



Wuthering Heights

by Emily Brontë

Teacher's Guide

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Synopsis

Chapter 1

In 1801, Mr. Lockwood arrives in the rugged moors of Yorkshire in northern England to rent Thrushcross Grange and escape human society. Amid the master's fierce dogs, he feels no real hospitality, yet enjoys the taciturn Heathcliff enough to plan a return visit.

Lockwood deliberately involves himself in the fierce loves and hates of the Earnshaws and Lintons. Deciding to pay a call on the landlord, Lockwood walks four miles through wild moors to a bleak hilltop setting. Unlike the Grange, Wuthering Heights is a stark, unrefined estate, fully exposed to the turbulent north wind. Lockwood studies the handsome, swarthy, and mysterious Heathcliff. Although he is a slovenly, uncivil, and morose squire, he manages to act like a gentleman.

Chapter 2

Heathcliff doesn't encourage his visitor to return, but Lockwood feels compelled to pay a second call on the Heights. Joseph admits him at the locked gate. Lockwood meets two members of the household—Hareton Earnshaw, a crude, sullen youth, and Cathy, the lovely, embittered widow of Heathcliff's son. Detained by a snow storm, Lockwood is attacked by Skulker the bulldog and requires hospitality for the night. Zillah, the housekeeper, shows him to an unused bedroom.

Chapter 3

After perusing some mildewed books in the corner, he falls into a troubled sleep. Three names scrawled on the window sill and in the books—Catherine Earnshaw, Catherine Linton, and

Catherine Heathcliff—pique Lockwood's curiosity. He begins reading Catherine Earnshaw's diary, which reveals her brother's cruelty to Heathcliff, whom he considers a vagabond. The names intrude on Lockwood's mind as his dreams turn to nightmares of a harsh sermon preached by the butler Joseph. Awakening to the tapping of a fir branch on the window casement, Lockwood assumes that the sound derives from a bad dream.

He breaks a window pane to get at the noisy branch. When he reaches outside, he seems to touch a small, ice-cold hand. Catherine Linton's weeping voice pleads to enter and claims to have wandered for twenty years. Lockwood screams, alerting Heathcliff. When the host hears the episode, he orders Lockwood out. Flinging himself on the bed, Heathcliff begs Catherine's spirit to enter, but only wind and snow answer. Lockwood returns to the Grange.

Chapter 4

After recovering from the ordeal, Lockwood questions Mrs. Ellen "Nelly" Dean, the housekeeper, about the family at Wuthering Heights. Having served at Thrushcross Grange for many years and at Wuthering Heights before that,

she knows the full story of passionate love and hatred that has beset the two families. She tells the tale of three generations of Earnshaws and Lintons and the profound effect on all their lives of the strange, savage Heathcliff. In 1769, Mr. Earnshaw returns home from Liverpool with Heathcliff, an urchin with the dark complexion of a gypsy. Over time, Earnshaw displays more affection for his foster son than for his son, Hindley.

Chapter 5

After Earnshaw's wife's death, the father favors Heathcliff when he sends Hindley away to school. Catherine Earnshaw develops a passionate affec-



tion for Heathcliff, who returns her ardor. They seem matched in wild and stormy natures and love of roaming the moors. Earnshaw dies, leaving Catherine and Heathcliff to mourn him in pitiful wails.

Chapter 6

Hindley returns for the funeral and claims Wuthering Heights as his inheritance. He brings his consumptive wife, Frances. As the new master, he avenges himself on Heathcliff by reducing him to a menial. Hindley tries to part Catherine from Heathcliff. During one of her flights to the moors with Heathcliff, Catherine meets Edgar and Isabella Linton, the children at Thrushcross Grange, where a dog bites Catherine. The Lintons denounce Heathcliff and oust him while they tend Catherine's injured leg.

Chapter 7

For five weeks, Catherine charms Edgar with her beauty and wild charm. She returns home at Christmas in high spirits, newly refined and tamed by the Lintons. Heathcliff, who suffers from jealousy and isolation, grows more sullen and savage. Infuriated at Hindley, he vows to have his revenge. Nelly bolsters Heathcliff's self-esteem. The Lintons arrive and, with Hindley's approval, taunt Heathcliff.

Chapter 8

Frances dies after giving birth to Hareton in June. Hindley begins drinking heavily and falls into dissolute ways. Edgar continues to visit Catherine, who plays the refined lady for him alone.

Chapter 9

Nelly hides Hareton from his father's drunken rage. Hindley dangles the boy from a staircase and drops him just as Heathcliff walks by to catch him. In 1780, Heathcliff leaves in anger after hearing Catherine confide to Nelly Dean that she intends to marry Edgar because he is handsome, kindly, and rich. She adds that she would rather marry a wealthy man than the impoverished Heathcliff, even though she loves him to the depths of her soul. Catherine grows distraught and ill over Heathcliff's departure. About the time she recovers, the elder Lintons die of fever they caught from her; Edgar becomes master of Thrushcross Grange. In 1783, Catherine marries Edgar and takes Nelly Dean to serve her at the Grange.

Chapter 10

After four weeks of solitude, Lockwood wearies of the moors, but must obey Dr. Kenneth and stay until spring. After Heathcliff visits with a gift of grouse, Nelly returns to tell Lockwood more of the story. The couple's peace shatters that September at Heathcliff's unexpected return. Recast as a wealthy gentleman, he exerts his power over Catherine, who cannot resist him. Hindley, a dissipated alcoholic, welcomes Heathcliff as a drinking and gambling companion. Heathcliff takes the opportunity to secure his revenge.

Chapter 11

A frequent visitor at the Grange, Heathcliff woos Edgar's sister, Isabella. Catherine quarrels with him after offering to arrange a marriage for Isabella and Heathcliff. His constant attention to Catherine arouses Edgar's jealousy. The two men fight. Catherine sequesters herself in her room; Edgar threatens to oust Isabella if she persists in encouraging Heathcliff.

Chapter 12

Three days later, Catherine unlocks her door and takes to her bed with serious illness. Nelly summons Mr. Kenneth, the doctor. The next day, Edgar learns that Heathcliff has eloped with Isabella.

Chapter 13

For two months, Edgar patiently nurses his wife back to health. In March, she rallies. After six weeks of marriage, Isabella writes of her desperation. Two weeks later, she implies that her husband is insane.

Chapter 14

While Heathcliff and Isabella live at Wuthering Heights, he mistreats her, but Edgar refuses to welcome her and her husband to the Grange. After forcing Nelly Dean to arrange a tryst with Catherine, Heathcliff exults in his control over Isabella.

Chapter 15

Having interrupted her story for a week, Nelly resumes. On a Sunday four weeks after receiving Heathcliff's letter, she gives it to Catherine. He meets his beloved downstairs at the Grange while Edgar is at church.

Chapter 16

At midnight, Catherine's emotional turmoil triggers the premature birth of a daughter named Cathy. A few hours later, Catherine dies, forcing Edgar, without a son, to will his inheritance to Isabella. After sunrise, Nelly informs Heathcliff of Catherine's death. He rages like a beast and places a lock of his hair in Catherine's hand. Only Edgar and his servants and tenants attend the burial at the Linton chapel.

Chapter 17

A week after Catherine's death, Isabella escapes Wuthering Heights and visits Nelly. She tells of a death struggle on the day of the funeral between Heathcliff and Hindley. Isabella taunts Heathcliff, who throws a knife at her head. A few months later, she bears a son, Linton, in London and raises him in secret from Heathcliff. Six months after Isabella's departure, Hindley dies, leaving Heathcliff as master of Wuthering Heights, which he acquired through gambling.

Chapter 18

Cathy grows up uninformed of Wuthering Heights and its history. Edgar goes to London, leaving Cathy in Nelly's care. Cathy wanders off and discovers Hareton at Wuthering Heights.

Chapter 19

Isabella dies and Edgar retrieves Linton, a sickly, pampered lad, who is to live at the Grange with Cathy. When Heathcliff learns of Linton's arrival, he sends Joseph with a letter demanding custody. The next morning, Edgar complies.

Chapter 20

Linton awakens at 5 a.m. to be taken to his father, who sneers at the boy's effeminacy. Linton begs Nelly not to leave him.

