lockwood is there.
- ▶ Lockwood tells him what happened, mentioning the dream and Catherine Linton's name, which distresses and angers Heathcliff.
- ▶ Lockwood goes to the kitchen, but on his way he hears Heathcliff at the window, despairingly begging 'Cathy' to come in "at last" (29). Lockwood is embarrassed by his host's obvious agony.

Chapter Three

- ▶ Morning comes: Lockwood witnesses an argument between Heathcliff and the girl, who has been reading. Heathcliff bullies her, and she resists spiritedly. Heathcliff walks Lockwood most of the way home in the snow.

Wuthering Heights

Chapter Summary and Analysis

Chapter 4

- ▶ Lockwood is bored and a little weak after his adventures, so he asks his housekeeper, Ellen Dean, to tell him about Heathcliff and the old families of the area.
- ▶ She says Heathcliff is very rich and a miser, though he has no family, since his son is dead.
- ▶ The girl living at Wuthering Heights was the daughter of Ellen's former employers, the Lintons, and her name was Catherine.

Chapter 4

- ▶ She is the daughter of the late Mrs. Catherine Linton, was born an Earnshaw, thus Hareton's aunt. Heathcliff's wife was Mr. Linton's sister. Ellen is fond of the younger Catherine, and worries about her unhappy situation.
- ▶ The narrative switches to Ellen's voice, whose language is much plainer than Lockwood's.
- ▶ She is a discreet narrator, rarely reminding the listener of her presence in the story, so that the events she recounts feel immediate.
- ▶ She says she grew up at Wuthering Heights, where her mother worked as a wet nurse.

Chapter 4

- ▶ One day, Mr. Earnshaw, offered to bring his children Hindley (14 years old) and Catherine (about 6) a present each from his upcoming trip to Liverpool.
- ▶ Hindley asked for a fiddle and Catherine for a whip, because she was already an excellent horsewoman.
- ▶ When Earnshaw returned, however, he brought with him a "dirty, ragged, black-haired child" (36) found starving on the streets. The presents had been lost or broken.
- ▶ The boy was named Heathcliff and taken into the family, though he was not entirely welcomed by Mrs. Earnshaw, Ellen, and Hindley.

Chapter 4

- ▶ Heathcliff and Catherine became very close, and he became Earnshaw's favorite. Hindley felt that his place was usurped, and took it out on Heathcliff, who was hardened and stoic.
- ▶ For example, Earnshaw gave them each a colt, and Heathcliff chose the finest, which went lame. Heathcliff then claimed Hindley's, and when Hindley threw a heavy iron at him, Heathcliff threatened to tell Earnshaw about it if he didn't get the colt.

Chapter 5

- ▶ Earnshaw grew old and sick, and with his illness he became irritable and somewhat obsessed with the idea that people disliked his favorite, Heathcliff.
- ▶ Heathcliff was spoiled to keep Earnshaw happy, and Hindley, who became more and more bitter about the situation, was sent away to college.
- ▶ Joseph, already "the wearisomest, self-righteous pharisee that ever ransacked a Bible to rake the promises to himself, and fling the curses to his neighbors" (42) used his religious influence over Earnshaw to distance him from his children.
- ▶ Earnshaw thought Hindley was worthless, and didn't like Cathy's playfulness and high spirits, so in his last days he was irritable and discontented.

Chapter 5

- ▶ Cathy was "much too fond" of Heathcliff, and liked to order people around. Heathcliff would do anything she asked. Cathy's father was harsh to her and she became hardened to his reproofs.
- ▶ Finally Earnshaw died one evening when Cathy had been resting her head against his knee and Heathcliff was lying on the floor with his head in her lap.
- ▶ When she went to kiss her father good night, she discovered he was dead and the two children began to cry, but that night Ellen saw that they had managed to comfort each other with "better thoughts than [she] could have hit on" (44) imagining the old man in heaven.

