

***Wuthering Heights*, Book by Emily Bronte, Adapted to stage by Robert Johanson  
Wayside Theatre Teacher's Guide**



***WUTHERING HEIGHTS***, Emily Bronte's classic story of love, revenge and passion in a thrilling stage adaptation that recreates Bronte's wild, turbulent tale of romance and subsequent repercussions with the ferocity of the winds that forever sweep the Yorkshire moors.

**About the Novel, *Wuthering Heights***

The novel, *Wuthering Heights*, was published in 1847. It was considered "intense and original," but troubled by the moral ambiguity. The reading public felt the villains of the novel; to need a more appropriate punishment than was received by the author's hands.

The story spans across three generations and the devastations that revenge can have on a family/families and how it effects the future generations.

The Novel was written with two points-of-view by the two narrators: Mr. Lockwood, a visitor and renter of Thrushcross Grange and Mrs. Dean, a maid in both Heights and the Grange over the years.

Also, in the novel the story is told in flashbacks and time shifts and narrated by Lockwood, a gentleman visiting the Yorkshire moors where the novel is set. Lockwood read the diary of Catherine. Mrs. Dean, the housekeeper of the Earnshaw family, narrates from her

perspective of working in both mansions and seeing the events that pass.

The setting is *Wuthering Heights*, Thrushcross Grange and Penistone Crag on the Yorkshire moors from 1775 to 1801.

**Emily Bronte, The Author**

Emily Bronte was born July 30, 1818 in Yorkshire, England. She was the fifth child of six of the Rev. Patrick Bronte and his wife. Her father was of poor Irish illiterate stock from Ireland and became an Anglican Church minister. Her father encouraged reading and writing. He believed in all being educated. That education would open more horizons to his family. The family used writing to escape the hardships of family deaths and financial need. Rev Patrick Bronte moved his family in 1820 to a parsonage near the moors in Haworth, Yorkshire. Emily lost her mother in 1821 when she was 3 years old. Two older sisters, Maria and Elizabeth die in 1824 while away at school. Her brother, Branwell, died in 1848, and sister Anne died in 1849. Charlotte Bronte was the last of her family to survive after Emily's passing in 1848.

Emily wrote poetry, created stories and wrote the novel. She was very reserved and the least social of all the Bronte children. She was very private person. She coveted her private time and writing time. She loved to be at home and care for her father, doing finances and housework. She was very much a homebody.

All the three sisters used pseudonyms names. Emily's first publication was with sisters Charlotte and Anne in 1846, a book of Poems. *Wuthering Heights* was published in 1847. Emily hardly

***Wuthering Heights*, Book by Emily Bronte, Adapted to stage by Robert Johanson  
Wayside Theatre Teacher's Guide**

wrote anything after *Wuthering Heights* was published. She was not interested in fame or being published.

Emily pseudonym was "Ellis Bell." It was removed from her novel after Emily's death in 1848. Charlotte Bronte in 1850, published a new version of *Wuthering Heights* correcting the mistakes made by the first publisher had ignored and using Emily's real name.

**CHARACTERS:**

Mr. Lockwood: a visitor renting  
Thrushcross Grange

Mrs. Nelly Dean: housekeeper for  
Thrushcross Grange

Mr. Earnshaw: Father of Catherine &  
Hindley, Brings Heathcliff home  
from the slums of Liverpool.

Mrs. Earnshaw: Mother of Catherine &  
Hindley, Foster mother to Heathcliff

Catherine Earnshaw: sister to Hindley,  
loves Heathcliff, marries  
Edgar Linton

Hindley: brother to Catherine, marries  
Frances, hates Heathcliff

Heathcliff: orphan, gypsy boy adopted  
And brought home to Wuthering  
Heights by Mr. Earnshaw

Frances Earnshaw: wife of Hindley,  
Mother of Hareton Earnshaw

Mr. & Mrs. Linton: Parents of Isabella &  
Edgar and owners of Thrushcross  
Grange.