Chapter 21

The next day, Cathy is saddened that her cousin has gone. Nelly learns that the boy is tedious and sickly. On Cathy's 16th birthday, she wanders the moors and encounters Heathcliff and Hareton. She visits the Heights, where Heathcliff encourages her association with Linton. Edgar learns about the visit the next day and explains to Cathy the bad blood between families. For weeks, Cathy corresponds with Linton until Nelly discovers a drawerful of love letters.

Chapter 22

When Edgar sickens that November, Cathy exercises alone. Finding Cathy in a locked garden, Heathcliff encourages more meetings with Linton. The next morning, Nelly accompanies the girl to the Heights.

Chapter 23

Linton peevishly orders his visitors around. While Nelly nurses a cold for three weeks, Cathy continues visits to Linton.

Chapter 24

Three nights after Nelly's recovery, she learns where Cathy has spent her afternoons. Cathy narrates the disquieting events at the Heights during her visits.

Chapter 25

Nelly concludes her story with the events of the past February, when Edgar lay near death. Nelly promised to remain loyal to Cathy as adviser and friend.

Chapter 26

In late summer, Nelly and Cathy find Linton much weaker. At Heathcliff's approach, the women hurry away.

Chapter 27

A week later, Cathy meets Linton and helps Heathcliff escort him home. Against Edgar's wishes, Cathy goes inside, where Heathcliff imprisons her. He forces her to marry Linton.

Chapter 28

Nelly rushes home. Edgar sends for Mr. Green, a lawyer, to alter his will to keep the Grange away from Heathcliff. Cathy arrives home after escaping Wuthering Heights. After Edgar dies, Nelly insists that he be buried next to his wife.

Chapter 29

Heathcliff appears at the Grange and orders Cathy to return to Wuthering Heights to nurse Linton.

Chapter 30

Linton dies. Heathcliff, now in control of Thrushcross Grange, keeps Cathy at Wuthering Heights. He mistreats Cathy as brutally as he does Hareton. At the time of Lockwood's visit, she and Hareton function as domestic servants.

Chapter 31

Lockwood slips a note from Nelly to Cathy, who weeps that she has no books to read. She mocks Hareton's attempts to read; he strikes her and burns her last six volumes.

Chapter 32

In September 1802, Lockwood visits the Grange. He learns from Nelly Dean that Heathcliff died three months earlier. Cathy and Hareton live contentedly together.

Chapter 33

Nelly tells Lockwood that Cathy accused Heathcliff of stealing the lands belonging to her and Hareton. Heathcliff confesses to Nelly that he no longer burns with vengeance and doesn't want to live.

Chapter 34

Nelly discovers that Heathcliff roams the moors at night. Two days later, he refuses to eat and stares fixedly at an apparition. Two days after that, he dies in his room of starvation. The next evening, the church warden buries him next to Catherine's coffin with adjoining boards removed so the two can be together. Locals claim that the ghosts of Catherine and Heathcliff wander the moors. Hareton and Cathy live affectionately at Wuthering Heights until their marriage on January 1, 1803. Before Lockwood departs Yorkshire, he visits the churchyard where Catherine Linton lies buried between the graves of Edgar and Heathcliff.

Timeline

- 1757 Hindley Earnshaw is born.
- 1762 Edgar Linton is born.
- 1764 Heathcliff is born.
- 1765 Catherine Earnshaw and Isabella Linton are born.
- 1769 Mr. Earnshaw brings Heathcliff from Liverpool.
- 1771 Hindley goes away to school.
- 1773 Mrs. Earnshaw dies.

- 1774 Mr. Earnshaw dies: Hindley inherits Wuthering Heights. Cathy goes to Thrushcross Grange in November and is bitten by a dog. She returns home at Christmas newly refined and tamed by the Lintons.
- 1778 Hindley's son Hareton is born in June; Frances subsequently dies. Frances dies shortly thereafter, and Hindley buries his grief in drink and dissipation.
- 1780 Heathcliff leaves. The elder Lintons die during the fall.
- 1783 Catherine marries Edgar in April; Heathcliff returns in September.
- 1784 Heathcliff elopes with Isabella in March; also in March, Catherine dies after giving birth to a daughter. In April, Isabella escapes Wuthering Heights. In September, Heathcliff's son, Linton, is born; Hindley dies, leaving Heathcliff as master of Wuthering Heights.
- 1797 Isabella dies.
- 1799 Edgar brings his nephew back from London. Cathy meets her cousin Hareton. Heathcliff takes custody of his son.
- 1800 Heathcliff encourages Cathy's association with Linton.
- 1801 Edgar sickens in February; Cathy marries Linton in late August; Edgar dies in September, leaving Thrushcross Grange to his daughter; in the fall, Lockwood rents the Grange; in October, Linton dies, and Heathcliff inherits the Grange through Linton's marriage to Cathy. At the end of the summer, Lockwood returns to London.
- 1802 In May, Heathcliff starves himself to death; in September, Lockwood visits the Grange, and learns that Cathy and Hareton are to be married on New Year's Day, 1803.

Author Sketch

Emily Brontë was one of the first Englishwomen to be considered a great writer. The daughter of the Rev. Patrick and Maria Brontë, she was born in 1818 near Bradford and grew up in the parsonage at Haworth, Yorkshire, on the windy moors that she grew to love. Following the deaths of her mother and two older sisters, Emily and her two remaining sisters, Charlotte and Anne, and their brother, Branwell, began writing the Gondal saga as a means of entertainment. The three girls published a book of poetry in 1846, but only two copies were sold. In 1835, she attended Miss Wooler's school at Roe Head near Halifax, but returned after three months in poor health from the early stages of tuberculosis. Two years later, she taught at Law Hill School, ending her work after six months. In 1842, she attended school in Brussels with Charlotte.



The three sisters yielded to their brother's suggestion that they write for publication. Under the pseudonyms of Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell, they issued notable novels. Anne and Emily were the first to achieve success with *Agnes Grey* and *Wuthering Heights*. Charlotte's first work, *The Professor*, detailing a one-sided love match, was rejected, but *Jane Eyre*, published in 1847, was an immediate success. Seven weeks after Branwell's death, Emily died of tuberculosis at the age of 30 on December 19, 1848, and was buried at Roe Head. Some 45 years later, the Brontë Society honored the sisters' works.

Critic's Corner

Unknown to her father, Emily Brontë's novel went to press in 1847 and shocked Victorian readers with its electric confrontations, jealousies, and hatreds, the portrayal of physical passions, and a mystical intensity. Charlotte said reading her sister's novel was "like breathing lightning." Anne and Charlotte, who journeyed to London to meet their publisher, revealed that they, along with "Ellis Bell," who remained at home, were indeed the authors of the recent literary sensations. They explained that masculine pseudonyms seemed necessary in order for them to gain approval of both publisher and reading public.

Emily's novel departs from other works of the period because of its poetry and drama. The disrupted chronology and point of view shared by different narrators were technical innovations for the time. Joyce Tompkins of Oxford University comments that *Wuthering Heights* is "now acclaimed both as the first socio-revolutionary novel and the predecessor of novels of flux and sensation." Demand for Emily Brontë's work resulted in the posthumous publication of her poems in 1941.

