

Wuthering Heights

Emily Jane Brontë

retold by Jenny Dooley



Express Publishing

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Introductory Lesson

Before Reading

- ① *The Yorkshire Moors in England, where the story takes place, are still very desolate. Imagine growing up in such a place. How do you think someone's character would be affected? Think about what such a place would be like in both winter and summer.*
- ② *The story takes place in the 1800s. It was common for fairly wealthy families to have servants in those days. What do you think life would have been like for those servants? How much would they have known about the family they worked for?*
- ③ *At that time, English law stated that men always inherited so a wife's property automatically went to her husband. What does this indicate about women's social position at that time?*

Emily Jane Brontë

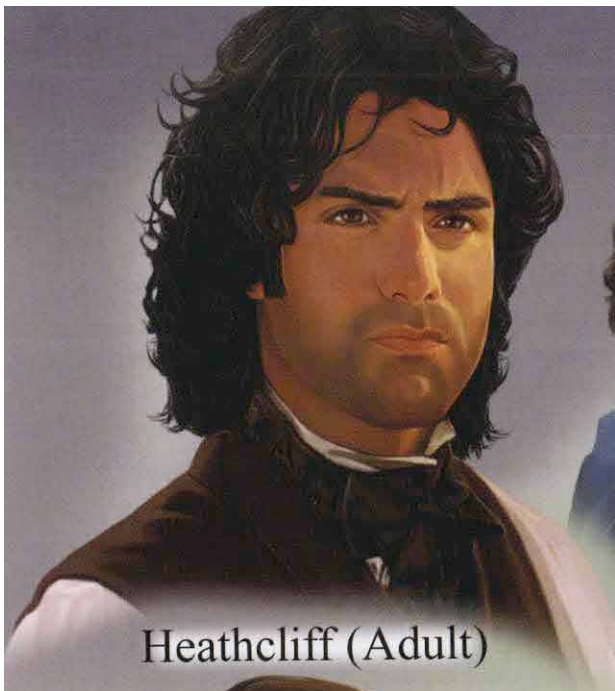


Emily Jane Brontë was born in West Yorkshire England in 1818. Her father was a curate and her sisters, Charlotte and Anne, were also famous writers. They began writing when they were children. Emily attended a local school for a short period and then became a

governess. She and her sister Charlotte went to Brussels in 1842 but returned later that year. During this time Emily was writing poetry as well as "Wuthering Heights", which was published in 1847. She wrote under the masculine pen name Ellis Bell due to prejudice against female writers. The novel was not positively received by the critics. It is a gothic romance set in the early 1800s on the Yorkshire Moors, where Emily lived. It is generally believed that, of all the family, it was Emily who was most in touch with her natural environment, having detailed knowledge of the plants and wildlife of the moors. The romanticism of the book is kept in perspective by the realism. Emily achieved this by employing a particular narrative technique; a story within a story. Mr Lockwood is the first narrator and yet the main story is actually told by Mrs Dean. She is a homely, sensible type of character and so the mysterious events are placed within an ordinary sphere. Emily Brontë died of tuberculosis at the early age of 30. "Wuthering Heights" has since received the acclaim it deserves and is ranked among the best of English novels.

④ Read about Emily Brontë and answer the questions.

- 1 When and where was Emily born?
- 2 Was Emily the only writer in the family?
- 3 When did Emily start writing?
- 4 Which foreign place did Emily travel to?
- 5 What else did Emily write besides *Wuthering Heights*?
- 6 Why did Emily use a masculine pen name?
- 7 What type of novel is *Wuthering Heights*?
- 8 Where is the story set?
- 9 What was Emily's relationship with nature?
- 10 What narrative technique did Emily employ in her novel?
- 11 What are the names of the two characters who narrate the story?
- 12 How old was Emily when she died?



