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Literature Teaching Unit

Chapter-by-Chapter Study Guide



Wuthering Heights

by Emily Brontë

- Learning objectives
- Study Guide with short-answer questions
- Background information
- Vocabulary in context
- Multiple-choice test
- Essay questions
- Literary terms



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Item No: 301253

Wuthering Heights

Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to

1. trace the family connections between the families at Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange and discuss the impact one generation has on the lives of the next.
2. write a brief analysis for each of the major characters; indicate salient features of personality and/or character and indicate why the individual behaved or thought as he or she did.
3. discuss the use of metaphor, sarcasm, and foils in the novel.
4. discuss this novel as one in which a major theme is revenge and its consequences, supporting generalizations by referring to the text.
5. point out how the novel' structure qualifies it as a classic example of a frame narrative.
6. define "Romanticism" and discuss the ways in which this story fits the definition.
7. point out how the views of Mrs. Dean on life, death, and living reflect traditional Christian values.
8. comment on the role of women in nineteenth-century England in regard to their social and legal rights and responsibilities, supporting generalizations by referring to incidents in the novel.
9. point out the ways in which the character of Heathcliff is a Byronic hero, indicating why some readers may find him a sympathetic, perhaps even an admirable, figure despite his cruel actions.
10. discuss the ambiguous appearance of ghosts and other supernatural elements in this novel and point out how their inclusion influences the reader's interpretation.
11. discuss the social class system of nineteenth-century England by contrasting the opportunities available to the servants and the nobility in education, ability to gain wealth, and marriage prospects.
12. compare or contrast Brontë's style of writing with the style of other authors read recently.
13. point out the shifting point of view in this story and discuss how this manner of narration has advantages and disadvantages.

Wuthering Heights

Questions for Discussion and Essay

1. Discuss the role of women in the middle of the 1800s, specifically their dependence on their male relatives.
2. Point out and support with examples why revenge is a dominant theme in this novel.
3. *Wuthering Heights* is an example of a frame narrative. Discuss how this form adds interest and complications to the novel.
4. Discuss the presence of ghosts in this novel. Does our modern view of the supernatural differ from the view expressed in the novel? Why is a willing suspension of disbelief not absolutely necessary for enjoying or interpreting this novel?
5. Write a brief analysis in which you mention salient features of each character.
6. Discuss the devastating effects of child abuse on Heathcliff. How does he pay Hindley back for his cruelty?
7. Given the fact that Joseph's dialogue is difficult to read, why do you think the author complicates the story with its inclusion?
8. Discuss the author's descriptions of the surrounding countryside. Some of the characters enjoy its beauty, and others do not. How do the lives of those who do not and those who do differ?
9. Does Heathcliff become a rebel who rejects society and civilized values because of his nature or because of his life experiences?
10. If one of the themes of this book is that a belief in God is essential to a happy life, why is the character of Joseph portrayed as a negative influence on the children?
11. Heathcliff is not every woman's dream of a romantic hero. What qualities of a romantic hero does he have? What is he lacking? Why is he considered a Byronic hero?
12. How are the following pairs of characters related?
 - Isabella and Heathcliff
 - Edgar and Catherine
 - Hindley and Catherine
 - Hindley and Heathcliff
 - Catherine and Hareton
 - Cathy and Linton

Vocabulary (Cont.)

coat-laps – collars, lapels
vexatious – irritating, annoying
phlegm – indifference, unconcern
tempest – a fierce storm
vigilant – cautious, watchful
signet – a seal (usually to mark official documents)
loth – [*loathe*] reluctant
prudential – good judgment; sensible
laconic – concise; brief
auxiliary – supporting

1. Describe the narrator of this chapter. In this first paragraph, what does Mr. Lockwood tell us he is seeking in this part of the country?

2. Read the definition of “reliable narrator” in the *Terms and Definitions* section. Based on that definition, do you believe Mr. Lockwood’s description of Mr. Heathcliff is reliable?

“He is a dark skinned Gypsy... he has an erect and handsome figure; and rather morose. Possibly, some people might suspect him of a degree of under-bred pride; I have a sympathetic chord within that tells me it is nothing of the sort:... his reserve springs from an aversion to showy displays of feeling.”

3. Why does the narrator describe himself as having gained “the reputation of deliberate heartlessness, how undeserved”?

4. How are we told Mr. Heathcliff’s linguistic pattern changes in the following excerpt?

“...relaxed a little in the laconic style of chipping off his pronouns and auxiliary verbs.”

8. The story suggests there was a ghost present, but it is never made definite. Why do you suppose the author leaves the point vague?

9. When Lockwood asks the ghost her name, what name does she give and why is Lockwood surprised? What information does she volunteer?

10. How does Lockwood finally get home?

11. Use incidents from the story to support the following statement: Lockwood is clumsy and constantly getting himself into trouble.

12. Briefly note any imagery relating to windows, doors and gates, and animals.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Vocabulary

withered – dried up, shriveled
turf – earth, ground
comply – to follow, obey
apparition – a spirit
propitiate – to soothe, pacify
mun – [dialect] must
Judas – a person who betrays a supposed friend
decisively – with certainty
approbation – approval, consent
intractable – stubborn
blackguard – a foul-mouthed person, scoundrel
acquiesced – quietly agreed without enthusiasm
ignominious – disgraceful
leveret – a young hare (not quite in its first year)
gullet – the throat
underlings – people of lower ranking, inferior
recriminate – to return an accusation
stolidity – emotionless, a lack of interest
exasperating – annoying
despondency – depression
stoical – unaffected emotionally
compunction – remorsefulness
blanched – pale
preternaturally – abnormally, unnaturally
evasive – unclear, vague

1. How has Heathcliff taken control of Hareton's life? Why does the boy like him?

2. Why does Catherine get angry with Heathcliff? Why does Heathcliff then get angry with her?
