

Emily Bronte

Emily Bronte's life

- Emily Bronte was born in 1818
- She grew up with her siblings Charlotte, Anne and Patrick in an isolated village in the Yorkshire Moors
- She had few friends and dedicated herself to mysticism and writing poetry
- She wrote Wuthering Heights in 1847 but it was criticised at the time. Later, it became considered one of the most intense love novels in English.
- Emily died of tuberculosis aged only 30.

Wuthering Heights: The plot (part I)

- The story starts with a man, Lockwood, who buys a house on a hill in the Yorkshire moors, **Thrushcross Grange**, where there is always wind.
- One day, he visits the neighbouring house, **Wuthering Heights** and he asks the housekeeper, Nelly, to tell him the secret story of the 2 houses. The story begins...

The plot (part II)

- **Heathcliff** is a foundling who is taken by the master of Wuthering Heights, Mr. Earnshaw, and grows up with his 2 children, **Catherine** and **Hindley**.
- **Catherine** and **Heathcliff** fall in love, but Catherine finally refuses him and he leaves.
- When he comes back, 3 years later, he finds Catherine married with another man, the mild but dull **Edgar Linton** and now they live in Thrushcross Grange.
- Heathcliff takes revenge and brings Catherine and Hindley's family and Linton's family to ruin.
- Peace returns when Heathcliff dies and Catherine's daughter (herself named Catherine!) unites with Hindley's son.

Storm and Calm

- Wuthering Heights is characterized by a mix of the REALISM of daily life and a SYMBOLIC IMAGERY.
- The atmosphere is bleak because of the Yorkshire moor and its wind.
- The characters' passions are violent and uncontrollable, just like the nature described.
- In fact, the characters are dominated by 2 opposing forces: STORM, represented by Heathcliff and Catherine's love, and CALM, represented by Linton and Thrushcross Grange.

Catherine and Heathcliff

Catherine is a free-spirited young woman but she is forced to marry Linton to satisfy her desire of social advancement and money. The result is that both men are unhappy.

Heathliff is the anti-hero of the story. He arrives at Wuthering Heights as a gypsy foundling, different from the others, but he manages to become the master. He is strong-willed and cruel but also fascinating and loving.

Themes

- 1. The main theme is the **passionate love** between Heathcliff and Catherine. It is strong and intense (in fact Catherine says “I am Heathcliff”), but also wild and excessive: it is doomed to fail and brings to the destruction of the families.
- 2. The **power of money** - Catherine marries Linton for money
- 3. **Quest for transcendence** – Catherine and Heathcliff search something higher than love, a spiritual unity that is eternal.