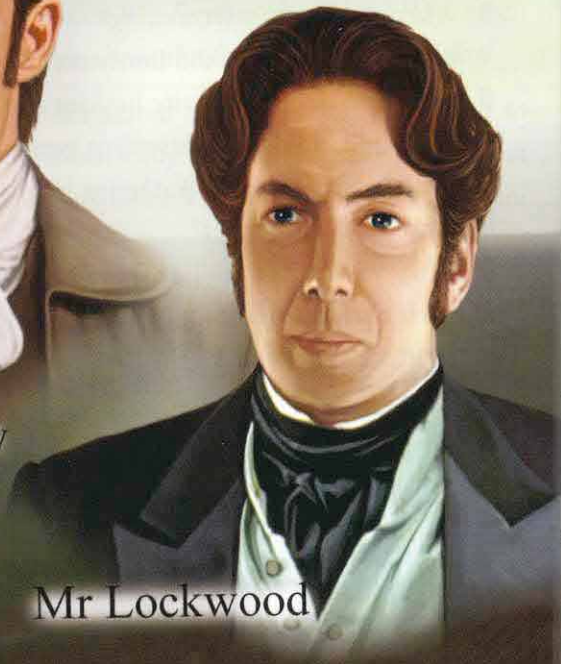
Heathcliff (Adult)



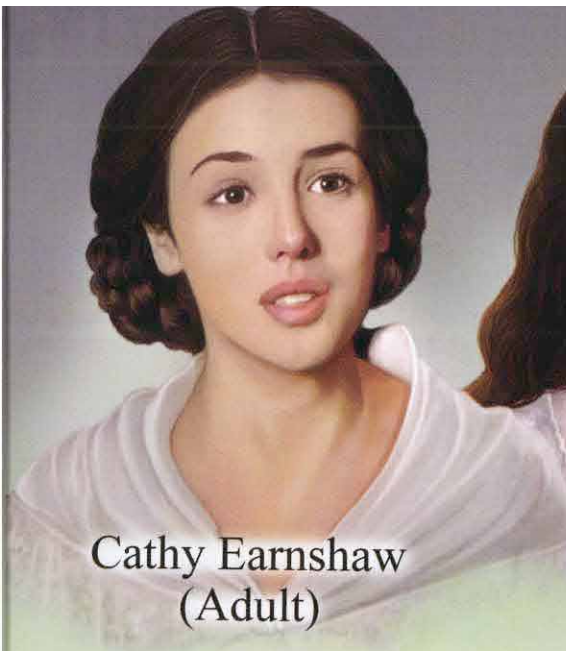
Heathcliff
(Child)