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- "The Brontë Sisters Web," <http://lang.nagoyaa-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/bronte.html>
- "The Emily Brontë Page," <http://homepagesprise.net/Steph/emily.html>
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- Hubert, Maria, comp. *The Brontës' Christmas*. London: Sutton, 1997.
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- Taylor, Irene. *Holy Ghosts: The Male Muses of Emily & Charlotte Brontë*. Denver: Colorado Univ. Press, 1993.
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General Objectives

1. To enumerate methods that build suspense
2. To discuss the theme of vengeance
3. To note the value of confidantes to Catherine, Linton, and Cathy
4. To analyze the strength of spiritual love
5. To enumerate examples of supernatural intervention
6. To contrast moments of despair with triumph
7. To characterize the life of a housekeeper on a country estate in nineteenth-century England

8. To note rare scenes of relaxation, celebration, and joy
9. To locate and explain aspects of gothic brooding and foreshadowing
10. To enumerate elements that contribute to a somber mood

Specific Objectives

1. To account for Heathcliff's manipulation of marriages and inheritance
2. To consider the dramatic situation in which Heathcliff corrupts Hindley, Linton, and Hareton
3. To contrast Victorian treatment of illness and childbirth with current standards of medical care
4. To describe situations in which Heathcliff feels like an outsider
5. To account for Lockwood's interest in local gossip
6. To note examples of Catherine's humanity and warmth
7. To explain the purpose of Nelly Dean as a character
8. To analyze the collapse of management at Wuthering Heights
9. To explain how the doctor and lawyer interact with local families
10. To emphasize the two-way nature of Heathcliff's torment to himself and others

Literary Terms and Applications

For a better understanding of the novel, present the following terms and applications to *Wuthering Heights*:

Gothic novel: romantic, suspenseful writing that highlights isolated or ominous sites; large, rambling estates; implied danger to isolated, vulnerable heroines; and horrific distress or menace, such as mysterious events, supernatural manifestations, omens, unexplained sounds, or an atmosphere of terror. Emily Brontë employs gothic elements to terrify and titillate Lockwood with events that link Heathcliff to a persistent female ghost. On a mundane level, the author interlaces ordinary events with the bizarre placement of Heathcliff's coffin near Catherine's, death by starvation, names scratched on the bedroom window sill, and the

substitution of dark hair for Edgar's lock in Catherine's hand. The result of gothic overtones is to turn a story about a mistreated gypsy boy into a psychological study of the pathetic inner torment in a man obsessed with wreaking vengeance on those who despise and degrade him.

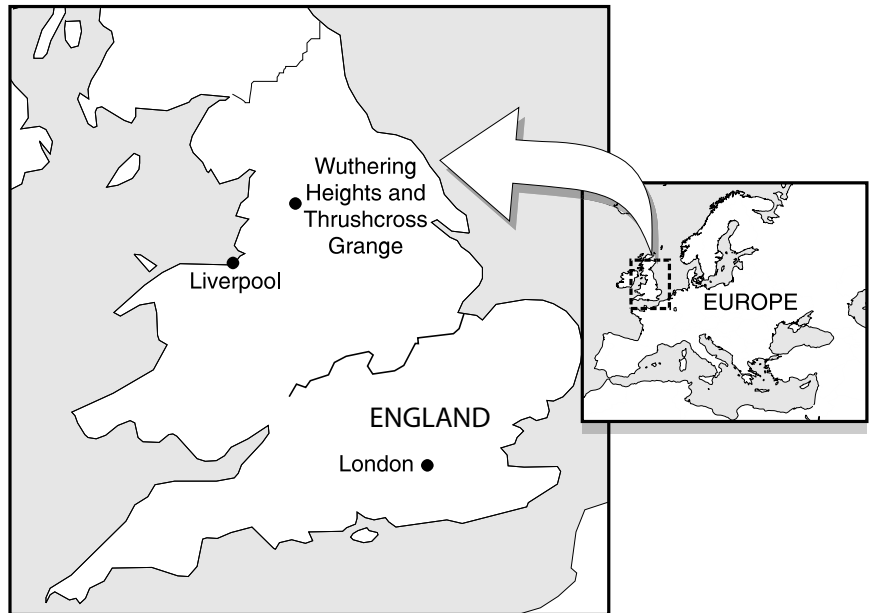
Pathetic fallacy: a literary device which ascribes human traits and actions to inanimate objects—for example, the fierce winter storm that immures Mr. Lockwood at *Wuthering Heights*, and the turbulent moor weather that stunts evergreens and parallels Catherine and Heathcliff's swirling emotions. As another example, after Heathcliff's burial, the manipulation of nature covers Catherine's grave with heather, Edgar's with sod and moss, and Heathcliff's with raw earth.

Victorian conventions: the rigidly moral, priggish aspect of literature written during the reign of England's Queen Victoria, who ruled the expanding British Empire from 1837 to 1901. The discussion of sexuality is absent from *Wuthering Heights* because frank representation of human desires was not welcome to Victorian readers. In place of physical yearning, Brontë substitutes turmoil in nature as an emblem of the inner landscape. Even the normal aspects of pregnancy are absent from passionate scenes, such as Heathcliff's reunion with Catherine only hours before she gives birth to Cathy, and Isabella's departure from *Wuthering Heights* early in her pregnancy with Linton. The shocking placement of two coffins side by side with outer boards removed demonstrates the necessity for bizarre substitutions so the author can avoid actually representing physical union between lovers.

The Importance of Setting

The action of *Wuthering Heights* bounces back and forth between contrasting estates. At Thrushcross Grange, Catherine encounters a more genteel lifestyle than she has known at the Earnshaw residence. Accompanied by Heathcliff, her harum-scarum companion, she gazes through the window at a lustrous drawing room: "a splendid place carpeted with crimson, and crimson-covered chairs and tables, with a pure white ceiling bordered by gold, a shower of glass-drops hanging in silver chains from the centre, and shimmering with little soft tapers." The contrast with home is found in Lockwood's first visit, when he encounters north

winds gusting over stunted firs and gaunt thorns and narrow windows looking out from impregnable stone walls. The physical enticement of living in an atmosphere like the home that the Lintons enjoy justifies Catherine's intent in marrying a lackluster man who owns no part of her heart. To Heathcliff's sorrow, she maintains a double life, impressing Edgar with ladylike niceties while living on the raw edge of the moors in jaunts with her gypsy step-brother. Their unholy milieu is the moorland, which Lockwood typifies for the reader: "The grey church looked greyer, and the lonely churchyard lonelier. I distinguished a moor sheep cropping the short turf on the graves. It was sweet, warm weather." The blend of wild and forbidding elements symbolizes the untenable mix of passions in Catherine and Heathcliff. As he typifies the sweet torment in his last hours, he cries out, "Oh, damn it! It's unutterably too much for flesh and blood to bear—even mine."



Cross-Curricular Sources

For more information about the gothic novel, the English moors, the Brontës, and other subjects arising from the novel, issues consult these sources:

- Paula Guzzetti, *A Family Called Bronte*
- Alison Milbank, *Daughters of the House: Modes of Gothic in Victorian Fiction*
- John Morrison, *The North York Moors*
- Oxford Press Eds., *The Oxford Illustrated Literary Guide to Great Britain and Ireland*
- Robert Spector, *English Gothic*

Also, consult these websites:
 "Brontë Parsonage Museum,"
<http://www.bronte.org.uk/>
 "Crisis, Grief, and Healing,"
<http://www.webhealing.com>

Related Reading

- Isabel Allende, *The House of the Spirits*
- Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *Christabel*
- Isak Dinesen, *Seven Gothic Tales*
- Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*
- Daphne du Maurier, *Rebecca*
- Alexander Dumas, *The Count of Monte Cristo*
- Laura Esquivel, *Like Water for Chocolate*
- William Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*
- John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*
- Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
- Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The House of Seven Gables* and *The Scarlet Letter*
- Shirley Jackson, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*
- Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*
- John Keats, *The Eve of St. Agnes*
- Yukio Mishima, *The Sound of Waves*
- Moliere, *Tartuffe*
- William Shakespeare, *Othello* and *Romeo and Juliet*
- Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
- Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
- Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Themes and Motifs

A study of the central issues and situations in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* should include these aspects:

- Themes**
- discontent
 - isolation
 - pride
 - power

- rebellion
- violence
- revenge
- coercion
- rescue
- reunion

Motifs

- coping with social ostracism
- wayward, undisciplined children
- loss of inheritance through dissipation
- marrying for convenience rather than love
- curiosity at elements of local gossip

Meaning Study

Below are words, phrases, or sentences that have a particular meaning in the novel. Explain each as it applies to *Wuthering Heights*. Chapter and page numbers are provided so that you can reread the passages from which the item is taken.

