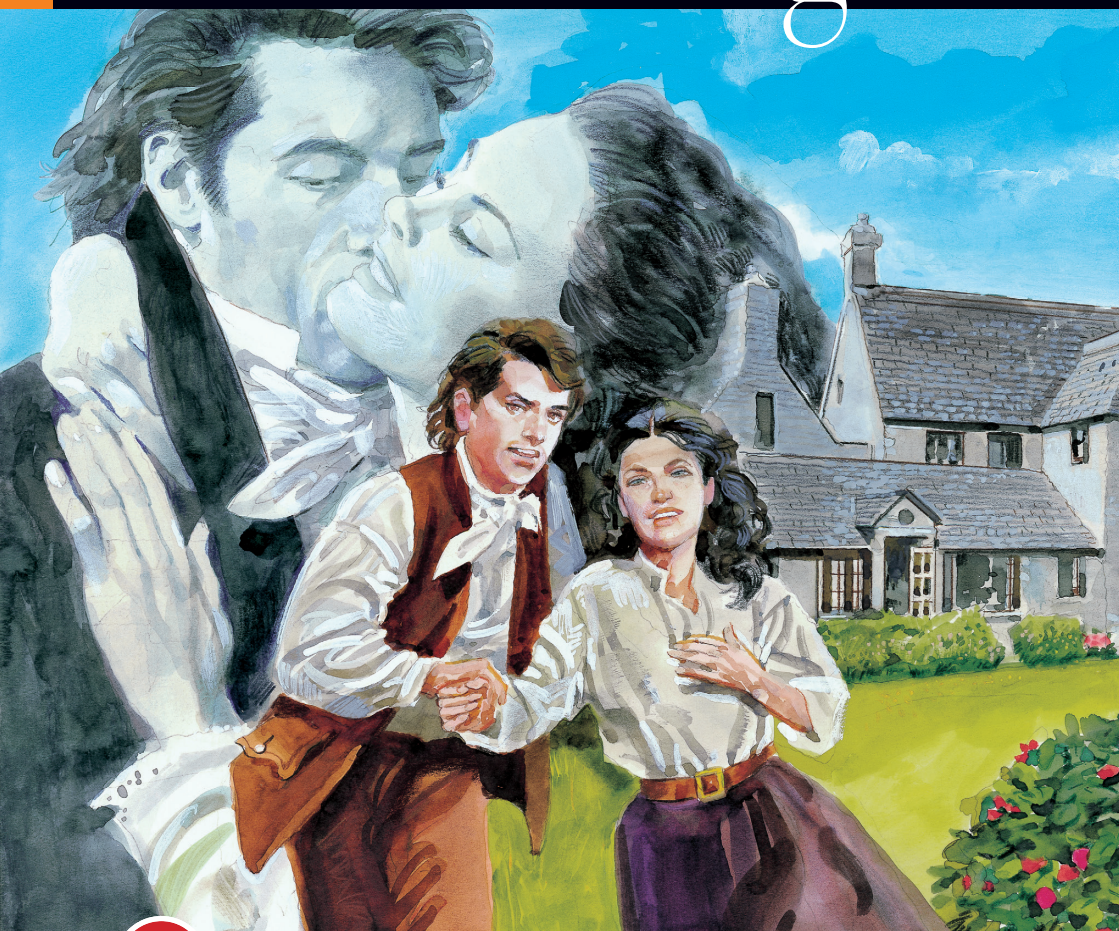


Emily Brontë

# Wuthering Heights



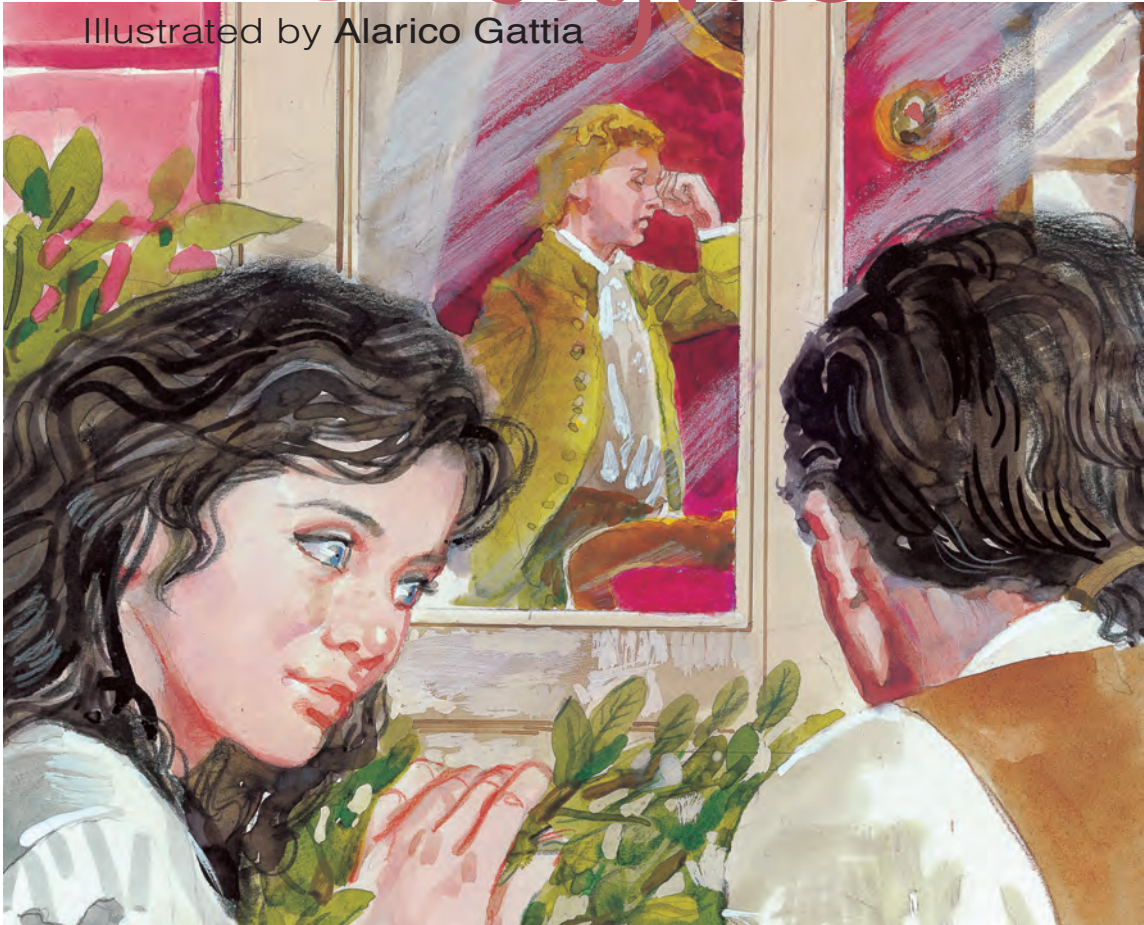
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Emily Brontë

# Wuthering Heights

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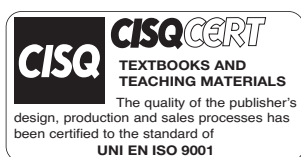
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 **First Certificate in English** Examination-style exercises

**T: GRADE 8**      Trinity-style exercises (Grade 8)

Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 11 and 12 are recorded.

 These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts  
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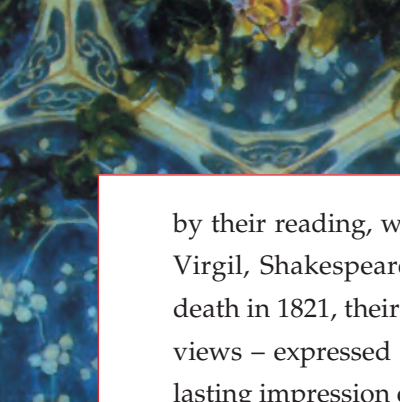
**Emily Brontë**  
by Patrick Branwell Brontë  
(c. 1833).

