

Wuthering Heights

Advanced Placement in English Literature and Composition Teaching Unit

Study Guide Student Copy

Chapter I

1. Where and when does the story begin? How do these aspects of the setting inform your reading?
2. Briefly describe the landscape and the architecture found in the first chapter. Relate them to both the Gothic novel literary genre and Romanticism.
3. What inscription over the door does Mr. Lockwood notice, and why does he not question Mr. Heathcliff about it? What effect might this detail have on the reader?
4. What is the narrative point of view of the first chapter?
5. What can the reader expect from a story told from this point of view?

6. Characterize Mr. Lockwood. What is his present situation?
7. Why does Mr. Lockwood describe his location as a “perfect misanthropist’s heaven”?
8. Who is Mr. Heathcliff? Describe him and compare your description with Lockwood’s description of Heathcliff.
9. How does Lockwood characterize Heathcliff’s class in contrast to the man’s appearance? How would you categorize Lockwood’s class and why?
10. Why has Lockwood gained a reputation for being “deliberately heartless?”
11. What other characters are introduced during the first chapter?
12. Why do Heathcliff’s dogs turn against Lockwood?
13. How do you think Brontë intended the reader to feel towards Mr. Lockwood at the end of the first chapter?

Chapter II

1. What drives Mr. Lockwood to return to Wuthering Heights? Evaluate his decision.

2. “Wretched inmates! I ejaculated, mentally, “you deserve perpetual isolation from your species for your churlish inhospitality. At least, I would not keep my doors barred in the day-time. I don’t care—I will get in!” So resolved, I grasped the latch and shook it vehemently. (Pg. 15)

What purpose does the above passage serve in the development of the characters?

3. What does the dialect Joseph speaks in suggest about him? How does the use of dialect affect the story? Who else speaks with a dialect in this chapter?

4. Characterize Mrs. Heathcliff based on the descriptions of her in this chapter.

Chapter III

1. "While leading the way upstairs, she recommended that I should hide the candle, and not make a noise; for her master had an odd notion about the chamber she would put me in, and never let anybody lodge there willingly. I asked the reason. She did not know, she answered: she had only lived there a year or two; and they had so many queer goings on, she could not begin to be curious." (Pg. 23)

Identify a literary device Brontë is using in the above passage.

2. What insight into Heathcliff's character does Lockwood gain by perusing the antique books?
3. What mood is evoked by the description of Lockwood's dreams? Identify specific imagery that contributes to the mood.
4. What type of shift occurs in Heathcliff's attitude after Lockwood reveals himself?
5. What conclusions can be drawn from Heathcliff's behavior after Lockwood leaves the bedroom?
6. What does the exchange between Heathcliff and Mrs. Heathcliff reveal about their respective characters?

Chapter IV

1. How does Mr. Lockwood compel Nelly to discuss the inhabitants of Wuthering Heights with him? Are there any underlying motives suggested by his interest?
2. How does Nelly characterize Heathcliff's monetary status?
3. In what way does the narrative change in this chapter? What effect does it have on the story?
4. How does Heathcliff come to reside at Wuthering Heights? What are the class implications of his background, given the setting?
5. How did Heathcliff's presence affect the relationships between other members of the family?
6. What is Heathcliff's attitude toward Mr. Earnshaw?
7. Relate Heathcliff's origins to the Byronic Hero character type.
8. Identify the foreshadowing that occurs at the end of Chapter IV.

Chapter V

1. How were Heathcliff's negative qualities encouraged by Mr. Earnshaw's illness?
2. Nelly describes Catherine's behavior during Mr. Earnshaw's illness. What does it suggest about Catherine's character?
3. How is Heathcliff and Catherine's close relationship demonstrated in Chapter V?

Chapter VI

1. What are the class implications of the changes Hindley makes to Heathcliff's life at Wuthering Heights?
2. How do Heathcliff and Catherine generally spend their days? Relate their activities to the Romantic genre.
3. Why does Heathcliff dislike Edgar and Isabella Linton? How does Catherine feel towards the Lintons?
4. Describe how the weather relates to the events of the chapter.
5. Identify further evidence of Heathcliff's feelings toward Catherine in Chapter VI.

Chapter VII

1. How is Catherine altered by her stay at Thrushcross Grange? How will the changes in Catherine most likely affect her relationship with Heathcliff?
2. Why does Heathcliff become angry with Catherine when she returns?
3. How and why does Heathcliff envy Edgar Linton?
4. How does Nelly attempt to help Heathcliff? In what way is their plan foiled, and how does Catherine respond?
5. What disturbing quality does Heathcliff exhibit in relation to his feelings for Hindley?
6. How does Lockwood distinguish Nelly from other members of her class?

Chapter VIII

1. What gains and losses does Hindley experience in Chapter VIII? How does he respond to both?
2. How does Catherine's character become divided to some extent?
3. What are Nelly's true feelings toward Catherine at this point? Do they affect her reliability as a narrator in any way?
4. How has Heathcliff and Catherine's relationship changed? What event demonstrates that change?
5. What offensive behavior does Catherine engage in towards Edgar? How do they reconcile?