

A.P. English
Audino

SSW #7

Quick Write for Wuthering Heights

1. Consider the laconic opening to the novel that crossed all barriers and stepped out into high society just as unkempt, rough-hewn and wild as the moors that inspired its pages. Emily Bronte writes in the first lines of her novel:

"This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect misanthropist's Heaven: and Mr. Heathcliff and I are such a suitable pair to divide the desolation between us." (p. 1)

Then consider the final lines of the novel:

"I lingered round [the graves], under that benign sky: watched the moths fluttering among the heath and hare-bells; listened to the soft wind breathing through the grass; and wondered how any one could ever imagine unquiet slumbers for the sleepers in that quiet earth." (p. 308)

What do these opening and closing words suggest about the role of nature in this story?

2. We are first introduced to Heathcliff with old Earnshaw's, or the fathers' words -- "I was never so beaten with anything in my life: **but you must e'en take it as a gift of God**; though it's as dark almost as if it came from the devil" (p. 32).

It is easy to argue the devil in Heathcliff. But what if we were to 'understand' the mystery -- the ghost in the story, so to speak -- that Heathcliff **is** a gift from God -- then how would we understand the meaning of this gift?

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SSW #8

"Now, my bonny lad, you are mine! And we'll see if one tree won't grow as crooked as another, with the same wind to twist it!" (p. 172)

Directions: The question of what shapes us most deeply -- heredity or environment -- is at the heart of E. Bronte's novel. Choose one of the following quotes and explore how it relates to this theme in the novel.

"The stronger the winds, the deeper the roots, and the longer the winds, the more beautiful the tree." -- Charles Swindoll

"If one is patient... there is probably nothing that can not be retrieved." -- Barry Lobez

"Thou art thy mother's glass, and she in thee
Calls back the lovely April of her prime." -- Shakespeare

"Something there is that doesn't love a wall." -- Robert Frost, from "Mending Wall"

"Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty." -- Mother Teresa

"All are needed by each one; Nothing is fair or good alone." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"My wound is geography. It is also my anchorage, my port of call." -- Pat Conroy, from The Prince of Tides