*Emily Brontë*

## Emily Brontë

In the 1820s and 30s, three remarkable sisters – Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë – grew up in Howarth, a village in Yorkshire. Their father was the vicar of the local church. The landscape around Howarth was flat and desolate, and the weather was often windy and cold. The village was small and far away from the nearest town. Life at Howarth was one of physical isolation, but the Brontë sisters compensated for this by the extent and variety of their reading. They had access to their father's large library and were deeply influenced





by their reading, which included the Bible and the works of Homer, Virgil, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron and Scott. After their mother's death in 1821, their aunt came to live with them. Her severe religious views – expressed in tales of hell and divine punishment – made a lasting impression on the girls.

In 1846 a volume of poems by Charlotte, Emily and Anne appeared under the title *Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell*. They had decided to use male pseudonyms because Emily was very reluctant to publish under her own name. The following year, Charlotte's *Jane Eyre*, Emily's *Wuthering Heights*, and Anne's *Agnes Grey* were published. Emily died of tuberculosis in 1848; she was only thirty years old.

*Wuthering Heights* is one of the most powerful novels ever written. Set in the desolate windy landscape in which Emily Brontë spent her life, it is a story of passion and hatred, jealousy and revenge, religion and superstition. It has much more in common with the Gothic novel <sup>1</sup> than with the more typically Victorian works of Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot. For example, Victorian protagonists are usually good – or at least they wish to be good. By contrast, the protagonists of *Wuthering Heights* – Heathcliff and Catherine – have no interest in being good. They want to live life to the fullest, to satisfy their desires. They are two of the most interesting and disturbing characters in English fiction, but their attraction does not depend on goodness or even on reason: both are frequently nasty, possibly evil, and probably mad. Despite, or perhaps because of, this we read on, fascinated by their story.

1. **Gothic novel** : horror stories and ghost stories popular in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.



## 1 Comprehension

Match the people and places (1-6) to the appropriate information (a-f).

### People and places

1. ☐ The Brontë sisters' father
2. ☐ Howarth
3. ☐ The library at Howarth
4. ☐ The Brontë sisters' aunt
5. ☐ A novel by Charlotte Brontë
6. ☐ A novel by Anne Brontë

### Information

- a. *Agnes Grey*
- b. She influenced the sisters
- c. *Jane Eyre*
- d. He was the local vicar
- e. It was isolated and desolate
- f. It contained many important works

## 2 Why are the following dates important in Emily Brontë's life?

- a. 1821                      b. 1846                      c. 1847                      d. 1848

## 3 What did Howarth and Wuthering Heights have in common?

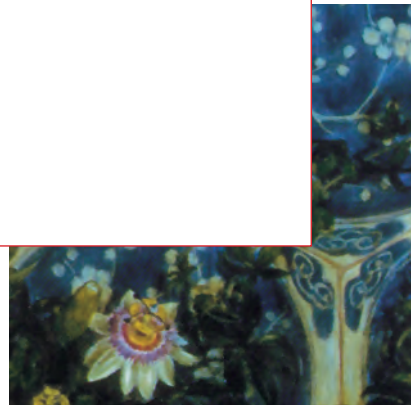
## 4 Why are Heathcliff and Catherine different from other Victorian protagonists?

## Before you read

### 1 Look at the title of Chapter One ('A Misanthropist's Heaven'). Which sentence (a, b or c) explains the title?

The story begins in a place which is perfect for someone who...

- a. likes other people's company.
- b. likes giving money to people.
- c. dislikes other people's company.