Chapter 6

- ▶ Hindley returns home, unexpectedly bringing his wife, a flighty woman with a strange fear of death and symptoms of consumption (although Ellen did not at first recognize them as such).
- ▶ Hindley also brought home new manners and rules, and informed the servants that they would have to live in inferior quarters.
- ▶ Most importantly, he treated Heathcliff as a servant, stopping his education and making him work in the fields like any farm boy.
- ▶ Heathcliff did not mind too much at first because Cathy taught him what she learned, and worked and played with him in the fields. They stayed away from Hindley as much as possible and grew up uncivilized and free.

Chapter 6

- ▶ "It was one of their chief amusements," Ellen recalls, "to run away to the moors in the morning and remain there all day, and after punishment grew a mere thing to laugh at" .
- ▶ One day they ran off after being punished, and at night Heathcliff returned. He told Ellen what had happened.
- ▶ He and Cathy ran to the Grange to see how people lived there, and they saw the Linton children Edgar and Isabella in a beautiful room, crying after an argument over who could hold the pet dog.

Chapter 6

- ▶ Amused and scornful, Heathcliff and Cathy laughed; the Lintons heard them and called for their parents.
- ▶ After making frightening noises, Cathy and Heathcliff tried to escape, but a bulldog bit Cathy's leg and refused to let go.
- ▶ She told Heathcliff to escape but he would not leave her, and tried to pry the animal's jaws open. Mr. and Mrs. Linton mistook them for thieves and brought them inside.
- ▶ When Edgar Linton recognized Cathy as Miss Earnshaw, the Lintons expressed their disgust at the children's wild manners and especially at Heathcliff's being allowed to keep Cathy company.

Chapter 6

- ▶ They coddled Cathy and drove Heathcliff out; he went back to Wuthering Heights on foot after assuring himself that Cathy was all right.
- ▶ When Hindley found out, he welcomed the chance to separate Cathy and Heathcliff, so Cathy was to stay for a prolonged visit with the Lintons while her leg healed and Heathcliff was forbidden to speak to her.

Chapter 7

- ▶ Ellen resumes the narrative. Cathy stayed at Thrushcross Grange for five weeks, until Christmas.
- ▶ When she returned home she had been transformed into a young lady with that role's attending restrictions: she could no longer kiss Ellen without worrying about getting flour on her dress.
- ▶ She hurt Heathcliff's feelings by comparing his darkness and dirtiness to Edgar and Isabella's fair complexions and clean clothes.

Chapter 7

- ▶ The boy had become more and more neglected in her absence, and was cruelly put in his place by Hindley and especially by Cathy's new polish. Cathy's affection for Heathcliff had not really changed, but he did not know this and ran out, refusing to come in for supper. Ellen felt sorry for him.
- ▶ The Linton children were invited for a Christmas party the next day. That morning Heathcliff humbly approached Ellen and asked her to "make him decent" because he was "going to be good" (55).
- ▶ Ellen applauded his resolution and reassured him that Cathy still liked him and that she was grieved by his shyness.

Chapter 7

- ▶ When Heathcliff said he wished he could be more like Edgar—fair, rich, and well-behaved—Ellen told him that he could be perfectly handsome if he smiled more and was more trustful.
- ▶ However, when Heathcliff, now "clean and cheerful" (57), tried to join the party, Hindley told him to go away because he was not fit to be there.
- ▶ Edgar unwisely made fun of his long hair and Heathcliff threw hot applesauce at him, and was taken away and flogged by Hindley.
- ▶ Cathy was angry at Edgar for mocking Heathcliff and getting him into trouble, but she didn't want to ruin her party.

Chapter 7

- ▶ She kept up a good front, but didn't enjoy herself, thinking of Heathcliff alone and beaten. At her first chance after her guests gone home, she crept into the garret where he was confined.
- ▶ Later Ellen gave Heathcliff dinner, since he hadn't eaten all day, but he ate little and when she asked what was wrong, he said he was thinking of how to avenge himself on Hindley.
- ▶ At this point Ellen's narrative breaks off and she and Lockwood briefly discuss the merits of the active and contemplative life, with Lockwood defending his lazy habits and Ellen saying she should get things done rather than just telling Lockwood the story. He persuades her to go on.