1. "But Mr. Heathcliff forms a singular contrast to his abode and style of living. He is a dark-skinned gypsy in aspect, in dress and manners a gentleman: that is, as much a gentleman as many a country squire; rather slovenly, perhaps, yet not looking amiss with his negligence, because he was an erect and handsome figure; and rather morose." (Chapter 1, p. 4)
(A complex character, according to the narrator Lockwood, Heathcliff displays the blended background of a nonwhite brought up to play a country gentleman. Although he lacks the punctilious taste and grooming of a true squire, his handsome features rescue him from ignominy. Overall, he is sour and gloomy of temper, at times sullen and glum, at others violent.)
2. "People familiar with these moors often miss their road on such evenings; and, I can tell you, there is no chance of a change at present." (Chap. 2, p. 17)
(Lockwood is obviously unacquainted with the tricky landscape of England's north central moorland. Extensive areas of open land rise to uneven elevations. The moor is covered in heath or heather, a type of evergreen shrub. The Heathcliff estate, Wuthering Heights, occupies high ground overlooking the moors. The descriptive name refers to wild, stormy, or windy weather, which is common to the area. Therefore, the land provides an appropriate background for the main characters' wild, elemental passions.)
3. "'Take my colt, gipsy, then!' said young Earnshaw. 'And I pray that he may break your neck; take him, and be damned, you beggarly interloper! and wheedle my father out of all he has; only afterwards show him what you are, imp of Satan!'" (Chap. 4, p. 41-42)
(From first contact with Heathcliff, Hindley labels him a covetous intruder, someone from the outside who displaces a person from a rightful position or status. Hindley resents Earnshaw for favoring a foundling over his own son. Hindley's attitude foreshadows his future brutal treatment of Heathcliff after the elder Earnshaw dies. This mistreatment in turn motivates Heathcliff's obsessive revenge.)
4. "They both promised fair to grow up as rude as savages, the young master being entirely negligent how they behaved, and what they did, so they kept clear of him." (Chap. 6, p. 48-49)
(After Mr. Earnshaw's death, Hindley neglects his sister and Heathcliff. Left to their own amusements, they share most facets of each other's lives. Without formal lessons, they take pleasure in spending the day on the moors and laugh at punishment. They defy restrictions until Catherine is bitten by one of the Lintons' dogs at Thrushcross Grange. The incident brings her into contact with refined people who separate her from Heathcliff.)
5. "'I'm trying to settle how I shall pay Hindley back. I don't care how long I wait, if I can only do it at last. I hope he will not die before I do!'" (Chap. 7, pp. 65)
(Heathcliff's desperate words display his spite for being banished from the Christmas dinner honoring the Lintons. Previously, with Catherine as ally, he has withstood Hindley's brutality. After her five-week stay at the Grange, she is attracted to the neighbors' refinement and genteel lifestyle. When she returns home, she laughs at Heathcliff and snubs him for being dirty. To recover her friendship, Heathcliff pleads with Nelly to make him decent. The tension builds to an unavoidable explosion. After Heathcliff throws hot applesauce at Edgar, Hindley banishes Heathcliff, forcing him into a vengeful mode of life.)
6. "'My love for Linton is like the foliage in the woods: time will change it, I'm well aware, as winter changes the trees. My love for Heathcliff resembles the eternal rocks beneath—a source of little visible delight, but necessary. Nelly, I am Heathcliff.'" (Chap. 9, p. 89)
(After Catherine decides to marry Edgar Linton, she attempts to explain to Nelly Dean how her love for Edgar differs from her devotion to Heathcliff. She admits that Edgar's gentleness and

thoughtfulness attract her. Also, Edgar is handsome and rich, two qualities she admires in a potential husband. She loves him for these positive qualities although she is aware that her passion is transitory. Like a crag existing in nature, her love for Heathcliff is steady and enduring. Rather than desert him for a promising beau, she hopes to raise him from degradation by marrying Edgar.)

7. "I wished to punish her sauciness, that's all. I like her too well, my dear Heathcliff, to let you absolutely seize and devour her up." (Chap. 10, p. 116)

(To protect Isabella from Heathcliff's brutality and insensitivity, Catherine defends her. She knows that he is capable of destroying Isabella for his own dark purposes. To deter Heathcliff from revenge, Catherine indicates that she can love him, but still recognize his potential for harm. Forthright in her explanation of his evil potential, she relates to Isabella, "He is not a rough diamond—a pearl-containing oyster of a rustic: he's a fierce, pitiless, wolfish man.")

8. "After constant indulgence of one's weak nature and the other's bad one, I earn, for thanks, two samples of blind ingratitude, stupid to absurdity!" (Chap. 11, p. 126)
(Confronting the difference between her two loves, Catherine explodes with rage at one weak man and his ill-tempered rival. She intends to persuade Edgar to sanction a marriage between Isabella and Heathcliff only if Heathcliff sincerely loves Isabella. Heathcliff makes no concealment of his intent to avenge himself by marrying into the Linton family. Out of disgust with his behavior, Catherine compares him to Satan. She realizes that he is a captive of violent emotions and can do nothing in moderation. To punish both men, she wills herself into life-threatening sickness.)
9. "Be with me always—take any form—drive me mad! only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot find you! Oh God! it is unutterable! I cannot live without my life! I cannot live without my soul!" (Chap. 16, pp. 184)
(Heathcliff's grief is unconstrained; in his misery, he implores her spirit to haunt him forever. For nearly twenty years, he struggles with internal wretchedness. Near his own death, he welcomes a reunion with Catherine to end the perpetual agitation of his spirit.)
10. "I am afraid, Nelly, I shall lose my labour," he muttered to me. 'Miss Catherine, as the ninny calls her, will discover his value, and send him to the devil. Now, if it had been Hareton!—Do you know that, twenty times a day, I covet Hareton, with all his degradation?' (Chap. 21, p. 238)

(In reaction the first time Cathy sees her cousin Linton at Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff conceives his plot to arrange a marriage of the two cousins to gain control of Thrushcross Grange. Filled with disgust at his sickly, pampered son, he barely controls his loathing as he encourages the visits. Unable to hide his true feelings, he discloses to Nelly a love for Hareton. If the boy were not Hindley's son, Heathcliff would adore Hareton for bearing the eyes and features of Catherine.)

Comprehension Study

Answer the following questions in your own words. There is not always a right answer. Your judgment is important and you should be ready to defend your answers by referring to passages in the novel.

Questions 1-5 (Literal Level)

1. Explain the use of narrators to tell the story of Heathcliff and Catherine.
(The novel, told in diary, letter, and recollection, has two main narrators—the tenant Lockwood and housekeeper Nelly Dean. The story opens and closes with the tenant's observations. As the new occupant at Thrushcross Grange, he seems average in intelligence and courtesy and remains interested in the local love story, but not directly involved. The major portion of the romance comes from Nelly Dean, who is head of staff at Thrushcross Grange. She is both observer and active participant in the unfolding romance.)
2. How does Catherine respond to Heathcliff when he arrives at Wuthering Heights?
(Mr. Earnshaw promises to bring Catherine a whip as a present from Liverpool. When she learns that he has rescued a dirty, abandoned waif and has lost the whip, she goes into a rage, displaying hostility toward the ragged black-haired boy "by grinning and spitting at the stupid little thing." She and other children reject "it," their impersonal term for Heathcliff. Earnshaw names the foundling after a son who died and favors Heathcliff above his own children. Shortly afterward, Catherine becomes fond of the boy. After her father's death, Hindley's brutality drives her even closer to Heathcliff. The duo share a wild, tumultuous nature and love of private rambles on the moors. Thus, a childhood intimacy grows into an ungovernable passion.)
3. How does Joseph contribute to Heathcliff's suffering?
(Joseph, the self-righteous hypocrite and self-appointed preacher, serves as comic relief in his intrusions on family morality. He uses the Bible to show evil in human nature and to ennoble himself as spokesman for right. He relentlessly worries Earnshaw about his soul and the father's failure to rule over wayward children. A tedious, conniving snitch, Joseph regularly

grumbles out a long string of tales against Heathcliff and Catherine. He also whips Heathcliff when the boy fails to learn Bible verses.

Joseph's faulty judgment appears in his evaluation of Hindley. According to Nelly, "Joseph affirms he's sure he's an altered man, that the Lord has touched his heart, and he is saved 'so as by fire.'" Nelly adds, "I'm puzzled to detect signs of the favourable change—but it is not my business." When Cathy and Hareton begin their courtship by the kitchen fire, Joseph is confounded. According to Nelly, "It affected him too deeply to allow an observation on the subject that night. His emotion was only revealed by the immense sighs he drew, as he solemnly spread his large Bible on the table, and overlaid it with dirty banknotes from his pocket-book, the produce of the day's transactions." Dismayed, he retreats to his room and leaves Cathy to suit herself. In the end, Joseph lives with a helper in the kitchen of Wuthering Heights, which is closed to human habitation.)