# The Characters



Catherine Earnshaw



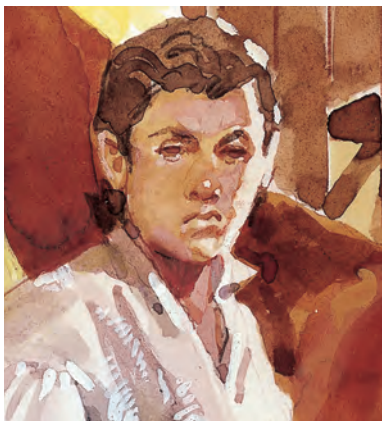
Heathcliff



Catherine Linton



Edgar Linton



Hindley Earnshaw



Hareton Earnshaw



Linton Heathcliff



Mrs Dean (Nelly, Ellen)



Isabella Linton

Mr Lockwood

The narrator

Joseph

Heathcliff's servant

Zillah

A servant at Wuthering Heights



# A Misanthropist's Heaven

I HAVE JUST RETURNED from a visit to my landlord, who is my only neighbour. This is certainly a beautiful place! In all England, there is nowhere so completely removed from society. It is a misanthropist's heaven: perfect



for Mr Heathcliff and me, for we are both misanthropists. He is a fine man! His black eyes looked at me suspiciously, and he did not offer to shake my hand. I was interested to meet a man who seems even more reserved than I am.

'Mr Heathcliff?' I said. 'I'm Mr Lockwood, your new tenant<sup>1</sup> at Thrushcross Grange.'

'Come in,' he replied reluctantly, as if he really wanted to say, 'Go to the devil!' As I followed him into the house, he called out, 'Joseph! Take Mr Lockwood's horse and then bring us some wine.'

Mr Heathcliff lives in a large stone house called Wuthering Heights. 'Wuthering' is an adjective used only by the people of

1. **tenant** : person who rents property from a landlord.



this region, meaning 'windy' or 'stormy', and indeed the house is built on top of a hill and is completely exposed to the north wind. The few trees around it all lean <sup>1</sup> in one direction. Over the door of Wuthering Heights the date '1500' and the name 'Hareton Earnshaw' are inscribed. I wanted to ask Mr Heathcliff to tell me the history of the place, but he seemed so unfriendly that I decided not to.

The door opens straight into the sitting room. At one end of the room is a large oak dresser, <sup>2</sup> its shelves crowded with silver plates. Legs of beef and ham hang from the ceiling. Above the fireplace, guns are attached to the wall as ornaments. In one corner a female hunting dog lay surrounded by her puppies, and other dogs hid in the shadows.

Mr Heathcliff himself looks like a gypsy with the dress and manners of a gentleman, a little untidy but tall and handsome. Some people might think he is proud, but I think his reserve — like mine — is probably because he does not like to show his feelings. But no, perhaps the reasons for Mr Heathcliff's reserve are different from my own. Let us hope that there is no one else quite like me. I remember my dear mother saying to me, 'You'll never have a comfortable home!' My behaviour last summer showed that she was right.

While enjoying a month of fine weather at the coast, I met a fascinating young lady and fell in love with her. I never told her that I loved her, but I suppose she guessed from the way I looked at her. She began to look lovingly at me. I confess with shame that I became cold and distant. The young lady thought that she

1. **lean** : incline, bend.

2. **oak dresser** : wooden piece of furniture for storing plates and cups.



had made a terrible mistake. She was confused and embarrassed, so she left the place immediately. Behaviour such as this has given me a reputation for heartlessness, but I am not heartless.

I sat by Heathcliff's fireplace, and he sat opposite me. I tried to stroke<sup>1</sup> the hunting dog, but she growled<sup>2</sup> at me.

'You'd better leave the dog alone,' said Heathcliff. Then he went in search of Joseph, leaving me surrounded by his nasty dogs.

Anxious not to be bitten, I kept still but whispered, 'Keep away, you savage beasts!' Four dogs leapt on me at once, growling and showing their teeth. I cried out for help.

