

Emily Brontë

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

Cathy's life is changed forever when her father brings home an abandoned child he names Heathcliff. As Cathy and Heathcliff grow up, their love for each other is as wild as the moors. But, can love win over jealousy? Can hearts filled with pain and suffering learn to forgive?

In *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë shows us the destructive power of hatred and revenge, but she also explores love in its many forms and, in the end, her story is about hope.

In this reader you will find:

- Information about Emily Brontë's life
- Sections focusing on background and context
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension activities
- B2 First-style activities
- Exit test

Tags

Love and Hatred Jealousy and Revenge Victorian Society

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B2

Emily Brontë

Stage 4 B2

WUTHERING HEIGHTS

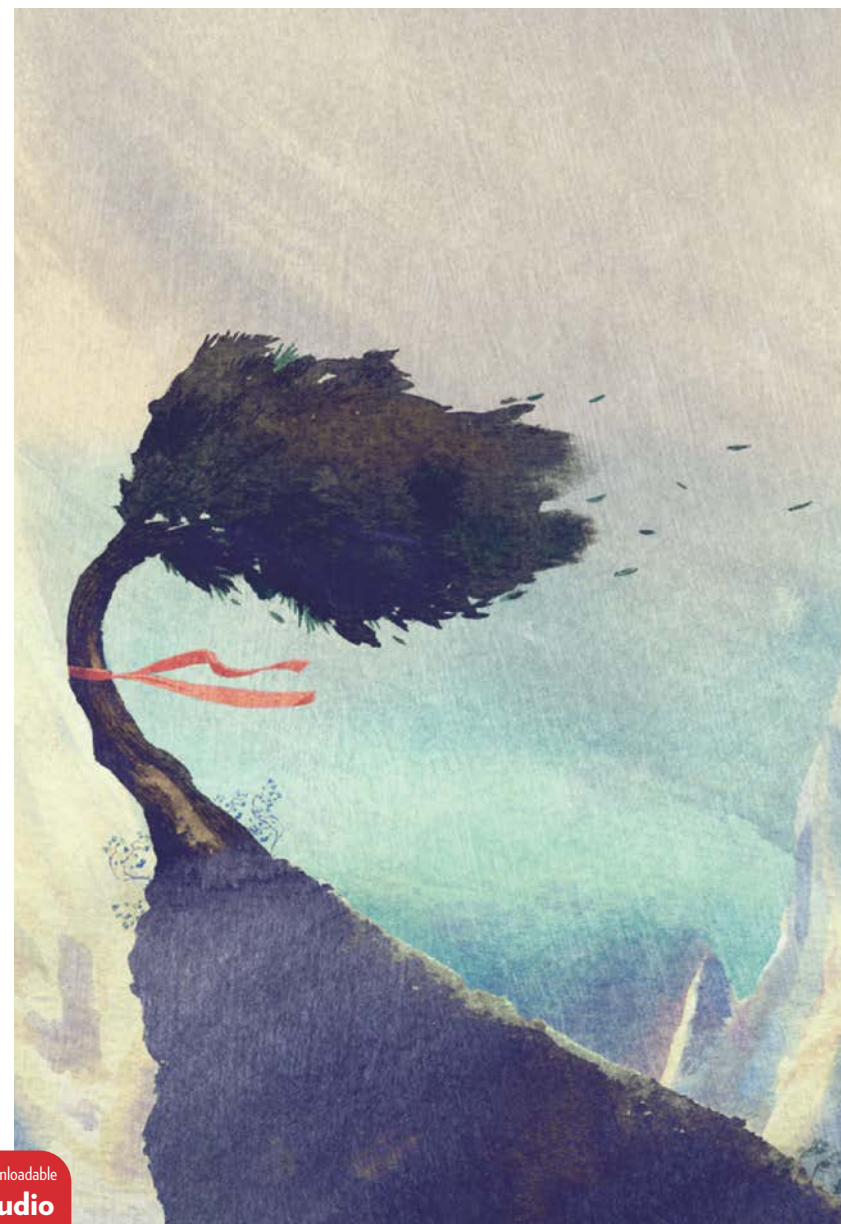
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Emily Brontë