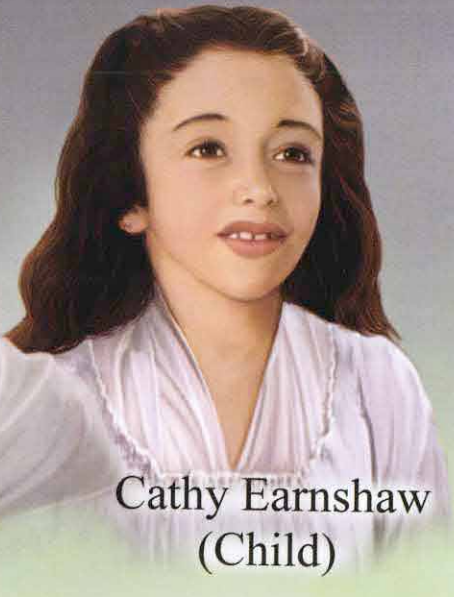
Hindley Earnshaw



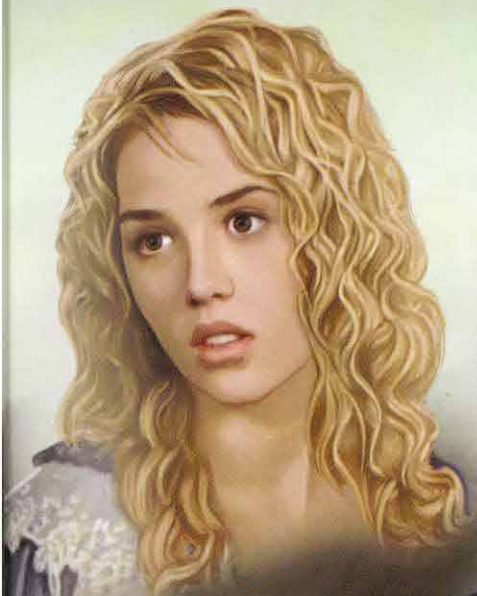
Mr Lockwood



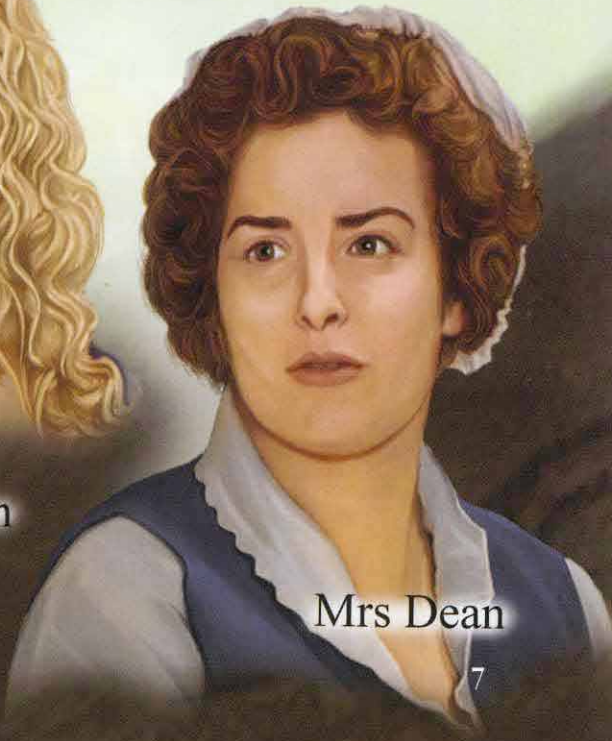
Cathy Earnshaw
(Adult)



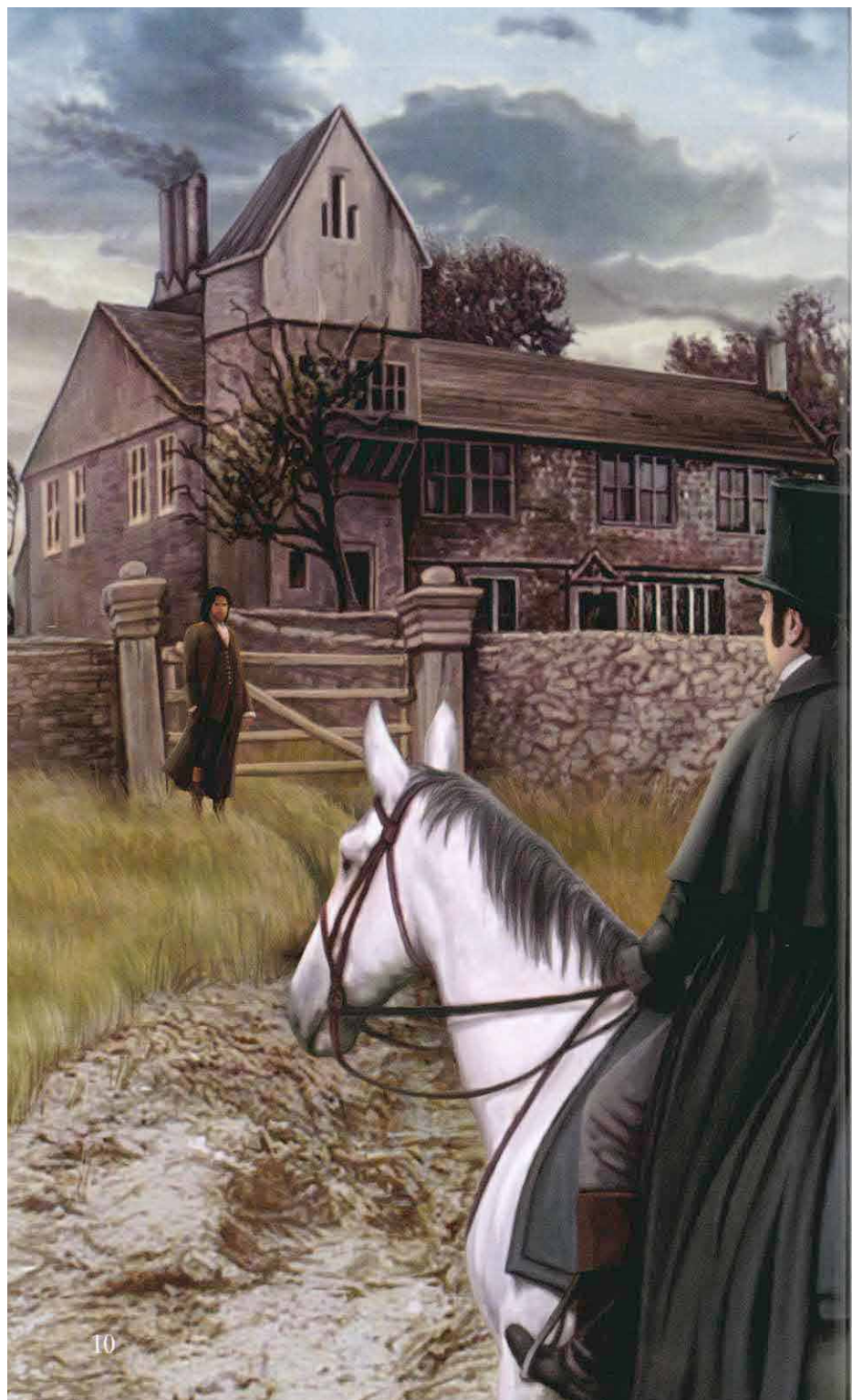
Cathy Earnshaw
(Child)