4. How does Heathcliff change after overhearing Catherine's confession of love for Edgar? (Upon hearing Catherine express her intent to marry Edgar and her statement that "It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now," he slips away, steals a horse, and flees his foster home. The haste of his retreat deprives him of Catherine's subsequent declaration that she loves him as passionately and enduringly as the rocks on the moor. Three years later, he returns, having mysteriously acquired wealth and the superficial refinements of gentry. By this time, Catherine is Mrs. Edgar Linton, but Heathcliff does not hesitate to call on her at Thrushcross Grange. According to Nelly, Catherine is surprised to see that Heathcliff "had grown a tall, athletic, well-formed man, beside whom my master seemed quite slender and youthlike. His upright carriage suggested the idea of his having been in the army. His countenance was much older in expression and decision of feature than Mr. Linton's; it looked intelligent, and retained no marks of former degradation." The contrast in the two men sets up the former lovers' slide toward tragedy.)
5. Why does Isabella write to Edgar so soon after eloping? (Some six weeks after running away with Heathcliff, Isabella writes her brother announcing her marriage, apologizing and begging for remembrance, and suggesting a reconciliation. She is sorry that her elopement offended Edgar, who is now head of the household. To account for her impetuosity, she claims that infatuation with Heathcliff overpowered her. Too late, she realizes her faulty judgment.

The pathetic letter reveals that Heathcliff and his staff treat Isabella shabbily and, at times, brutally. The contrast with the benign life at Thrushcross Grange threatens to overwhelm her. The letter pleads for forgiveness and some warmth from her

brother, her only relative. The letter foreshadows misery for Heathcliff's hapless wife and prepares the reader for her precipitate flight from Wuthering Heights and permanent separation from her husband.)

Questions 6-8 (Interpretive Level)

6. How well does Heathcliff succeed at vengeance? (Heathcliff plans to exact revenge on the Earnshaws by acquiring Wuthering Heights. He accomplishes his aim by driving Hindley into extreme debt through carousing and gambling. The next step in the plan is the complete subjugation of Hareton, Hindley's heir, who is left in Heathcliff's power after his parents die. By brutalizing Hareton, Heathcliff achieves vengeance on the family, whose sole heir lives like a menial. Heathcliff's revenge on the Lintons begins with marriage to Isabella and culminates in the marriage of his son Linton to Edgar's daughter Cathy. When Linton dies after Edgar's death, Heathcliff legally dominates both families and controls both properties.

Ironically, after achieving material control, Heathcliff loses interest in vengeance. He explains to Nelly, "It is a poor conclusion, is it not.... An absurd termination to my violent exertions. I get levers and mattocks to demolish the two houses, and train myself to be capable of working like Hercules, and when everything is ready, and in my power, I find the will to lift a slate off either roof has vanished! My old enemies have not beaten me; now would be the precise time to revenge myself on their representatives—I could now do it, and none could hinder me." He concludes that there is no purpose in further harm to his enemies. In his estimation, "I have lost the faculty of enjoying their destruction, and I am too idle to destroy for nothing.")

7. What are Heathcliff's true feelings toward Linton? (Heathcliff's first impression of his son never varies. He evolves a thorough revulsion at Linton's weakness and limp personality, a sure sign of Isabella's genes and influence. Heathcliff roars, "God! what a beauty! What a lovely, charming thing!... Haven't they reared it on snails and sour milk... Oh, damn my soul! but that's worse than I expected—and the devil knows I was not sanguine!" He adds, "I'm bitterly disappointed with the whey-faced whining wretch." Everything the boy does infuriates his father, but Heathcliff provides the necessary upbringing to achieve his vengeance against the Lintons. He does not physically abuse his son, yet he tortures him psychologically.

A spineless coward, Linton fears Heathcliff and worries that he will make a mistake with Cathy and incur his father's wrath. Nelly comments, "I could not picture a father treating a dying child as tyrannically and wickedly as I afterwards learnt Heathcliff had treated him, to compel this apparent eagerness, his efforts redoubling the more imminently his avaricious and unfeeling plans were threatened with defeat by death.")

8. Why does Cathy disobey her father?

(When Edgar tells Cathy that Heathcliff is a diabolical man, she is shocked. She weeps because she will disappoint Linton, who expects her arrival. After a life filled with serenity and kindness, she cannot bear to hurt her cousin, whom she has just met. She desires the society of someone her own age to end an enforced seclusion on the moor with only her father and servants for company. She admires Linton because, although delicate and sickly, he has inherited the looks of the Linton family.)

Just like her mother, Cathy rebels and pleads with Nelly to dispatch a note to Linton. With the milkman's help, she maintains a clandestine correspondence because she believes she is in love with the boy. The fateful encounter with Heathcliff plays on the girl's sympathies. By telling her that Linton truly loves her and is dying from her lack of compassion, Heathcliff works his plot. Cathy convinces Nelly to join her in disobeying Edgar's wishes so Cathy can "make a pet of [Linton]." Too late, the girl realizes Linton's utter worthlessness and his purpose as a tool of Heathcliff. To maintain power over her, Heathcliff physically compels her to marry Linton.)

Questions 9 and 10 (Critical Level)

9. What type of observer is Nelly?

(Since Heathcliff is Earnshaw's favorite, the entire family humors the boy to avoid vexing the master. Nelly recognizes the disadvantage to Heathcliff in nourishing his black moods and pride, but she, too, follows the family pattern of coddling and kowtowing. The fact that Heathcliff confides in Nelly reveals her value as a communicator and family retainer. After Earnshaw's death, Hindley's mistreatment of Heathcliff arouses sympathy in Nelly, who believes that the boy has redeeming qualities. She intends to remedy his mistreatment and bring out the best in him—his intelligence, strength, and devotion to Catherine.)

After Cathy returns from a visit to the Lintons, Heathcliff needs Nelly's help to improve himself. Nelly replies, "High time, Heathcliff.... It looks as if you envied her, because she is more thought of than you." The housekeeper bolsters his confidence by telling him he is taller and broader than Edgar and could easily defeat him in a fight. She encourages her protegee by appealing to his vanity. She also encourages him to rid him of inferiority to Edgar. Her words anticipate the adult Heathcliff, "You're fit for a prince in disguise. Who knows but your father was Emperor of China, and your mother an Indian queen, each of them able to buy up, with one week's income, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange together?"

Later, Nelly mistrusts Heathcliff for his intense hatred of the Lintons. When he traps Cathy by capitalizing on her sympathies, Nelly recognizes the extent of Heathcliff's plot. She realizes that Linton's letters bear the father's editing and that he would use

Cathy to further his own ends. The only time she miscalculates the extent of the father's cruelty is during Linton's final hours, when Heathcliff refuses to aid him. The words relay Heathcliff's coldness towards the boy: "None here care what becomes of him; if you do, act the nurse; if you do not, lock him up and leave him." After Heathcliff dies, Nelly follows his wishes about being buried next to Catherine as a means of honoring both.

Overall, Nelly is a receptive judge of Heathcliff's character. An intelligent housekeeper, she is ordinary and conventional in morality and conduct, yet kind beyond her place to victims of oppression and neglect. Thus, she is incapable of judging Heathcliff's extreme defiance of convention and his cruelty without also considering his good points. She admits that, at times, he seems to be a creature of another species.)

10. On what passion does the novel focus?

(From the beginning hatred seems to trigger events in the novel and to guide Heathcliff's behavior toward both the Earnshaws and the Lintons. Intertwined with his hatred and obsession for vengeance is the love he shares with Catherine. At times, both lovers express their feeling in similar words. Catherine relates to Nelly that "he is more myself than I am." Heathcliff tells his dying lover, "You know you lie to say I have killed you, and, Catherine, you know that I could as soon forget you as my existence!"