WUTHERING HEIGHTS



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Book brief

- 1 *Wuthering Heights* is considered a classic of English literature, written by author Emily Brontë and published in 1847.
- 2 The novel is set in and around two houses on the Yorkshire moors – *Wuthering Heights*, owned by the Earnshaws, and Thrushcross Grange, owned by the Lintons.
- 3 Lockwood tells the story of these two families and their relationship with the Earnshaw's adopted son, Heathcliff, through the words of a servant, Nelly, who tells him most of the story.
- 4 The action of Nelly's story starts in the 1770s, and is finally continued by Lockwood until the end of the story in 1803.
- 5 Main themes include social prejudice, revenge, love and hatred.

Emily Brontë

Wuthering Heights

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Main Characters

Catherine Earnshaw

Mr Earnshaw's daughter. Cathy is torn between her wild passion for Heathcliff and her social ambition.



Edgar Linton

He's almost the ideal gentleman, rich and handsome.



Cathy Linton

Edgar Linton and Catherine Earnshaw's daughter. This Catherine is gentler than her mother.



Hindley Earnshaw

Catherine's brother. As a child he's jealous of the love that his father, Mr Earnshaw, shows towards Heathcliff.

Hareton Earnshaw



Son of Hindley and Frances Earnshaw. He's good-hearted and wants to improve himself.

Heathcliff



He's an abandoned child who's brought to live at Wuthering Heights by Mr Earnshaw. He falls in love with Catherine, Mr Earnshaw's daughter.

Isabella Linton

Edgar Linton's sister. She falls in love with Heathcliff and marries him.



Linton Heathcliff

Heathcliff's son by Isabella. He's weak, demanding and always ill.

Before you Read

Vocabulary

- 1** Read the following description of the area around the Brontë's home village of Haworth, in West Yorkshire. Match the words with their correct definitions below. Use a dictionary to help you where necessary.

Brontë Country is an area in West Yorkshire. It's a windswept land of hills, purple-flowered heather and wild moors. It's the inspiration for this classic novel by Emily Brontë. The geology in Brontë Country is mostly a dark sandstone which makes the crags and scenery here appear bleak and desolate. Up in the high moors, small torrents and waterfalls race down into green wooded valleys, past fields of sheep and small trees, which have been shaped and bent by the wind.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 ☐ windswept | a empty and cold |
| 2 ☐ heather | b type of rock |
| 3 ☐ wild | c low, evergreen plant, with small flowers |
| 4 ☐ moors | d windy |
| 5 ☐ sandstone | e steep, sharp large rocks |
| 6 ☐ crags | f deserted, abandoned |
| 7 ☐ bleak | g growing in a natural state, without human care |
| 8 ☐ desolate | h open land with few trees |

- 2** Match the job or title to the correct definition.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 ☐ tenant | a a person paid to work in someone's house |
| 2 ☐ landlord | b a man's legally married female partner |
| 3 ☐ servant | c a person who pays rent |
| 4 ☐ housekeeper | d (<i>old fashioned</i>) the man who owns and gives orders in his house |
| 5 ☐ wife | e owner of rented land or houses |
| 6 ☐ daughter-in-law | f (<i>old fashioned</i>) the woman of the house who gives everyone orders |
| 7 ☐ Master | g a woman paid to run a house |
| 8 ☐ Mistress | h your son's wife |

Writing and Grammar

- 3 Read the following paragraph from the first chapter of the book, then fill in the gaps, using the correct verb in the correct tense or form.

describe • be well named • be • (not) grow •
hear • lean • moan • roar • escape

Wuthering Heights (1) the name of Mr Heathcliff's dark house, and it (2) I'm sure. 'Wuthering' is a word they use here in the north of England (3) the sound of the wind as it (4) across these high moors. Indeed, the few trees around the house were short and (5) straight, but (6) over as if (7) the wind. On this bright spring day, I almost (8) the wind (9) through the house and into the hearts of its inhabitants.