Catherine Linton



Mrs Dean



Catherine's Ghost

It was on a winter's day in 1801 when I first set eyes on the old house called Wuthering Heights. I saw it in the distance, appearing out of the mist. I was on the Yorkshire Moors, a remote part of England. Here there are few trees or houses but plenty of mud, grass, wind and rain. Though the moors are wild, they are also very beautiful.

As I approached the house, I could make out its features – its narrow windows and thick walls, built to resist the cold north wind that blows so hard across the moors. There was a man standing at the gate. He watched my approach suspiciously, making me hesitate before I spoke.

“Mr Heathcliff?”

He nodded.

“I am Mr Lockwood, your new tenant at Thrushcross Grange. I hope that my being there is not a problem for you.”

“I own Thrushcross Grange, Mr Lockwood. If your being there was a problem for me, I would not have let you rent it. Now, come in.”

Although the words he used were polite, he gave me a look that suggested that I was not welcome.

Inside I found myself in a rather rough, well-used sitting room. In the middle of one wall was a huge fireplace surrounded by numerous kitchen utensils. There were also several ferocious-looking dogs that glared and growled at me as I sat down.

Mr Heathcliff sat down in an armchair. Although he had the dress and manner of a gentleman, there was something in his dark eyes that suggested there was much more to him. Nevertheless, he was not the kind of man to show his feelings.

Activities

Catherine's Ghost

Comprehension

Read or listen to Chapter 1 and correct the following statements, using complete sentences.

- 1 The story takes place around 1900.
- 2 Heathcliff is the narrator.
- 3 Mr Lockwood is the owner of Thrushcross Grange.
- 4 The atmosphere is very happy and friendly for the most part.
- 5 On Mr Lockwood's second visit to Wuthering Heights, everyone is more relaxed.
- 6 Mr Lockwood walks home in the snowstorm.
- 7 Mr Lockwood is awoken at night by Isabella Linton's ghost.
- 8 Heathcliff sympathises with Mr Lockwood after his frightening experience.

What do you think?

A Discuss the following questions.

- 1 Throughout the first chapter, the atmosphere at Wuthering Heights is rather gloomy. Describe the bleak atmosphere, referring to the text.
- 2 Compare and contrast Mr Lockwood's feelings during his stay at Wuthering Heights, and after he returns to Thrushcross Grange.
- 3 What clues are we given in this chapter to Heathcliff's relationship with Catherine Earnshaw? Refer to the text to justify your answer.

B Find the following extracts from Chapter 1 and discuss their meanings.

- 1 p.12 "The dogs are not pets. They are trained to guard the house, but they don't take a liking to people who touch things."
- 2 p. 12 "I'm sorry, Mr Lockwood. Guests are so rare in this house that my dogs and I hardly know how to receive them."
- 3 p. 15 "An awful Sunday! I wish my father were back again. Hindley is a dreadful substitute – he treats Heathcliff terribly. He and I are going to rebel – we took our first step this evening."

Language Practice

Refer to the text to match the words and make collocations. Then use them to complete the sentences.

set	clothes
kitchen	ledge
roaring	wind
working	utensils
howling	fire
scratching	eyes
window	noises

- 1 They sat by the to warm themselves.
- 2 The on the window from the tree branches kept her awake all night.
- 3 The moment they on the house, they decided to buy it.
- 4 The kitten had climbed onto the but was afraid to jump down.
- 5 All the latest make cooking fun.
- 6 They were still in their when they stopped at the pub for a friendly chat.
- 7 The sweeping across the area was all they could hear during the storm.