LHE 3251
Teaching the Language of Novels

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Emily Bronte (1818-1848)
* Published in 1847
* Was unfavorably received
* Only novel written by Bronte
* Features terror, ghosts, supernatural, darkness, death, decay, secrets
* Explores the dark areas of a soul
*Heathcliff, the villain is not adequately punished.*

*Wuthering Heights*
* Heathcliff
* Catherine Earnshaw
* Hindley Earnshaw
* Catherine Linton
* Hareton Earnshaw
* Hindley Heathcliff
* Edgar Linton
* Isabella Linton
*Lockwood
*Nelly
* Thrushcross Grange - The Linton family home
* Wuthering Heights - The Earnshaw family home
  Heathcliff took over
* Moors - open, grassland, extreme weather
*Violence*

*When the ghost will not let go of Mr. Lockwood, he hurts it, even though it is a child. He drags her arm on the broken glass, and the blood flows onto the bed (chapter 3)*
* Suffering from the loss of Catherine, Heathcliff hits his head against a tree, causing it to bleed. Nelly sees many bloodstains on the tree, and guesses that Heathcliff had inflicted this pain on himself many times during the night. (chapter 16)
* Cathy angers Heathcliff, and he grabs her hair with the intention of beating her. But something comes over him and he releases her, unexpectedly. It is unusual for Heathcliff to miss a chance to abuse someone, and they do not understand, but are grateful. (Chapter 33)
Heathcliff secretly leaves Wuthering Heights when he overhears Catherine say that it would degrade her to marry him. Guilty for what she said, Catherine looks for him even in the pouring rain. When he cannot be found, she becomes detached. But when Hindley starts to yell at her, Catherine has a fit of madness. The doctor is called, and does what he can. She is so mad and delusional, the doctor is fearful that she will kill herself. (chapter 9)
* After Catherine's death, a snow interrupts this early month of summer. The early flowers die under the drifts, birds go silent, and young plants die. Nature becomes completely silent in her absence, as though it is in mourning. (chapter 17)
Waking from a violent dream, Mr. Lockwood, who is sleeping in Catherine's bed, sees a ghost. It is a young girl who calls herself Catherine Linton. Mr. Lockwood will not let her in, even though she complains she has been wandering twenty years. It was about twenty years ago that Catherine Linton died, and Heathcliff begged her to haunt him until he died. (chapter 3)
Heathcliff, with no respect for the dead, had the gravedigger open Catherine's coffin while he was preparing Edgar's. The coffin was opened, and Catherine's face looked the same as the day she died, nearly twenty years ago (chapter 17)
Many townspeople believe Heathcliff is a ghost, and some claim to have met him along the moors, by the church, or in Wuthering Heights. Joseph also believes he has seen Heathcliff and Catherine looking out her window on rainy nights (chapter 34)
*"It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him: and that, not because he's handsome, Nelly, but because he's more myself than I am. Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same; and Linton's is as different as a moonbeam from lightning, or frost from fire." Chapter 9, pg. 73
"Doubtless Catherine marked the difference between her friends, as one came in and the other went out. The contrast resembled what you see in exchanging a bleak, hilly, coal country for a beautiful fertile valley; and his voice and greeting were as opposite as his aspect." Chapter 8, pg. 63
There is no single point of view in this novel. The story is told by Lockwood, by Catherine, by Ellen Dean, by Heathcliff, by Isabella, by the younger Cathy, and by Zillah, the other housekeeper. Since the author never explicitly tells you what to think, you must evaluate the story in the same way that you evaluate each of the characters telling it.
*There are two generations, each occupying half the chapters. There are two households, each with distinctive qualities. And the actions revolve around pairs of children (Heathcliff and Cathy, the younger Cathy and Linton, the younger Cathy and Hareton).
* Written by Kate Chopin (1851-1904)

* Was not well received by readers when it was published (denounced and banned from the bookstore)

*The Awakening (1899)*
* Edna Pontellier
* Mademoiselle Reisz
* Adele Ratignole
* Robert Lebrun
* Alcee Arobin
* Leonce Pontellier
Mrs. Pontellier was not a mother-woman. The mother-woman seemed to prevail at Grand Isle. It was easy to know them, fluttering about with extended, protecting wings when any harm, real or imaginary, threatened their precious brood. They were women who idolized their husbands, and esteemed it a holy privilege to efface themselves as individuals and grow wings as ministering angels.
A feeling of exultation overtook her, as if some power of significant import had been given her the control the working of her body and her soul. She grew daring and reckless, overestimating her strength. She wanted to swim far out, where no woman had swum before.
* Symbols are objects, characters, figures, or colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts
caged birds serve as reminders of Edna’s entrapment and also of the entrapment of Victorian women in general. Madame Lebrun’s parrot and mockingbird represent Edna and Madame Reisz, respectively. Like the birds, the women’s movements are limited (by society), and they are unable to communicate with the world around them.
The sea in *The Awakening* symbolizes freedom and escape. It is a vast expanse that Edna can brave only when she is solitary and only after she has discovered her own strength. When in the water, Edna is reminded of the depth of the universe and of her own position as a human being within that depth. The sensuous sound of the surf constantly beckons and seduces Edna throughout the novel.
Edna ends her life in the sea: a space of infinite potential becomes a blank and enveloping void that carries both a promise and a threat. In its sublime vastness, the sea represents the strength, glory, and lonely horror of independence.
* Important literary movement at the end of 19th century
* Suggests biological and socioeconomic determinism predicts choices that individual makes about his life.
* Nature causes human to respond to certain events in preordained manner that nature has already determined
* Edna thinks that she can make choices about her life and that these choices have no impact on others

* In truth, Edna is a mother, and nature determines that women will become mothers, they must also become wives, and as wives they can no longer choose
* Literary movement began in late 18th century and lasted until middle of 19th century
* Free the individual from the constraints and rules that governed society
* Stronger emphasis is placed on importance of imagination and individualism

*Romanticism*
* Romanticism emphasizes individualism
* Naturalism emphasizes nature and society
* Naturalism argues that humans are little more than animals, susceptible to influence of nature
* Human actions are determinate by influences by nature/environment
* Human has no personal choice
* An attempt to recapture the ideals of Romanticism
* Edna’s desire for individual rebellion encapsulates this idea
* But her existence in late 19th century is not desired as it is argued that the individual has no choice

*The Awakening*
What is the symbolic importance of the lady in black and of the two lovers? These characters often appear at the same points in the novel; what is the significance of this pairing?
* Character

* Take one of the main characters from the novel you are reading at the moment and ‘adopt’ him or her. Now write the name of the character across a blank sheet of paper.

* As you read through, make a note of all the occasions when your character appears, is mentioned, is thought about or talked about—by himself or by others.

* Use the information in your list of comments and quotations to write a detailed character study.

* Activity
* 3 sections
* Section A (Wuthering Heights - Given 3 questions - answer 2 questions)
* Section B (The Awakening - Given 3 questions - answer 2 questions)
* Section C (Given 2 questions - answer 1 question)
All the best