In contrast to the Edgar-Catherine love theme, Heathcliff's destruction of serenity at Thrushcross Grange derives from a fatal, ingrained blend of love and hate. Thus, the author expresses a destructive power in love that approaches tragedy. Ultimately, love triumphs in the developing affection between Cathy and Hareton. However, the benign quality of their puppy love lacks the spark of passion that glows between Heathcliff and Catherine. The effulgence of ghosts on the moor suggests an afterglow of a love that thrives in the afterlife because it was too strong for human society. Set free like the wind that soughs through the stunted evergreens, the two lovers are joined in a bizarre graveyard carnality and the two estates survive the clash wrought by an ill-starred alliance.)

Questions 11 and 12 (Creative Level)

11. Read Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Write a report that demonstrates how the Brontës' life on the moors near Haworth encouraged their inclusion of the wild English countryside as settings for fiction.

12. Compose a character sketch of one of the people who helps stabilize Catherine's life, either Mr. Earnshaw, Nelly Dean, or Edgar. Explain why Catherine can analyze her weaknesses but do nothing to control them.

Across the Curriculum

Art

1. Using desktop publishing or other artistic media, design a map showing the distance from the English moors to London or Liverpool, a birth announcement for Cathy or Linton, times of Sunday services, a deed for Thrushcross Grange or Wuthering Heights, a fingerboard pointing to Gimmerton, a placard for Mr. Green's legal office or Mr. Kenneth's medical practice, a diploma for Hindley, instructions for burying Heathcliff alongside Catherine, a list of major American and British gothic novels, a marriage certificate for Heathcliff and Isabella or Cathy and Linton, public notice of the leasing of Thrushcross Grange, a headstone for Frances or Isabella, and a decorative gate stating date and ownership of Wuthering Heights.
2. Compose a movie billboard for *Wuthering Heights* featuring Edgar's attendance at Catherine's deathbed, Hareton burning Cathy's books, Heathcliff arriving with Mr. Earnshaw from Liverpool, Hindley gambling with Heathcliff, Nelly imprisoned in the servants' quarters, Lockwood breaking a pane of glass and reaching out to a frozen fir branch, Joseph preaching to the household, or Linton demanding service from the staff.
3. Dress dolls in appropriate period costume. Include contrasting dress for an infant, child, housekeeper, butler, wedding, mourner, coach traveler to London, and people enjoying harvest, Michaelmas, or Christmas festivities.

Cinema

1. Summarize orally several filmings of *Wuthering Heights*, particularly the 1939 original, starring Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon as Heathcliff and Catherine, the 1970 version, featuring Timothy Dalton, and the 1992 remake, starring Ralph Fiennes. Note the natural and architectural backdrops of the three films.
2. Join with a group to list gothic elements in these films: *Rebecca*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *Wuthering Heights*, *The House of Seven Gables*, *Jamaica Inn*, *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *Jane Eyre*, and *The Turn of the Screw*.

Economics

1. Explain to a small group the inheritance problems of a family that lacks a male heir. Discuss why Isabella supplants Cathy as heir to Catherine and Edgar's property and why the land passes again to Linton.
2. Discuss the importance of Heathcliff's tenant, Mr. Lockwood, to the pacing of the novel.

Education

1. Brainstorm a curriculum for Hindley's boarding school studies and for Hareton, who appears to have had no formal training in reading and numbers.

Geography

1. Create a mural or web site that contrasts the English moors and the Brontë residence at Haworth with London and Liverpool.
2. Compose a paragraph expressing the dangers of spending the night on the moors, particularly entrapment in bogs, attack by wild dogs, dehydration, exposure, and exhaustion.

History and Social Studies

1. Re-create by time line, webbing, flow chart, mural, or web site the milieu of early nineteenth-century England, especially the industrial and business centers at Liverpool and London. Explain why the moors offered few choices for women.
2. Explain why *Wuthering Heights* was considered shockingly passionate and morally titillating when it was published.
3. Make contrasting chalkboard definitions of the social role of housekeeper, tutor, maid, butler, heir, benefactor, student, master's wife, and landlord.
4. Comment on the degradation of gypsies in English society.
5. Write a brief address explaining the importance of Nelly as housekeeper, confidante, witness, and adviser. Contrast her significance with that of Joseph or Zillah.

Language Arts

1. Characterize in separate paragraphs the differences in Cathy's status as Catherine's motherless infant, Edgar's daughter, Linton's wife, Heathcliff's daughter-in-law, Linton's widow, and Hareton's fiancée.
2. Compose individual posters explaining the significance of these terms: apparition, orison, mulled ale, psalmody, gruel, consumption, goblin, heathen, catechism, conjuring, negus, letters edged with black, leveret, caprice, gentry, dog in the manger, curate, elf-bolt, misanthropy, bitter herbs, Michaelmas, 'sizes, Slough of Despond, and beck.
3. Comment on the author's choice of emblematic place names and character names, particularly Heathcliff, Gimmerton, Peniston Crags, Hareton, Lockwood, Skulker, and Zillah.
4. Read aloud from novels of the period, particularly William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*, Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of Seven Gables*, George Eliot's *The Mill on the Floss* or *Silas Marner*, and the works of Emily Brontë's sisters. Determine pervasive elements that link fiction, such as the social and economic position of women and the importance of superstition and gossip to dynamic novels.
5. Citing examples from *Wuthering Heights*, account for the contrast between emotions and nature.
6. Draw a character web representing the social and economic interconnectedness of female characters, notably Nelly Dean, Zillah, Catherine Earnshaw Linton, Isabella Linton Heathcliff, Cathy Earnshaw Heathcliff, Mrs. Linton, Frances Earnshaw, and Mrs. Earnshaw.
7. Using desktop publishing, compose an annotated time line that indicates periods in the development of the English novel. Highlight important gothic novels and narrative verse, such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *Christabel*, John Keats's *The Eve of St. Agnes*, and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Law

1. List the disadvantages of social marriage of convenience, especially between Catherine and Edgar and Cathy and Linton. Contrast the love match of Cathy and Hareton to loveless marriages.
2. Launch an Internet web site detailing the intricacies of ownership of the two prime properties, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. Explain how Heathcliff gains control of both. Comment on the purpose of his plot and on the relaxation of vengeance shortly before he dies.

Music

1. Work with a group to compose musical themes, school and Christmas songs, traditional harvest tunes, and hymns to accompany scenes of varying intensity.

Science and Health

1. Make a chalk talk about the dangers of childbirth in the early nineteenth century, especially puerperal fever. Explain how the research of Joseph Lister and Florence Nightingale's impact on hospital cleanliness improved women's chances of survival.
2. Compose a lecture on the decline in the health of consumptive patients, particularly Frances and Linton. Propose methods of treating them, for example, with drugs, rest, and diet. Explain how the disease passes to other victims and why many of the Brontës suffered its effects.

Student Involvement Activities

1. Outline the daily work of a land owner like Mr. Earnshaw, including management of properties, supervision of harvests, banking and purchasing in Liverpool, repairs and expansion of the manse and barns, and supervision of his heir's education and training.
2. Write an essay contrasting a tour of the moors with a tour of London and Liverpool. Comment on the types of activities a visitor might enjoy outside Gimmerton, such as bird watching, riding, hiking, camping, sketching, and rock and wildflower collection.

3. Compose a letter from Nelly Dean to the local magistrate complaining of the irregularities of Heathcliff's treatment of Hareton and of his imprisonment of Cathy and Nelly in the servants' quarters at Wuthering Heights.
4. Write a dramatic scene to show Isabella's enjoyment of freedom in London and her delight in an infant son. Describe Edgar's first visit with his married sister.
5. Create a story board for an outdoor performance of *Wuthering Heights*. List significant scenes to include in the abridged plot, especially Heathcliff's arrival at Wuthering Heights, Hindley's death, and Catherine's marriage to Edgar. Keep a separate list of scenes to exclude, particularly those involving Joseph and Zillah.
6. Write an essay contrasting a typical evening at Thrushcross Grange with a similar evening in London. How would a country squire entertain a guest like Catherine Earnshaw? What type of music would she enjoy? What foods would tempt a girl recovering from a leg injury? What Christmas foods, decorations, and games might her family provide as thanks to the Lintons?
7. Plan a moor wedding for Catherine and Hareton. Include the curate and other local people for a country engagement party, wedding breakfast, ceremony, and reception. Propose a honeymoon in the vicinity, for example, a trip to the coast or north to Edinburgh, Scotland, by train.
8. Write news releases for the most significant events of the story, including Heathcliff's elopement with Isabella, Lockwood's arrival from London, Mr. Earnshaw's death, Catherine's Christmas house party, and Hindley's return from college with a wife.
9. Make an oral report on Heathcliff's torment by ghosts, hurt pride, rebellion, and vengeful emotions. Account for his placement of a dark lock of hair in Catherine's hand. Discuss why he deliberately starves himself to death while seeking a ghost.