Speaking

21st Century Skills

- 4 Would you like to live in Wuthering Heights? Why? Why not? Use the ideas below to discuss with a friend.

old house	→	modern house
farmhouse	→	block of flats
city	→	countryside
warm climate	→	cool climate
neighbours	→	lonely
noisy	→	quiet
warm and cosy	→	big rooms
full of character	→	practical



- 5 Imagine you're arriving at a lonely farmhouse for the first time. Discuss the following questions in pairs.

21st Century Skills

- How would you feel if the people you met there didn't look pleased to see you?
- How would you feel if the people you met were rude to you?
- How would you feel if you saw a ghost in the house?

‘Let me in! Let me in!’

2 As I rode up to the grey, stone house, my heart warmed towards the man in his forties that I saw standing before me, his black eyes watching me suspiciously. I felt sure we’d be friends.

‘Mr Heathcliff?’ I asked.

The man nodded.

‘Mr Lockwood, sir, your new tenant at Thrushcross Grange.’

Mr Heathcliff nodded again, and through his teeth said ‘Come in.’

The words sounded more like ‘go away’ than an invitation to enter his farmhouse, which sat firmly and low against the hillside.

‘Joseph, take Mr Lockwood’s horse,’ he said.

The thin servant who appeared had an expression that would make vinegar taste sweet in comparison.

‘The Lord help us!’ he muttered, as he led my horse to the stable*.

Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr Heathcliff’s dark house, and it’s well named I’m sure. ‘Wuthering’ is a word they use here in the north of England to describe the sound of the wind as it roars* across these high moors*. Indeed, the few pine trees around the house were short and didn’t grow straight, but leant over as if to escape the wind. On this bright spring day, I almost heard the wind moaning* through the house and into the hearts of its inhabitants.

As I followed Mr Heathcliff, I saw, carved* in stone above the door,

stable the building where horses are kept
roar when something moving fast makes a long, loud noise (for a person)
moors open, wild countryside

moan make a long, low sound because you’re suffering
carved cut into

Wuthering Heights

‘Hareton Earnshaw’ and the year ‘1500’.

The front door went straight into a great room full of dark furniture which looked as old as the house. I went to touch one of the dogs, but it snarled* at me viciously*. Mr Heathcliff and I didn’t exchange many words, and after a few minutes I got up to go, promising him that I’d come to see him the next day. His face didn’t show any enthusiasm for my next visit, but I was curious to get to know this man, so withdrawn* from the world.

The next day, the weather was bad. I’d decided to stay at home, but the servants hadn’t lit the fires and it was cold at Thrushcross Grange, so I walked the four miles up to Wuthering Heights. The first snow was falling as I arrived. I knocked and banged on the door, but there was no answer. Eventually, the sour* face of Joseph appeared from a barn*.

‘Master’s busy and the Missus won’t let you in,’ and with that, he disappeared.

It began to snow heavily and still no one opened the door. Then, through the snow I saw a young farm worker. He didn’t speak, but took me to the back of the house, through the kitchen, and into the big room I’d seen the day before.

A fire burned in the huge fireplace, and a meal was set on the table. Sitting in a chair near the fire was a beautiful young woman. She didn’t move as I entered and didn’t speak, but stared at me with a coldness that matched the weather.

‘Mrs Heathcliff?’ I asked, but she didn’t answer. Trying to start a conversation, I said how pretty the kittens were that I saw in a corner of the room.

snarl (for a dog) show its teeth while making an aggressive sound
viciously violently, aggressively

withdrawn removed, detached
sour bitter
barn a large farm building

‘Strange choice of pet,’ she said, unpleasantly.

When I looked more closely I realised my mistake. They weren’t kittens but a pile* of dead rabbits that the dogs had caught. The girl didn’t speak again, and we sat in complete silence for many minutes, until Mr Heathcliff and the young man who’d shown me into the house, came in.

‘I’ve kept my promise,’ I said to my landlord, relieved to break the silence.

‘You shouldn’t have come up here in such weather,’ was his answer. ‘Do you know that you could get lost out here? Even people who know these moors well can’t find their way on evenings like this.’

‘Perhaps one of your servants could guide me home?’ I said.

