

Discussion Questions

Wuthering Heights

Emily Bronte



1. Why do you think Catherine married Edmund? Do you believe she actually loved him? What are the arguments for and against this?
2. Heathcliff's love for Catherine has been debated for centuries. Do you think his love was pure or selfish? What about Catherine's love for Heathcliff? Is this a tale of two star-crossed lovers or a tale of two heartless fools?
3. Characterize Nelly Dean. Consider her reliability as a narrator, her role as a participant in the novel, and the reason that Bronte chose her as a narrator of events in the novel.
4. Catherine is pained by Hindley's punishment of Heathcliff, yet she continues to entertain her guests. What change does this reveal?
5. Discuss the realistic, romantic, and gothic elements of the novel and how they contribute to the reader's understanding of the novel.
6. Considering the motives and desires of these two characters, would you argue that the novel seems to be Catherine's story or Heathcliff's story or would you argue that the novel has two protagonists? Explain.
7. Identify the significance of windows in *Wuthering Heights*. During what events do windows appear in the plot, and what do they seem to symbolize?
8. Why does Linton help Cathy escape to see her father? After Linton dies, what is left for Cathy?
9. How is the bitterness and hatred in the story finally overcome?
10. Heathcliff was treated poorly and unfairly at the beginning of the book. He sets out to avenge himself and returns a gentleman, but begins a path to retribution that he eventually recognizes as futile. In the end, his efforts bring him no comfort and he is still haunted by Catherine's memory. Did you feel sorry for Heathcliff or did he get what he deserved for the evil he inflicted?