

LESSON NOTE ON LITERATURE-IN-ENGLISH WEEK 5

SUBJECT: Literature-in-English
TOPIC: African Prose; "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte
LASS: SS1
WEEK: 5

MAJOR CHARACTERS

Mr. Heathcliff: adopted son of Mr. Earnshaw

Catherine Earnshaw: daughter to Mr. Earnshaw

Hindley Earnshaw: first child of Mr. Earnshaw

Mr. Lockwood: Heathcliff's tenant in Wuthering Heights

Cathy Linton: only child of Edgar Linton and Catherine Linton

Hareton Earnshaw: son of Hindley Earnshaw

Edgar Linton: brother to Isabella; Catherine's Earnshaw's husband

Isabella Linton: sister to Edgar and Heathcliff's wife

Linton Heathcliff: son of Heathcliff and Isabella

Nelly Dean: maid to the Earnshaw's family

Joseph: a servant at Wuthering Heights

MINOR CHARACTERS

Zillah: a maid at Wuthering Heights

Mr. and Mrs. Earnshaw: parents of Hindley and Catherine Earnshaw

Frances Earnshaw: wife of Hindley Earnshaw

Mr. and Mrs. Linton: parents of Edgar and Isabella Linton

Mr. Kenneth: a doctor

Background

"Wuthering Heights" is a novel of intense tale of love, revenge, and the consequences of societal expectations.

The story is set in the wild and desolate moors of Yorkshire, England, and it revolves around the passionate

and destructive love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff. It explores themes of class, social norms, and the supernatural, all within the context of a complex and dysfunctional family.

Emily Brontë's novel is a gothic fiction. A gothic fiction is a genre of literature that is characterized by a set of distinctive themes, settings and elements that create an atmosphere of mystery, horror and gloom.

Plot Summary

In 1801, Mr. Lockwood, the new tenant at Thrush cross Grange in Yorkshire, pays a visit to his landlord, Heathcliff, at his remote moorland farmhouse, Wuthering Heights. There he meets a reserved young woman (later identified as Cathy Linton); Joseph a cantankerous servant, Hareton an uneducated young man who speaks like a servant. Everyone is sullen and inhospitable. Snowed in for the night, Lockwood reads the diary of the former inhabitant of his room, Catherine Earnshaw, and had a nightmare in which ghostly Catherine begs to enter through the window. Woken by Lockwood's fearful yells, Heathcliff is troubled.

Lockwood later returns to Thrush cross Grange in heavy snow, falls ill from the cold and become bedridden. While he recovers, Lockwood's housekeeper Ellen "Nelly" Dean tells him the story of the strange family.

Nelly's take

Thirty years earlier, the Earnshaws live at Wuthering Heights with their children, Hindley and Catherine and a servant, Nelly herself.

Returning from a trip to Liverpool, Earnshaw brings home a young orphan whom he names Heathcliff; Earnshaw treats the boy as his favourite. His own children he neglects, especially after his wife dies. Hindley beats Heathcliff, who gradually becomes close friends with Catherine.

Hindley departs for University, returning as the new master of Wuthering Heights on the death of his father three years later. He and his new wife Frances allow Heathcliff to stay but only as a servant.

Heathcliff and Catherine spy on Edgar Linton and his sister Isabella, children who live nearby at Thrush cross Grange. Catherine is attacked by their dog and the Lintons took her in, sending Heathcliff home. When the Lintons visit Hindley, Edgar makes fun of Heathcliff, a fight ensues. Heathcliff is locked in the attic and vows revenge.

Frances dies after giving birth to a son, Hareton. Two years later, Catherine becomes engaged to Edgar. She confesses to Nelly that she loves Heathcliff, and will try to help but cannot marry him because of his low social status, Nelly warns her against the plan. Heathcliff overhears part of the conversation and misunderstanding Catherine's heart, flees the household, Catherine falls ill and distraught.

Twelve years later, Isabella is dying and the still-sickly Linton is brought back to live with his uncle Edgar at Grange, but Heathcliff insists that his son must live with him. Cathy (Edgar's daughter) and Linton(respectively at the Grange and Wuthering Heights) gradually develop a relationship. Heathcliff schemes to ensure that they marry and on Edgar's death demands that the couple moved in with him. He becomes increasingly wild and reveals that on the night Catherine died he dug up her grave and ever since he has been plagued by her ghost. When Linton dies, Cathy had no option but to remain in Wuthering Heights.

Lockwood grows tired of the Moira and moves away. Eight months later he arrives at Wuthering Heights while travelling through the area, he sees Nelly again, who is now the housekeeper at Wuthering Heights. She reports that Cathy has been teaching the still-uneducated Hareton to read. Heathcliff was seeing visions of the dead Catherine which they both shared, looking at him. He had stopped eating and some days later, he was found in Catherine's room.

In the present, Lockwood learns that Cathy and Hareton plan to marry and move to the Grange. Joseph is

left to take care of the declining Wuthering Heights. Nelly says that the locals have seen the ghost of Catherine and Heathcliff wandering abroad together and hopes they are at peace.