‘There’s no one to take you,’ he said. Then he turned to the young lady and demanded, ‘Are you going to make the tea?’

‘Is he to have any?’ she asked, looking at me.

‘Get it ready, will you?’ He said this so aggressively, that I was shocked. The way he spoke to the young lady was truly terrible. I no longer thought of Mr Heathcliff as a friend.

When the meal was ready, he invited me to join them, but no one spoke and I wasn’t hungry.

‘Your wife keeps a good house, Mr Heathcliff,’ I said.

‘My wife?’ he said, with a look that seemed to come straight from the devil. ‘Where is *she*, then?’

I realised my mistake, the young lady must be married to the young farm worker who sat eating in silence beside me.

‘Mrs Heathcliff is my daughter-in-law,’ explained Heathcliff. As he spoke, he looked at her with deep hatred.

‘Then you’re the lucky man,’ I said to the young man, but he looked as

Depending on where you live in the UK, dinner can be called tea or supper.

pile lots of things, one on top of the other

Wuthering Heights

though I'd hit him, turning bright red and clenching his fists* in anger.

'Wrong again,' said Heathcliff with a smile, 'her husband is dead. I said she was my daughter-in-law,' he continued, 'therefore she must have married my son.'

'So this young man is...'

'Not my son.' Heathcliff smiled again, as if the idea of Hareton being his son was a good joke.

'My name's Hareton Earnshaw,' growled* the young man, 'and I'll teach you to respect it.'

I looked down quickly, not wanting to anger him further. We finished our meal and I got up to look out of the window. The snow was falling thicker than ever, covering everything.

'It'll be impossible for me to get home without a guide,' I said, but when I turned round, only Mrs Heathcliff was left in the room, with the servant, Joseph, coming in with food for the dogs.

'I don't know how you can stand there doing nothing,' said Joseph, his face pinched* and mean*, his Yorkshire accent so strong I could hardly understand him. He was speaking to the young lady. 'You're useless and you'll never get any better. You'll go to the devil like your mother before you.'

'You disgusting old hypocrite*', she replied. 'Aren't you afraid that the devil will come and take your soul? In fact, I might ask him to do it for me as a special favour. I've been learning my spells*! You don't think that red cow died by herself, do you?' and she looked at him as if she really were a witch.

Joseph was shocked, 'Oh you're wicked*', wicked. May the Lord save us all from your evil ways.'

Studies have shown that people in the UK like the Yorkshire accent and associate it with common sense, loyalty, and trust.

clench your fists when you hold your hands closed tightly into a ball-shape

growl complain angrily

pinched thin and ungenerous

mean (here) cruel, bad-tempered

hypocrite a person who puts on a false appearance of being good

spell words that are said to have magic powers

wicked bad, evil



And with that he put down the dogs' food and left as quickly as he could. I thought that she was joking, but when I asked her to tell me the best way to get home in all this snow, she sat down in a chair with a candle and said rudely, 'Go back the way you came,' and opened her book.

'I see you won't help me, and since there's no one to guide me, I'll have to stay here for the night.'

'You'll have to ask *him*,' she said.

I heard a movement from the kitchen. 'Let this be a lesson to you to go walking on the moors in such weather,' said Heathcliff coming into the room. 'We don't have a room for guests, you'll have to share with Hareton or Joseph.'

The thought didn't appeal* to me.

'I'll sleep here on a chair,' I said.

'No you won't. I won't have strangers wandering around the house while I sleep.'

With this final insult, I took my coat and went out into the night, almost running into Hareton.

'I'll go with *him* as far as the road to the Grange,' he said.

'You'll go with him to hell,' roared Heathcliff. 'You still have the horses to look after.' And with that he left.

'A man's life is more important than the horses for one night,' said the young Mrs Heathcliff with more kindness than I expected. 'You must go, Hareton.'

'*You* won't command *me*,' snarled the young man.

'Then I hope his ghost will haunt you, and Mr Heathcliff never finds another tenant until the Grange is a ruin,' she answered sharply.