10. Outline the difference between country folk and refined families like the Lintons. Explain how Catherine and Heathcliff can thrive in both groups.

Alternate Assessment

1. Cite examples of rumor, fear, intensity, intimidation, resilience, and compassion in the novel.
2. List actions that demonstrate Joseph's piety and Nelly's motherly kindness.
3. Compose a scene in which the Lintons advise Edgar not to marry Catherine.
4. Compile a character list and explain the relationship of each to Heathcliff. Include Mr. Earnshaw, Nelly, Lockwood, Catherine, Linton, Hareton, Isabella, and Hindley.

Teacher's Notes

Vocabulary

Complete the following descriptive passage with words from the list that follows.

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------|
| abode | culinary | gaudily | morose | slovenly |
| anatomy | cullenders | impelled | pre-eminently | stalwart |
| aversion | deferred | interspersed | quarter | sundry |
| close-handed | disposed | laden | rambling | tumult |
| constitution | distinguished | lobby | ranks | underdrawn |
| counselled | extraordinary | lurking | recesses | vocally |
| countenance | frothing | manifestations | recompense | whit |

One step brought us into the family sitting-room, without any introductory (1) _____ or passage; they call it here "the house" (2) _____. It includes kitchen and parlour, generally; but I believe at Wuthering Heights the kitchen is forced to retreat altogether into another (3) _____; at least I (4) _____ a chatter of tongues, and a clatter of (5) _____ utensils, deep within; and I observed no signs of roasting, boiling, or baking, about the huge fireplace; nor any glitter of copper saucepans and tin (6) _____ on the walls. One end, indeed, reflected splendidly both light and heat from (7) _____ of immense pewter dishes, (8) _____ with silver jugs and tankards, towering row after row, on a vast oak dresser, to the very roof. The latter had never been (9) _____: its entire (10) _____ lay bare to an inquiring eye, except where a frame of wood (11) _____ with oatcakes and clusters of legs of beef, mutton, and ham, concealed it. Above the chimney were (12) _____ villainous old guns, and a couple of horse-pistols: and, by way of ornament, three (13) _____ painted canisters (14) _____ along its ledge. The floor was of smooth, white stone; the chairs, high-backed, primitive structures, painted green; one or two heavy black ones (15) _____ in the shade. In an arch under the dresser, reposed a huge, liver-coloured bitch pointer, surrounded by a swarm of squealing puppies; and other dogs haunted other (16) _____.

The apartment and furniture would have been nothing (17) _____ as belonging to a homely northern farmer, with a stubborn (18) _____, and (19) _____ limbs set out to advantage in knee britches in gaiters. Such an individual seated in his armchair, his mug of ale (20) _____ on the round table before him, is to be seen in any circuit of five or six miles among these hills, if you go at the right time after dinner. But Mr. Heathcliff forms a singular contrast to his (21) _____ and style of living. He is a dark-skinned gypsy in aspect, in dress and manners a gentleman: that is, as much a gentleman as many a country squire; rather (22) _____, perhaps, yet not looking amiss with his negligence, because he has an erect and handsome figure; and rather (23) _____. Possibly, some people might suspect him of a degree of underbred pride; I have a sympathetic chord within that tells me it is nothing of the sort; I know, by instinct, his reserve springs from an (24) _____ to showy displays of feeling—to (25) _____ of mutual kindness.

Comprehension Test A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Complete each statement below with the best response. Place the letter of your answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. Lockwood informs the reader that “wuthering” is a provincial adjective meaning
- (A) weathering
 - (B) hating
 - (C) stormy
 - (D) isolated
- _____ 2. As one of the narrators, Nelly Dean is
- (A) a principal cause of tragedy
 - (B) a mildly curious observer
 - (C) an involved character
 - (D) a disapproving, religious recluse
- _____ 3. Heathcliff loses his favored position at the estate after
- (A) Mr. Earnshaw learns about his relationship with Catherine
 - (B) the Lintons come for a Christmas celebration
 - (C) he spends the day with Catherine at Peniston Crag
 - (D) Hindley returns home with a bride
- _____ 4. When Heathcliff returns after Catherine marries Edgar, she
- (A) greets him enthusiastically
 - (B) fears he will destroy her marriage
 - (C) shuns him
 - (D) decides to run away with him
- _____ 5. Heathcliff’s motive for eloping with Isabella is his desire
- (A) to spite Catherine
 - (B) to avenge himself against Edgar
 - (C) to avenge himself against Hindley
 - (D) to sire a son to inherit Thrushcross Grange
- _____ 6. At the last meeting between Catherine and Heathcliff, she
- (A) realizes that her dying will separate her from him forever
 - (B) knows that death can never separate her from him
 - (C) curses him for murdering her
 - (D) conceals the birth of a daughter
- _____ 7. After Catherine’s death, Heathcliff does not pray for
- (A) her soul to find peace
 - (B) her spirit to haunt him
 - (C) her soul to wake in torment
 - (D) her spirit to drive him mad
- _____ 8. Heathcliff controls Wuthering Heights because of
- (A) his marriage to Isabella
 - (B) his appointment as Hareton’s guardian
 - (C) Catherine’s will naming Heathcliff her heir
 - (D) Hindley’s gambling debts
- _____ 9. Hareton’s childhood and youth experiences most clearly parallel those of
- (A) old Mr. Earnshaw
 - (B) Heathcliff
 - (C) Linton
 - (D) Catherine
- _____ 10. Heathcliff’s primary purpose for demanding custody of Linton is
- (A) to give his son a home
 - (B) to make Hareton’s life miserable
 - (C) to forget Catherine
 - (D) to control Thrushcross Grange
- _____ 11. After Heathcliff brings Linton to Wuthering Heights, he
- (A) loves him
 - (B) despises him
 - (C) respects him as Isabella’s child
 - (D) ignores him.
- _____ 12. Linton is
- (A) spoiled and sickly
 - (B) sullen and savage
 - (C) rude to the tenant at Thrushcross Grange
 - (D) saddened by his mother’s death.
- _____ 13. The author indicates that Cathy and Hareton
- (A) cannot escape violent passions,
 - (B) are permanently warped by brutality
 - (C) disapprove of the removal of boards in the adjacent coffins
 - (D) can establish peace and harmony.
- _____ 14. A central theme displays
- (A) the total destruction caused by passion
 - (B) the triumph of hatred and revenge
 - (C) the power of the moors over human will
 - (D) the potential for reconciliation.
- _____ 15. When Lockwood sees the three graves, he believes that
- (A) their torment will never end
 - (B) the lovers’ ghosts will wander the moors forever
 - (C) the sleepers have found peace
 - (D) not even death can end the rivalry between Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange

Comprehension Test A (Page 2)

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

Identify which character is speaking (A) and who is being addressed (B).

_____ 1A. "I was only going to say that heaven did not seem to be my home, and I broke my heart with weeping to come back to earth; and the angels were so angry that they flung me out into the middle of the heath on the top of Wuthering Heights, where I woke sobbing for joy."

_____ 1B.

_____ 2A. "Th' divil's harried off his soul... and he muh hev his carcass intuh t' bargain, for ow't Aw care!"

_____ 2B.

_____ 3A. "I know you didn't like him... Yet, for my sake, you must be friends now. Shall I tell him to come up now?"

_____ 3B.

_____ 4A. "Did she die like a saint? Come, give me a true history of the event."

_____ 4B.

_____ 5A. "Am I to lose all, without a chance of retrieval? Is Hareton to be a beggar? Oh, damnation! I will have it back: and I'll have his gold too: and then his blood; and hell shall have his soul!"

