

جامعة تكريت

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قسم اللغة الانكليزية



المرحلة الثالثة

Subject Name: Novel

Lecture: Wuthering Heights

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The first lecture

Characters in Wuthering Heights

The main characters

Heathcliff - The antihero of Wuthering Heights, Heathcliff's story begins when Mr. Earnshaw returns from a trip to Liverpool and introduces the an orphan homeless boy he found on the street to his children, Hindley and Cathy. Mr. Earnshaw names the boy Heathcliff after a son who died, and he favors the orphan over his own son, Hindley, who comes to loathe Heathcliff, while Heathcliff and Cathy become inseparable. When old Mr. Earnshaw dies, Hindley, now master of Wuthering Heights, forces Heathcliff to become a servant, enduring humiliation, physical violence, and degradation. Heathcliff and Cathy are in love, but when Cathy chooses to marry Edgar Linton, a wealthy neighbor, Heathcliff runs away, only to return three years later as a handsome, wealthy gentleman. However, while he appears more gentrified on the surface, Heathcliff is secretly plotting revenge on the Earnshaw and Linton families. When Cathy dies in childbirth, all that Heathcliff seems to have left is his thirst for revenge, an obsession that shapes his character throughout much of the rest of the novel. Treated cruelly by Hindley then devastated by Cathy's death, Heathcliff becomes a master of cruelty himself, treating others as pawns in his game of vengeance and creating pain and terror wherever he goes. When Heathcliff recognizes the growing love between Hareton and Catherine, his resolution to exact his revenge finally falters. Hopelessly haunted by his love for Cathy, he gives up his final plan for revenge and embraces death in order to reunite with her.

Catherine - The daughter of Mr. Earnshaw and his wife, Catherine falls powerfully in love with Heathcliff, the orphan Mr. Earnshaw brings home from Liverpool. Catherine loves Heathcliff so intensely that she claims they are the same person. However, her desire for social advancement motivates her to marry Edgar Linton instead. Catherine is free-spirited, beautiful, spoiled, and often arrogant. She is given to fits of temper, and she is torn between her wild passion for Heathcliff

and her social ambition. She brings misery to both of the men who love her. Heathcliff's best childhood friend and true love, Cathy is also often peevish and selfish. She goes mad from events that result from her decision to go against her heart and soul and choose Edgar Linton over Heathcliff. She dies very young while giving birth to her only daughter, Catherine, and her memory and ghost haunt Heathcliff for the rest of his life, as he seeks revenge for all the wrongs inflicted upon him in their childhood.

Edgar Linton – Edgar is a snobbish boy who grows up to be a kind-spirited gentleman as an adult and, later, master of Thrushcross Grange. He marries Cathy and remains devoted to her. However, due to a physical fight with Heathcliff after a fit of jealousy, he aids in Cathy's demise. Fearful of Heathcliff after Cathy's death, Edgar seeks to protect his daughter, Catherine, from their cruel neighbor's attempts to exact revenge and take ownership of Thrushcross Grange. Edgar fails to do so, and he dies unable to prevent Heathcliff from carrying out his plan for revenge. Well-bred but rather spoiled as a boy, Edgar Linton grows into a tender, constant, but cowardly man. He is almost the ideal gentleman: Catherine accurately describes him as “handsome,” “pleasant to be with,” “cheerful,” and “rich.” However, this full assortment of gentlemanly characteristics, along with his civilized virtues, proves useless in Edgar's clashes with his foil, Heathcliff, who gains power over his wife, sister, and daughter.

Nelly Dean - Nelly Dean (known formally as Ellen Dean) serves as the chief narrator of *Wuthering Heights*. A sensible, intelligent, and compassionate woman, she grew up essentially alongside Hindley and Catherine Earnshaw and is deeply involved in the story she tells. She has strong feelings for the characters in her story, and these feelings complicate her narration. Also, she is a servant who has spent most of her life working for the Earnshaws, is the primary narrator, who tells the history of Heathcliff, Cathy, Catherine, and Hareton to Mr. Lockwood while he is convalescing from an illness.

Lockwood - Lockwood's narration forms a frame around Nelly's; he serves as an intermediary between Nelly and the reader. A somewhat vain and presumptuous gentleman, he deals very clumsily with the inhabitants of Wuthering Heights. Lockwood comes from a more domesticated region of England, and he finds himself at a loss when he witnesses the strange household's disregard for the social conventions that have always structured his world. As a narrator, his vanity and unfamiliarity with the story occasionally lead him to misunderstand events.

Young Catherine - Catherine is a kind, sweet, even-tempered child and young woman, unlike her mother, Cathy. She lives a sheltered childhood with her father, Edgar, at Thrushcross Grange. However, when she meets her cousin Hareton, she despises him for being an uneducated servant. She falls in love instead with her sickly, bookish cousin, Linton, who betrays her when his father, Heathcliff, threatens him. Linton and Catherine marry, and Catherine is forced to care for him as Linton dies soon after. With her inheritance stolen from her by Heathcliff, Catherine remains at Wuthering Heights until intense loneliness causes her to seek her cousin Hareton's companionship. While teaching him to read and write, the two cousins fall in love. Upon Heathcliff's death, rightful ownership of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange are restored to Hareton and Catherine. For clarity's sake, this SparkNote refers to the daughter of Edgar Linton and the first Catherine as "young Catherine." The first Catherine begins her life as Catherine Earnshaw and ends it as Catherine Linton; her daughter begins as Catherine Linton and, assuming that she marries Hareton after the end of the story, goes on to become Catherine Earnshaw. The mother and the daughter share not only a name, but also a tendency toward headstrong behavior, impetuosity, and occasional arrogance. However, Edgar's influence seems to have tempered young Catherine's character, and she is a gentler and more compassionate creature than her mother.

Hareton Earnshaw - The son of Hindley and Frances Earnshaw, Hareton is Catherine's nephew. After Hindley's death, Heathcliff assumes custody of Hareton, and raises him as an uneducated field worker, just as Hindley had done to Heathcliff himself. Thus Heathcliff uses Hareton to seek revenge on Hindley. Illiterate and quick-tempered, Hareton is easily humiliated, but shows a good heart and a deep desire to improve himself. At the end of the novel, he marries young Catherine. Hareton's mother dies at birth, and his father is eaten alive by grief. As a result, Hareton falls into Heathcliff's clutches and is unknowingly turned against his father and all the trappings of upper-class society. He lives a simple life, completely unaware he is brutish and should have been raised as a gentleman. Meeting Catherine arouses a desire to be such a man, but her mockery of his attempts at self-improvement drive him further away from the norms of society and educational pursuits. He gives up and acts as if he despises Catherine. When fate, or Heathcliff's revenge, forces him and Catherine to live at Wuthering Heights together, Hareton gives in when she asks to reconcile with him. The girl he has always loved and admired teaches him to read and write, and they fall in love. When Heathcliff dies, Wuthering Heights is restored to Hareton, its rightful owner.

Linton Heathcliff - Heathcliff's son by Isabella. Weak, sniveling, demanding, and constantly ill, Linton is raised in London by his mother and does not meet his father until he is thirteen years old, when he goes to live with him after his mother's death. Heathcliff despises Linton, treats him contemptuously, and, by forcing him to marry the young Catherine, uses him to cement his control over Thrushcross Grange after Edgar Linton's death. Linton himself dies not long after this marriage.