Joseph, hearing all the noise, came up with a lantern* in his hand. Seeing my chance to escape, I snatched* it from him and set off.

appeal seem attractive
lantern a lamp you can carry

snatch take something away from someone quickly and rudely

For Review Only

‘Hey! Master, he’s stealing the lantern,’ shouted the ancient servant, calling the dogs. At that moment, two hairy monsters ran out, jumping up at my throat and knocking me over.

The lantern went out, but the dogs didn’t tear me to pieces as I expected, they started to lick* me. I heard a guffaw* from both Heathcliff and Hareton. My nose had started bleeding badly and still Heathcliff laughed without coming over to help me. Fortunately, at that moment, the housekeeper came running out of the house.

‘Are we murdering people on our doorstep now?’ she said to Hareton. Then seeing how my nose bled, she said: ‘I know a way to cure that,’ and poured a bucket of icy water down my neck.

At that point, Heathcliff stopped laughing, his face returning to its normal darkness, and he went off down the farmyard, while the woman, who told me her name was Zillah, led me shaking back into the house.

In the kitchen she gave me something strong to drink, and told me how sorry she was for all that had happened, then she gave me a candle and told me to follow her upstairs without making a sound.

‘The master doesn’t like anyone to use this room,’ she said, but when I asked why, she said she’d only been there a year or two, she didn’t know and it wasn’t a good idea to ask questions in this house.

I said goodnight to her and got into the bed which was against a window. I put my candle on the window ledge* and saw that some words had been scratched* into the wood. I looked more closely and read a name, repeated again and again, in letters large and small. *Catherine Earnshaw*, then occasionally, *Catherine Heathcliff* and *Catherine Linton*. I read the names over and over until the letters were swimming in front of my eyes and the *Catherines* were flying

lick touch with your tongue
guffaw a loud laugh
ledge shelf under a window

scratch (here) to leave a sign on wood with something sharp

Reading B2 First

1 Choose the best answer – A, B, C or D.

- 1 When does the story start?
A ☐ spring
B ☐ summer
C ☐ autumn
D ☐ winter

- 2 How does Mr Lockwood arrive at the house the second time?
A ☐ on foot
B ☐ on horseback
C ☐ in a carriage
D ☐ on a bicycle

- 3 How is Mr Lockwood greeted by the people at the house?
A ☐ warmly
B ☐ kindly
C ☐ aggressively
D ☐ sadly

- 4 How would you describe Mr Lockwood?
A ☐ selfish
B ☐ showing a lack of experience or wisdom
C ☐ aggressive
D ☐ generous

- 5 How would you describe Heathcliff?
A ☐ polite
B ☐ shy
C ☐ angry
D ☐ friendly

- 6 What's Mr Lockwood's reaction to seeing the ghost?
A ☐ he's very upset and starts crying
B ☐ he's curious to find out more about her
C ☐ he's calm and wants to speak to her
D ☐ he's frightened and angry

Reading Comprehension

2 Match the names of the characters we meet in Chapter One with their job or relationship to each other.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 ☐ Heathcliff | a she was married to Heathcliff's son who's now dead |
| 2 ☐ Mr Lockwood | b male servant at Wuthering Heights |
| 3 ☐ Mrs Heathcliff | c owner of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange |
| 4 ☐ Hareton | d Heathcliff's tenant at Thrushcross Grange |
| 5 ☐ Joseph | e the ghost of the woman Heathcliff loved |
| 6 ☐ Zillah | f housekeeper at Wuthering Heights |
| 7 ☐ Catherine Linton | g young man who works on the farm |

Vocabulary

3 A Use the following verbs, describing the way someone said something, to fill in the gaps. Remember to use the correct form of the verb.

cry • laugh • shout • snarl •
sob • talk • thunder • wail • whisper



- 1 'You won't command me,' the young man.
- 2 'Hey! Master, he's stealing the lantern,' the ancient servant.
- 3 My nose had started bleeding badly and still Heathcliff
- 4 They kissed and nonsense like two babies.
- 5 'Let me in!' the child again.
- 6 All the time the creature
- 7 'Is anyone there?' a man
- 8 'What do you mean by talking to me in this way?'
He
- 9 'Come in! Come in!' he