Heathcliff and Joseph, his servant, appeared at the door but made no effort to save me. Fortunately a big, strong woman from the kitchen came to help me. She shouted at the dogs and hit them with a frying pan until they let me go.

'What the devil's the matter?' asked Heathcliff.

'You shouldn't leave a stranger alone with those dogs, sir,' I said angrily. 'They're as savage as tigers!'

'They're hunting dogs, not pets. Have a glass of wine.'

'No, thank you.'

Heathcliff smiled. 'Calm down, Mr Lockwood,' he said. 'Have a little wine. Guests are so rare in this house that my dogs and I don't know how to receive them. Your health, sir!'<sup>3</sup>

I raised my glass and replied, 'And yours.' It was foolish to take offence at the behaviour of the dogs. Besides, Heathcliff was amused by my distress,<sup>4</sup> and I did not want to give him any more amusement.

1. **stroke** : caress.

2. **growled** : made an angry sound typical of dogs.

3. **your health, sir** : toast (wish made before drinking alcoholic drinks) meaning 'I hope you will always be healthy.'

4. **distress** : agitation, suffering.



Heathcliff relaxed a little and began to tell me about Thrushcross Grange. I enjoyed my conversation with him, and offered to visit again tomorrow. He did not seem to like the idea, but I will go anyway. He makes me feel like a sociable man, compared with him.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yesterday I went to visit Wuthering Heights again. When I got there, a few snowflakes were falling. No one answered my knock, but the dogs inside began to growl. Then Joseph walked by. He is a gloomy<sup>1</sup> old man. 'The master's in the fields with the sheep,' he said. 'You'll have to go there if you want to speak to him.'

'Is there nobody inside?'

'Nobody but the mistress, and she won't open the door.'

I was surprised to hear there was a mistress at Wuthering Heights. 'Can't you tell her who I am, Joseph?'

'No,' he replied and walked off.

The snow was falling thickly by this time. I tried to open the door, but it did not move. Then a young man appeared. He told me to follow him around the house to another door. Finally I reached the large, warm, cheerful sitting room. There was a big fire in the fireplace. The table was ready for tea, and the mistress was sitting near the table.

I waited for her to ask me to sit down, but she just looked at me in silence. 'Bad weather!' I remarked. She did not reply. I felt very uncomfortable.

'Sit down,' said the young man. 'He'll be in soon.'

The female hunting dog moved her tail as if she wanted to welcome me. 'A beautiful animal!' I said, trying once more to

1. **gloomy** : sad, depressed or pessimistic (of a person); dark and depressing (of a place or thing).



engage the mistress in conversation. She did not reply, so I decided to try the weather again. 'It's cold out this evening.'

'You should have stayed at home,' she said.

She was very young and lovely. She had golden hair, and her eyes were beautiful, but their expression was unpleasant.

'Were you asked to tea?' she demanded.

'No,' I said, smiling. 'You're the only person who can ask me.'

The young man came and stood in front of the fire, looking at me angrily. At first I had thought he was a servant, but now I was not so sure. His dress and speech were both rough,<sup>1</sup> not at all like those of Mr and Mrs Heathcliff. His hair was untidy and his hands were brown like those of a common worker. Yet there was something proud and free about him.

I felt relieved when Heathcliff came in. 'You see I've come to visit you again, as I promised,' I said cheerfully. 'I won't be able to leave for half an hour because of this snow. I hope you don't mind me staying that long.'

'Half an hour?' he said, shaking the snow from his clothes. 'The snow won't stop in half an hour. Why do you go out walking in a snowstorm? You could get lost.'

'Perhaps one of your servants could show me the way back to Thrushcross Grange?'

'Certainly not.'

'Well, then, I must try to find the way alone.'

The rough young man turned to the mistress and said, 'Are you going to make the tea?'

'Is he having tea with us?' she asked Heathcliff, pointing at me.

'Get it ready, will you?' he said. He spoke so savagely that I was shocked. I no longer thought that Heathcliff was a fine man.

