

## Themes

1	<b>Love</b>	Bronte presents love is not sufficient for happiness and if anything, causes more agony. Cathy and Heathcliff's love and passion for one another is the centre of <i>Wuthering Heights</i> . It is all-consuming, painful and destructive and transcends the deaths of both characters.
2	<b>Revenge</b>	Heathcliff's cruel treatment at the hands of Hindley and the Lintons and his perceived rejection by Cathy lead him on a path of vicious revenge. He destroys both families to gain power.
3	<b>Social Class</b>	Social status informs some of the characters' motivations. Represented by the two houses, Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange, this barrier prevents the love between Cathy and Heathcliff and isolates Heathcliff from the social hierarchy. It is what Heathcliff partially seeks revenge against.
4	<b>Isolation</b>	The houses of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange are isolated from other communities and also from each other – the Grange is more civilised than the Heights. This isolation is reflected in the characters' and their relationships – Heathcliff becomes isolated from Cathy, he isolates other characters (Linton, Catherine) to enact revenge etc.

## Thematic Comparisons with Pre-1900 Poetry

1	<b>Love and time</b>	Cathy and Heathcliff's love transcends time, just like the love Shakespeare describes in 'Sonnet 116', but unlike the speaker's desire in 'To His Coy Mistress'. This makes us question the strength of the speaker's feelings.
2	<b>Barriers to love</b>	Social expectations prevents Cathy and Heathcliff from being together, leading to tragedy. Similarly, these expectations hinder the success of Donne's speaker in 'The Flea' and are also the cause of the speaker's anguish in 'Whoso list to hount.'
3	<b>Unrequited love</b>	Isabella is cruelly spurned by Heathcliff, Catherine refuses Linton and Hareton is initially rejected by Catherine. In a similar way, Keats' knight is rejected by the mysterious, supernatural woman in 'La Belle' and the speaker of 'Whoso list to hount' is involved in a pointless pursuit of woman who belongs to another. 'Non Sum Qualis' also explores the pain of unrequited love.
4	<b>Gender roles</b>	Cathy transgresses gender roles and is presented as struggling to conform to restrictive expectations. Edgar Linton is described with feminine characteristics, in contrast to Heathcliff's more typical masculine features. Similarly, the female in 'La Belle' transgresses expectations by holding power over the knight and causes his downfall. In contrast, many of the other speakers in the poetry emphasise their female subjects' feminine qualities as a form of flattery/persuasion.
5	<b>Obsession</b>	Cathy and Heathcliff's love is obsessive. This in turn leads to Heathcliff's obsessive need for revenge against Hindley, Edgar Linton and anything that marginalises him in society. A need to fulfil obsessive desires is also seen in 'The Scrutiny' by Richard Lovelace. The speaker argues he can only be satiated when he is free to pursue other sexual partners.
6	<b>Desire</b>	Cathy and Heathcliff share a strong desire and passion for one another that is both pleasurable and incredibly destructive. This destructive nature of desire is seen in many of the poems, such as the insistent and almost aggressive manipulative speaker in 'To His Coy Mistress' and the inability of the speaker in 'Non Sum Qualis' to forget his lover.

## Characters

1	<b>Lockwood</b>	Rents Thrushcross Grange from Heathcliff. Becomes ill whilst walking to and from the Grange and the Heights and is nursed back to health by Nelly. Listens to her history of Wuthering Heights.	7	<b>Edgar Linton</b>	Lives in the neighbouring Thrushcross Grange. Marries Cathy Earnshaw. Unable to prevent his daughter Catherine being taken by Heathcliff and married to Linton when he dies.
2	<b>Nelly Dean</b>	Housekeeper at Wuthering Heights. Serves as a confidante to both Cathy and Heathcliff. Nurses Hareton. Provides an insight into the relationships between other characters.	8	<b>Isabella</b>	Sister of Edgar Linton. Seduced by Heathcliff. They marry and Heathcliff turns cruel towards her. Runs away to London with their son Linton but dies shortly afterwards.
3	<b>Heathcliff</b>	Adopted by Mr Earnshaw during a trip to Liverpool. Becomes very close to Cathy. When Mr Earnshaw dies is demoted to position of servant by Hindley. Seeks revenge and power. Haunted by Cathy's ghost.	9	<b>Catherine</b>	Daughter of Cathy and Edgar. Forced to marry her cousin, Linton, so Heathcliff can take control of Wuthering Heights.
4	<b>Cathy</b>	Rebellious and transgressive, Cathy forms a strong bond with Heathcliff. Chooses status over love to improve Heathcliff's situation. Dies in childbirth.	10	<b>Linton</b>	Son of Isabella and Heathcliff. Sickly and has learned to fear his father. Used to manipulate Catherine.
5	<b>Hindley</b>	Cathy's brother and Heathcliff's adopted brother. Jealous of Heathcliff's treatment by his father. Cruel towards Heathcliff. Alcohol problem. Hareton's father.	11	<b>Hareton</b>	Son of Hindley and Frances, Cathy's nephew and Catherine's cousin. Kept uneducated by Heathcliff.
6	<b>Mr Earnshaw</b>	Owns Wuthering Heights. Adopts Heathcliff into the Earnshaw family. Treats Heathcliff like an equal.	12	<b>Joseph</b>	Long-standing servant at Wuthering Heights. Self-righteous Christian but not particularly benevolent.

## Context

1	<b>The Gothic</b>	Style of literature containing certain conventions: the supernatural, ghosts, blood, setting, pathetic fallacy, dark and foreboding atmosphere, death, fear of the unknown, the uncanny. Wuthering Heights is a novel full of ghosts and spirits. Dead characters refuse to leave the living alone and the isolated setting of the moors exacerbates characters' suffering.
2	<b>Victorian Era</b>	The novel was published during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1903). It was a period of rapid industrialisation across England and the expansion of the British Empire globally. There existed a class-based society and expectations about conduct and adherence to social conventions, in particular gender roles.
3	<b>Emily Bronte</b>	(1818-1848) English novelist and poet. <i>Wuthering Heights</i> , published in 1847 under the male pseudonym Ellis Bell (E.B) was her only novel. Bronte, like her siblings Charlotte, Ann and Branwell was born and grew up in West Yorkshire. Little is known about Emily due to her solitary and reclusive nature. The Bronte family suffered with ill health due to the harsh local condition and unsanitary conditions at home thanks to a contaminated water source – this caused the deaths of both Branwell and Emily.

## Key Vocabulary

1	<b>Frame narrative</b>	A story within a story, within sometimes yet another story
2	<b>The Other</b>	An individual who is perceived as not belonging, as being different in some fundamental way
4	<b>Transgressive</b>	Behaviour that involves violating moral or social boundaries
5	<b>Byronic Hero</b>	A melancholy and rebellious young man, distressed by a terrible wrong he committed in the past
6	<b>Doubling</b>	When two or more characters parallel each other in action or personality
7	<b>Romanticism</b>	The love of nature is not presented just in its tranquil and smiling aspects but also appears in its wild, stormy moods
8	<b>Unreliable narrator</b>	A narrator whose credibility is compromised. For example, Nelly's credibility can be questioned because she is a tertiary narrator recalling events from the past