

A.P. Literature and Composition

Wuthering Heights

Part Two: Chapters 10-17, pp. 87-181

Due:

Heathcliff and the Gypsies

Edgar Linton refers to Heathcliff as a “gipsy,” a colloquialism derived from the word *Egyptian*. Formerly, the nomadic people known as Gypsies were thought to have come from Egypt. Actually, they originally came from India. First migrating to Europe at least one thousand years ago, the Gypsies have managed to keep certain elements of their culture intact. They call themselves Rom, and many of them still speak a language called Romany. Gypsies can be found on every continent but live primarily in Europe. Throughout the centuries they have been the object of prejudice. Heathcliff is called a Gypsy because of his dark hair and complexion and because he is an outsider in the closed, settled world of the Yorkshire moors.

Did You Know?

Novelists of the mid-1800s did not have the modern-day advantage of being able to read about psychology; but if they were good observers of human nature, they recognized the personality traits and psychological processes that scientists study today. Emily Brontë would probably not be surprised by the following findings related to stress:

- (1) Many life changes—including pregnancy, arguments with a loved one, and separation from a loved one—can trigger stress.
- (2) Certain individuals create personal stress by seeing themselves as victims of circumstances and holding others responsible for their unhappiness.
- (3) Seeking others’ constant love and insisting that everything must go one’s way can cause stress.
- (4) Chronic stress suppresses the immune system and makes an individual more susceptible to illness.
- (5) Anxiety and depression can make an individual more prone to physical disorders.

As you read chapters 10–17, notice how these observations about stress, psychological disorders, and physical health apply to Catherine Linton.

Part One: Study Guide Questions

1. How does Catherine react when Heathcliff returns to Thrushcross Grange to see her? What does her reaction suggest about her feelings for Heathcliff?
2. How does Heathcliff discover that Isabella is attracted to him? Why does he pursue the relationship? How does Edgar feel about his sister’s attraction to Heathcliff? Why?
3. What cruel action does Heathcliff take to warn Isabella not to marry him? In what ways does the action symbolize, or represent, their married life?
4. After Catherine dies, what is Heathcliff’s one prayer? What are his reasons for this prayer?
5. How does Heathcliff gain possession of Wuthering Heights? How does this acquisition further his ultimate goal?

Part Two: Meaning Behind Quotes.

Directions: Identify the speaker, and consider the meaning and significance of their words.

“I’ve fought through a bitter life since I last heard your voice, and you must forgive me, for I struggled only for you!”

“Tell her what Heathcliff is—an unreclaimed creature, without refinement, without cultivation; an arid wilderness of furze and whinstone.”

“You are welcome to torture me to death for your amusement, only allow me to amuse myself a little in the same style, and refrain from insult as much as you are able.”

“I have no pity! I have no pity! The more the worms writhe, the more I yearn to crush their entrails! It’s a moral teething; and I grind with greater energy, in proportion to the increase of pain.”

“Because misery, and degradation, and death, and nothing that God or Satan could inflict would have parted us, you, of your own will, did it.”

“I cannot live without my life! I cannot live without my soul!”

Part Three: Big Questions

Who do you think was most responsible for Catherine’s unhappiness? Why?

Explain Isabella’s attraction to Heathcliff. In your opinion, is the attraction believable or just a convenient plot device? Explain using textual support

Contrast life at Wuthering Heights with life at Thrushcross Grange. How does the name of each estate help characterize what the estate is like?

How do the elements of nature contribute to the overall story? Consider characters’ names, places, setting, etc.