Isabelle Linton: Runs off and marries  
Heathcliff, sister of Edgar Linton

Edgar Linton: Brother to Isabelle,  
Marries Catherine Earnshaw.

Linton Heathcliff: son of Heathcliff and  
Isabella, marries Cathy, daughter of  
Catherine & Edgar Linton, his first  
cousin

Catherine "Cathy" Linton: daughter of  
Catherine & Edgar Linton, marries  
Linton Heathcliff, her first cousin

Hareton Earnshaw: son of Hindley &  
Frances Earnshaw. First cousin to  
Cathy Linton

Joseph: a servant at Wuthering Heights

**SYMBOLISM**

Wuthering Heights symbolizes the people in the novel. The manor is dark, sparsely decorated, cold, built of stone (suited for the hardened soul). Built to resist the strong winds that blow across the moors. It is located on barren hills and moors, which is infertile, a wasteland and isolated. As each of the characters are or develop and become from the revenge enters their life.

Wuthering Heights was a family home since 1500. It is old, long life of the home that parallels the longevity of the want and extent of the revenge.

Also, Wuthering Heights received its name because of how the bad weather attacks the house and the surrounding area. Symbolizing how the family is attacked and the surrounding neighbors are drawn into the revenge, cruelty, and death and jealously spurred by Heathcliff's revengeful and cruel madness.

***Wuthering Heights*, Book by Emily Bronte, Adapted to stage by Robert Johanson  
Wayside Theatre Teacher's Guide**

**DISCUSSION**

What is the main theme of *Wuthering Heights*?

Discuss the violence displaced throughout the play.

Describe the setting, the elements of nature and how this enhances the story and the revenge motif.

How is the supernatural used to give the characters do not have any control over what happens to them once the revenge is set in motion?

Name some of the supernatural elements used in the play and how each adds to the effect of the story told?

How is nature enhances the various elements of the play and setting to give the audience a certain feeling? Explain.

Choose a quote from the play (or novel) by one of the main characters and explain it in your own words.

How does the play (or novel) use time shifts and flashbacks to tell you the audience the story stretching over 26 years?

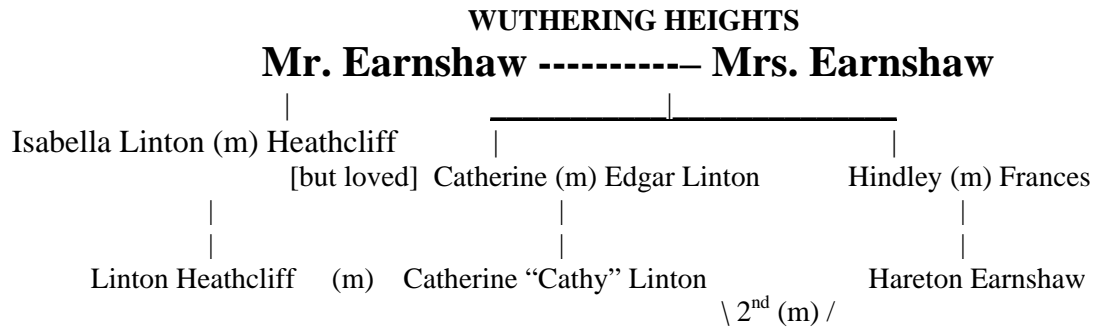
**DEFINE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:**

1. flashback
2. time shift
3. gypsy
4. moors
5. illiterate
6. parsonage

7. landlord
8. inferior
9. heather
10. contrive
11. vagabond
12. flogged
13. fidgeting
14. degrade
15. unprincipled
16. moral poison
17. virtuous
18. bog-hole
19. superfluous
20. approbation
21. chastise
22. blackguard
23. torment
24. bludgeon
25. harsh
26. secluded
27. Kirkland
28. crag
29. pilgrim stick
30. mourning

***Wuthering Heights*, Book by Emily Bronte, Adapted to stage by Robert Johanson  
Wayside Theatre Teacher's Guide**

**FAMILIES INVOLVED**



**THRUSHCROSS GRANGE**

**Mr. and Mrs. Linton**