1. **rough** [rʌf]: (here) the opposite of elegant.



## Wuthering Heights

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‘Now, sir,’ he said to me, ‘bring your chair forward,’ and we all sat down to tea, including the rough young man. We ate in silence.

I thought it was my presence that made them so taciturn; surely they were not like that all the time. So I tried to make cheerful conversation. ‘This is an isolated place, but you must be very happy here, Mr Heathcliff, surrounded by your family, with your amiable lady —’

‘Where’s my amiable lady?’ said Heathcliff.

‘I mean Mrs Heathcliff, your wife.’



'Do you think that her spirit is with me at Wuthering Heights, even though her body is gone?'

I realised that I had made a mistake, and I tried to correct it. I should have seen that there was too great a difference of age between them. He was about forty, but she looked no more than seventeen.

I suddenly thought that the unpleasant young man near me, who was drinking his tea out of a bowl and eating with unwashed hands, might be her husband. He might be Heathcliff junior. What a pity! She must have married him because she did not



know that better men existed. I thought that I must be careful not to make her regret her choice.

‘Mrs Heathcliff’s my daughter-in-law,’ said Heathcliff. He looked at her with a peculiar expression on his face. He seemed to hate her.

‘Ah, certainly — I see now. You’re the happy husband,’ I said, turning to the young man.

This was worse than before. The youth blushed and looked very angry.

‘Neither of us is married to her. Her husband’s dead,’ said Heathcliff. ‘She was married to my son.’

‘And this young man is...?’

‘Certainly not my son!’ Heathcliff smiled.

‘My name’s Hareton Earnshaw,’ growled the other. ‘And you must treat it with respect!’

‘I have shown no disrespect,’ I replied. I began to feel very out of place in this family circle. When tea was over, I went to the window to examine the weather: darkness was falling, and the wind was full of snow. ‘I won’t be able to get home without a guide,’ I said.

‘Hareton, bring those sheep into the barn,’ said Heathcliff.

‘What shall I do?’ I asked. I turned to look at Heathcliff, but I found that the only other person in the room was Mrs Heathcliff.

‘Mrs Heathcliff,’ I said, ‘is there no one in the house who can guide me back to Thrushcross Grange?’

‘Nobody,’ she said.

‘Then I’ll have to stay here.’

Heathcliff appeared in the doorway. ‘I hope this will be a lesson to you to take no more walks in the snow. If you stay



here, you must share a bed with Hareton or Joseph. I have no guest rooms.'

'I can sleep in a chair in this room.'

'I don't want a stranger in my house while I'm sleeping,' said Heathcliff.

With this insult, my patience was at an end. I pushed past him and left the house, just as Hareton was coming in.

'I'll go with him as far as the park,' said Hareton to Heathcliff.

'Who'll look after the horses if you go?' cried Heathcliff.

'A man's life is more important,' said Mrs Heathcliff. Her sudden kindness surprised me.

'I won't save his life for you!' said Hareton. 'If you care about him, you'd better be quiet!'

Joseph was milking the cows by the light of a lamp. I took the lamp and quickly went out through the gate, saying, 'I'll send it back tomorrow.'

'Master! He's stealing the lamp!' cried Joseph. 'Let the dogs go after him!'

Two hairy monsters jumped at me. They knocked me down, and the light was extinguished. My nose began to bleed. I heard Hareton and Heathcliff laughing. Trembling with rage and humiliation, I cursed<sup>1</sup> them. Finally the big, strong woman who had saved me from the dogs on my first visit came out to see what was happening. Her name was Zillah. 'Come, sir,' she said to me. 'You're bleeding. I'll take care of you.'

She poured cold water down my neck to stop it bleeding. Then Heathcliff told her to give me a glass of brandy and prepare a bed for me.

1. **cursed** : expressed hostile wishes such as 'Damn you!'



## Go back to the text



### 1 Comprehension

For questions 1-5, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to Chapter One.

