

English 12 Honors
Summer Reading Assignment: Part I

Wuthering Heights
By Emily Bronte

In English 12A we will focus primarily on works of British literature. Part I of your summer assignment includes reading and analyzing Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*; part II will be a test over the novel. Now considered a classic of English literature, *Wuthering Heights* was met with mixed reviews by critics when it first appeared, mainly because of the narrative's stark depiction of mental and physical cruelty. It is Emily Bronte's only novel.

The story begins in 1801, then flashes back to the 1770's and eventually returns to the early 1800's. The locale is the Yorkshire moors in northern England. A moor is a tract of mostly treeless wasteland where heather thrives and water saturates the earth. The action takes place at two estates, *Wuthering Heights* and *Thrushcross Grange*, about four miles apart.

In 1801 in the Yorkshire moors of Northern England, a man named Mr. Lockwood rents a house on a manor, *Thrushcross Grange*, from a dark and mysterious landlord, a man about 40 named Heathcliff. He lives four miles down the road in a 300-year-old estate called *Wuthering Heights*. Intrigued by Heathcliff, Lockwood asks the housekeeper, 43-year-old Ellen Dean—whom everyone in the region calls Nelly—to tell him Heathcliff's story. She obliges, and he in turn writes down everything she says.

Despite the fact that the novel was written centuries ago, it is considered to be one of the greatest love stories of all time. There are multiple kinds of love here (eternal love, tormented love, unrequited love, love triangles, etc.), as well as other key themes you should note while reading.

Consider the following themes as you read the novel:

- Love gone wrong
- Cruelty perpetuates cruelty
- Revenge
- The temptation of success and social standing
- Class distinctions
- Fate
- Prejudice
- The moors as a reflection of life going on around them

ASSIGNMENT:

1. Test over book when you return from summer.
2. Typed responses to the following questions **utilizing detailed support and two textual citations per response (**each response should be at least a paragraph in length and turned in on August 13th**):**
 - a. Who is the most admirable character in the novel? Who is the least admirable?
 - b. In addition to love, what other emotions have a powerful influence on the central characters?
 - c. To what extent does social status affect the course of action in the novel?
 - d. How does Cathy remain a pivotal character in the novel even after her death?
 - e. In what ways are the choices Cathy faces like those of the typical American woman of the 21st Century?