Classic Readers

Wuthering Heights

Emily Brontë

retold by Jenny Dooley

Express Publishing

Chapter 8

Linton's Real Nature

Although she had only spent one short evening with him, Linton's departure caused Cathy great disappointment, and it was a long time before she stopped asking when she was going to see him again. In fact, it was not for another two years that anyone from Wuthering Heights crossed our path. This total lack of contact between neighbouring families might seem strange to an outsider, but there was so much ill feeling that neither family made any attempt at approaching the other.

I occasionally saw Zillah in the street, and she told me about Linton. Apparently, the boy was weak and difficult – so much so that even Heathcliff found his company unbearable.

Ultimately, the day of Cathy's sixteenth birthday came. It was beautiful spring weather, but this day was usually a day on which she had to amuse herself, since it was also the anniversary of her mother's death, and Mr Linton would be in mourning. Cathy was in high spirits and persuaded me to go for a walk with her on the moors. She was running ahead of me looking for birds' nests, when I saw her encounter two men. As I got nearer, I realised they were Heathcliff and Hareton. Cathy did not know Heathcliff, but of course she remembered her cousin Hareton. When he discovered who she was, Heathcliff invited us both back to Wuthering Heights.

"I think both you and Nelly would be better off if you had a little rest. My son is there – I believe you have met before."

I was not deceived by his unusually polite tone and I tried to persuade Cathy to refuse the invitation. In spite of this, she accepted it probably because she was so keen to see Linton again.

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As we walked along, Hareton and Cathy went on ahead of Heathcliff and me. Having known him since he was young, I was not as afraid of Heathcliff as others were and I told him bluntly that I thought he had bad intentions. He did not try to conceal his plan.

"My plan is that the two cousins, Cathy and Linton, will fall in love and get married."

"But if Linton died – and he is very weak – Cathy would inherit Wuthering Heights."

"No, I'm afraid not. In his will, all of Linton's property will go to me."

We arrived at the house just in time to witness the reunion between Cathy and Linton. Though a little younger than Cathy, Linton had grown taller and was quite attractive. Cathy, now a young woman, was full of life. She was overjoyed to see Linton again and angry with Heathcliff for having kept them apart.

"Why don't you ever visit the Grange with Linton, Mr Heathcliff? To live all these years so near, and yet never see each other is very odd."

"I would be happy for you to come and visit here but, I'd better warn you, your father does not like me. We quarrelled badly a long time ago because I married his sister, and he did not think I was good enough for her. So if you want to visit, you mustn't mention it to your father, Cathy."

Cathy was shocked to learn this and insisted that Linton visit her at the Grange instead. Linton was horrified by this proposal.

"It's too far for me. To walk four miles would kill me. You must come here, but not every day – once or twice a week."

Cathy agreed. I also noticed that Heathcliff seemed very annoyed with Linton's weakness.

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Activities

Catherine's Ghost

Comprehension

Read or listen to Chapter 1 and correct the following statements, using complete sentences.

1 The story takes place around 1900.
2 Heathcliff is the narrator.
3 Mr Lockwood is the owner of Thrushcross Grange.
4 The atmosphere is very happy and friendly for the most part.
5 On Mr Lockwood's second visit to Wuthering Heights, everyone is more relaxed.
6 Mr Lockwood walks home in the snowstorm.
7 Mr Lockwood is awoken at night by Isabella Linton's ghost.
8 Heathcliff sympathises with Mr Lockwood after his frightening experience.

What do you think?

A Discuss the following questions.

1 Throughout the first chapter, the atmosphere at Wuthering Heights is rather gloomy. Describe the bleak atmosphere, referring to the text.
2 Compare and contrast Mr Lockwood's feelings during his stay at Wuthering Heights, and after he returns to Thrushcross Grange.
3 What clues are we given in this chapter to Heathcliff's relationship with Catherine Earnshaw? Refer to the text to justify your answer.

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B ***Find the following extracts from Chapter 1 and discuss their meanings.***

1 p.12 *"The dogs are not pets. They are trained to guard the house, but they don't take a liking to people who touch things."*
2 p. 12 *"I'm sorry, Mr Lockwood. Guests are so rare in this house that my dogs and I hardly know how to receive them."*
3 p. 15 *"An awful Sunday! I wish my father were back again. Hindley is a dreadful substitute – he treats Heathcliff terribly. He and I are going to rebel – we took our first step this evening."*

Language Practice

Refer to the text to match the words and make collocations. Then use them to complete the sentences.

set	clothes
kitchen	ledge
roaring	wind
working	utensils
howling	fire
scratching	eyes
window	noises

1 They sat by the ..... to warm themselves.
2 The ..... on the window from the tree branches kept her awake all night.
3 The moment they ..... on the house, they decided to buy it.
4 The kitten had climbed onto the ..... but was afraid to jump down.
5 All the latest ..... make cooking fun.
6 They were still in their ..... when they stopped at the pub for a friendly chat.
7 The ..... sweeping across the area was all they could hear during the storm.

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3 *How many paragraphs is the review divided into? What is each paragraph about? Note this format when writing your review.*

4 *Read the sample review again and underline the words and phrases that you think are useful. Separate them into five categories; verb forms, nouns, adjectives, adverbs and linking words/phrases. What purpose does each category serve when writing a book review?*

Verb forms	encounter .....
Nouns	battlefront .....
Adjectives	modern .....
Adverbs	eventually .....
Linking words/phrases	in the end .....

5 *Note the following useful expressions when organising your thoughts on writing. Add any others that you feel might help you create sentences for the review.*

1 I **strongly/thoroughly** recommend ...
2 The story **is set in/takes place in** ...
3 It is a **beautifully/poorly** written story of ...
4 The story is **written/told** by ...
5 It is **interesting/boring/thrilling/entertaining** ...
5 The author **fascinatingly/(un)successfully** accomplishes the task of ...
6 The **tragic/dramatic/wonderful/unexpected/confusing** ending ...

6 *Write a review (between 120-180 words) of "Wuthering Heights". Use both the sample review written for you and the checklist (1-5), following it as a set of guidelines.*

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Wuthering Heights

Heathcliff and Catherine love each other deeply but, in a strange turn of events, she marries someone else and dies in childbirth. Heathcliff is heartbroken and vows to get even with those who took her away from him. Will he succeed? What happens to Catherine's daughter? Will Heathcliff ever find peace?

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5 Level 6

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