- 1 What do Mr Lockwood and Heathcliff have in common?
  - A ☐ They are physically similar.
  - B ☐ They both like animals.
  - C ☐ They are both reserved.
  - D ☐ They both met a young woman at the coast last year.
- 2 Which sentence does NOT describe the house, Wuthering Heights?
  - A ☐ It is a solid construction.
  - B ☐ It is surrounded by woods.
  - C ☐ It is built on high ground.
  - D ☐ Its name is inspired by its location.
- 3 How does Heathcliff feel the first time Lockwood is attacked by the dogs?
  - A ☐ He is sorry.
  - B ☐ He is angry.
  - C ☐ He is embarrassed.
  - D ☐ He is amused.
- 4 What does Lockwood do when he meets the young lady for the first time?
  - A ☐ He talks about the weather.
  - B ☐ He asks her name.
  - C ☐ He introduces himself.
  - D ☐ He asks her how long she has lived at Wuthering Heights.
- 5 Lockwood finally decides to leave Wuthering Heights because
  - A ☐ he can no longer stand the rudeness of its inhabitants.
  - B ☐ the snowstorm stops.
  - C ☐ there is nowhere for him to sleep.
  - D ☐ he is afraid of Heathcliff's dogs.

## 2 Understanding the characters

On his second visit to Wuthering Heights, Lockwood cannot understand the people there. He says Heathcliff looks like a gypsy, is a little untidy but with the dress and manners of a gentleman. Complete the missing information about the young girl and the young man.

- The young girl is young and lovely with ..... hair and ..... eyes, but the expression in her eyes is ..... and she is .....
- The young man is ..... , with untidy ..... and brown ..... , but he is ..... and .....

## 3 Complete the sentences to show how Lockwood thinks the three people are related. Then say what their *real* relationship is.

At first, Lockwood thinks the young girl is Heathcliff's ..... , but she is really his ..... . Then Lockwood thinks the young man is ..... , but he .....

## 4 Heathcliff says that at Wuthering Heights, 'guests are so rare... that my dogs and I don't know how to receive them.' Fill in the table with examples of the inhabitants' unconventional behaviour.

The young woman	The young man	Heathcliff	Joseph
		<i>When Lockwood is attacked by the dogs, he offers no help</i>	

## 5 At the end of Chapter One we know the names of four characters. Who are they?

**6 Vocabulary – the home: kitchens then and now**

Re-read the description of the kitchen or sitting room at Wuthering Heights on page 11, then answer the questions below.

- a. What furniture, ornaments and objects does Lockwood notice?  
 b. Unscramble the words below. They are all objects or utensils you find in a modern kitchen. Four of them would not be found in the kitchen at Wuthering Heights. Which are they?

1. OOFD OOERPRCSS

2. OPTAET

3. NRLOILG NPI

4. WAMOVRECI

5. IRLLG

6. NREBLDE

7. NIARDGNI ORBRA

8. HIDAWREHSS

1. F \_ O \_ P \_ O \_ E \_ S \_ R

2. \_ E \_ P \_ T

3. R \_ L \_ I \_ G P \_ \_

4. M \_ C \_ O \_ A \_ E

5. \_ R \_ L \_

6. B \_ E \_ D \_ R

7. \_ R \_ I \_ I \_ G B \_ A \_ D

8. D \_ S \_ W \_ S \_ E \_

**Before you read**

- 1** In Chapter Two, Lockwood sees a ghost. Whose ghost do you think it is? Look back at Lockwood's conversation with Heathcliff (page 16).

**2 Listening**

Listen to the beginning of Chapter Two and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Zillah took Lockwood to a room on the ground floor.
- 2 Zillah could not answer Lockwood's question.
- 3 The bed was inside a large piece of furniture
- 4 There were some books on the bed.
- 5 Lockwood felt better now he was alone.
- 6 There were two names written on the window sill.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Now read the text and correct the incorrect statements.