_____ 5B.

Part III: True or False (20 points)

In the space below, write T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Heathcliff's sullen and savage nature is the result of old Mr. Earnshaw's cruelty.
- _____ 2. Although Catherine Earnshaw loves Heathcliff, she will not marry him because Hindley forbids it.
- _____ 3. Unlike Heathcliff, Edgar Linton has a gentle and compassionate nature.
- _____ 4. Until Heathcliff returns to Wuthering Heights, Catherine seems happy and content as Edgar's wife.
- _____ 5. Although Heathcliff does not love Isabella, he tries to treat her with the courtesy and loyalty a wife deserves.
- _____ 6. After his father's death, Hareton, the natural heir of Wuthering Heights, lives like a menial servant in his own home.
- _____ 7. When Heathcliff learns that his son is living at the Grange, he immediately insists upon custody.
- _____ 8. Cathy marries Heathcliff's son Linton before she escapes from her imprisonment at Wuthering Heights to tend her dying father.
- _____ 9. Heathcliff dies violently, just as he lived.
- _____ 10. The author indicates that Wuthering Heights is cursed and that all inhabitants there can know no peace.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

- 1. Determine whether Heathcliff is a protagonist, antagonist, or anti-hero.
- 2. Discuss the author's creation of two contrasting estates that face each other over an expanse of moor.
- 3. Account for the passion that links Catherine to Heathcliff.
- 4. Describe elements of nature that influence character behavior.

Comprehension Test B

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

Complete each statement below with the best response. Place the letter of your answer in the space provided.

- _____ 1. As the narrator, Lockwood becomes
(A) a curious observer
(B) a reluctant participant
(C) involved
(D) disinterested in gossip
- _____ 2. Nelly's story covers a span of
(A) thirty years
(B) twenty years
(C) ten years
(D) forty years
- _____ 3. Believing that Catherine's ghost is outside the window, Heathcliff
(A) breaks the glass
(B) bars the window
(C) tries to join her
(D) begs her to enter the house
- _____ 4. Thrushcross Grange impresses Catherine because of its
(A) happily married owners
(B) distance from the moors
(C) joyous Christmas celebration
(D) splendid drawing room
- _____ 5. After his wife's death, Hindley
(A) starves himself
(B) leaves for school
(C) drinks and gambles
(D) lives for vengeance
- _____ 6. Catherine believes that marriage to Heathcliff would be
(A) unfulfilling
(B) passionate
(C) financially stable
(D) degrading
- _____ 7. After Hindley's death, Heathcliff
(A) pursues vengeance against Hindley
(B) raises Hareton like a son
(C) sends Hareton to live with Nelly Dean
(D) promotes a marriage between Hareton and Cathy

- _____ 8. Cathy is
(A) spoiled and sickly
(B) willful
(C) neglectful of her father
(D) devoted to Nelly during a three-week illness
- _____ 9. After Cathy meets Linton, she regards him with
(A) contempt
(B) jealousy
(C) controlled passion
(D) affection
- _____ 10. After Linton's death, his widow
(A) inherits Thrushcross Grange
(B) is left penniless
(C) discovers her father's poor management
(D) remains at Wuthering Heights to teach Hareton to read.
- _____ 11. When Hareton tries to befriend Cathy, she
(A) accepts his kindness
(B) joins with him to combat Heathcliff
(C) rebuffs him until Heathcliff dies
(D) hates him for his ignorance
- _____ 12. Heathcliff dies from
(A) a violent confrontation with Hareton
(B) self-imposed starvation
(C) exposure to snow and cold
(D) meeting a ghost
- _____ 13. Local people claim that Catherine and Heathcliff's souls are
(A) in heaven
(B) damned
(C) haunting Thrushcross Grange
(D) roaming the moors
- _____ 14. The novel's atmosphere displays
(A) cold restraint
(B) wild, elemental passion
(C) superstition about evil
(D) the result of greed
- _____ 15. The novel's conflict characterizes
(A) forces of nature
(B) the weakness of a second generation
(C) love's inability to overcome evil
(D) the growth of refinement on the moors

Comprehension Test B (Page 2)

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

Answer each of the following and explain its importance to the plot.

- _____ 1. Whom does Skulker bite?
- _____ 2. Who visits a landlord during a storm?
- _____ 3. Whom does Heathcliff fetch to care for Linton?
- _____ 4. What does Heathcliff throw on Edgar at Christmas?
- _____ 5. Who is described as “elf-locked”?
- _____ 6. Whom does Hindley bring home after he leaves school?
- _____ 7. Who brings a foundling with gypsy coloring to Wuthering Heights?
- _____ 8. What does Nelly find hanging from a bridle hook?
- _____ 9. What does Heathcliff put in place of Edgar’s memento?
- _____ 10. Whom does Edgar order Nelly to take to Heathcliff at Wuthering Heights?

Part III: True or False (20 points)

In the space below, write T for true or F if any part is false.

- _____ 1. Heathcliff’s resentment of Hindley derives from Mr. Earnshaw’s coddling of the gypsy boy.
- _____ 2. Catherine intends to marry Edgar because his nature matches hers.
- _____ 3. When he learns that Catherine intends to marry, Heathcliff leaves Wuthering Heights in anger.
- _____ 4. Heathcliff’s motive for marrying is not romance.
- _____ 5. When Hindley dies, Heathcliff is satisfied with his revenge.
- _____ 6. Heathcliff prays that Catherine’s spirit will haunt him as long as he lives.
- _____ 7. To parallel the happiness that he never found with Catherine, Heathcliff cultivates a relationship between Cathy and Linton.
- _____ 8. After Linton signs a will naming his father as beneficiary, Heathcliff refuses to summon a doctor to save him.
- _____ 9. Catherine’s corpse lies between the graves of Edgar and Heathcliff.
- _____ 10. The three signatures that Lockwood locates on the window ledge indicate conflict in Catherine about her future.

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Choose two and answer in complete sentences.

1. Contrast the lovers’ obsession with Lockwood’s compelling curiosity.
2. Characterize Catherine as a disastrous force threatening two families.
3. Discuss the use of a framework narrative to create suspense in Wuthering Heights.
4. Define the conflicted personality as it appears in Heathcliff and Catherine.

Answer Key

VOCABULARY

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. lobby | 14. disposed |
| 2. pre-eminently | 15. lurking |
| 3. quarter | 16. recesses |
| 4. distinguished | 17. extraordinary |
| 5. culinary | 18. countenances |
| 6. cullenders | 19. stalwart |
| 7. ranks | 20. frothing |
| 8. interspersed | 21. abode |
| 9. underdrawn | 22. slovenly |
| 10. anatomy | 23. morose |
| 11. laden | 24. aversion |
| 12. sundry | 25. manifestations |
| 13. gaudily | |

COMPREHENSION TEST A

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 6. B | 11. B |
| 2. C | 7. A | 12. A |
| 3. C | 8. D | 13. D |
| 4. A | 9. B | 14. D |
| 5. B | 10. D | 15. C |

Part II: Quotation Identification (20 points)

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1A. Catherine | 4A. Heathcliff |
| 1B. Nelly | 4B. Nelly |
| 2A. Joseph | 5A. Hindley |
| 2B. Mr. Lockwood | 5B. Isabella |
| 3A. Catherine | |
| 3B. Edgar Linton | |

Part III: True or False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. T |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. F |
| 5. F | 10. F |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.

COMPREHENSION TEST B

Part I: Multiple Choice (30 points)

- | | | |
|------|-------|-------|
| 1. A | 6. D | 11. C |
| 2. A | 7. A | 12. B |
| 3. D | 8. B | 13. D |
| 4. C | 9. D | 14. B |
| 5. C | 10. B | 15. A |

Part II: Short Answer (20 points)

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Catherine | 6. Frances |
| 2. Mr. Lockwood | 7. Mr. Earnshaw |
| 3. Cathy | 8. Isabella's dog Fanny |
| 4. applesauce | 9. a lock of his hair |
| 5. Hareton | 10. Linton |

Part III: True or False (20 points)

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. F | 6. T |
| 2. F | 7. F |
| 3. T | 8. T |
| 4. T | 9. T |
| 5. F | 10. T |

Part IV: Essay (30 points)

Answers will vary.



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