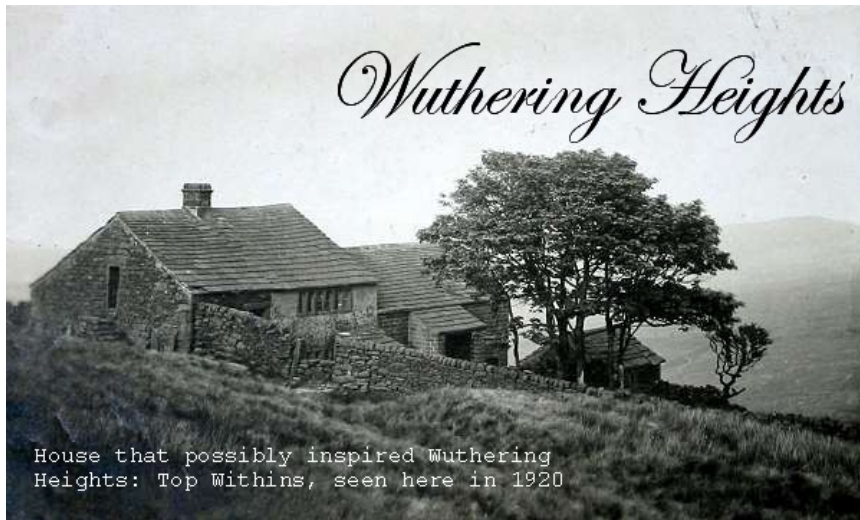


Study Guide

Wuthering Heights m ro



Meet Emily Brontë



*I have never seen her parallel in anything.
Stronger than a man, simpler than a child,
her nature stood alone.*

—Charlotte Brontë, in the “Biographical Notice”
she wrote to accompany the 1850 edition of
Wuthering Heights

Emily Jane Brontë was born in 1818, the fifth child of Patrick Brontë, a Cambridge-educated clergyman born in Ireland, and Maria Branwell, the daughter of a Cornish merchant. When Emily was two, her father was appointed to a church in Haworth, a remote village in Yorkshire. Her mother died of cancer a year later, and her aunt, Elizabeth Branwell, moved into the parsonage to take care of the children.

In 1824 Mr. Brontë sent his four eldest daughters—Elizabeth, Maria, Charlotte, and Emily—to boarding school. While at school, they were frequently cold and undernourished, and Maria and Elizabeth contracted tuberculosis. Soon after being sent home to recuperate, they died. Alarmed, Mr. Brontë brought Charlotte and Emily home to be educated.

Haworth was a relatively isolated community, and so the Brontë children turned to one another for amusement and companionship. With some wooden soldiers that belonged to Branwell, the only son in the family, Charlotte, Emily, Anne, and Branwell developed elaborate

sagas set in imaginary kingdoms and in tiny manuscripts recounted the soldiers’ exploits. Throughout their lives the world of fantasy continued to exert a powerful influence over the Brontës. When Branwell was thirty-one, he was still signing his letters “Northangerland,” after one of the characters in the stories.

During the 1830s, the Brontë children left home to study or work, but their attempts were relatively unsuccessful. Branwell became a self-destructive alcoholic, Emily pined for the moors, Charlotte fell hopelessly in love with a married man, and Anne was fired from her job as a governess.

By the mid-1840s, the Brontë children were once more back in the parsonage at Haworth. Charlotte and Anne, always interested in writing, planned to publish a collection of poems. When Charlotte accidentally discovered a secret notebook of Emily’s poems, she was impressed by their power and originality and persuaded Emily to include them in the collection. To shield their privacy and conceal the fact that they were women, the sisters self-published under the names Currer, Ellis, and Acton Bell. Emily was Ellis. The book sold only two copies.

Undaunted, Charlotte, Emily, and Anne turned to writing fiction. Charlotte’s novel, *Jane Eyre*, was published in 1847 and was an immediate success. Emily’s *Wuthering Heights* came out the same year to negative reviews. Critics called it “misshapen,” “grotesque,” and “shocking.” Even Charlotte thought that her sister’s novel was “a rude and a strange production.” Although Emily was strong and fiercely independent, she was deeply hurt by the reviews.

In 1848 Branwell died of tuberculosis. Emily caught a cold at Branwell’s funeral and soon became extremely ill, also with tuberculosis. Later, Charlotte wrote about her sister’s dying days, “Never in all her life had she lingered over any task that lay before her, and she did not linger now.” A few days later, on December 14, Emily died—as implacable as any of her fictional characters.

Introducing the Novel

Wuthering Heights was hewn in a wild workshop with simple tools, out of homely materials.

—Charlotte Brontë, in the preface for the 1850 edition

Written by a reclusive twenty-eight-year-old who was a mystery even to her family, *Wuthering Heights* is generally considered a masterpiece that stands outside the mainstream of Victorian literature.

The novel tells the story of Heathcliff, an orphan rescued from city slums and brought to a farm named Wuthering Heights in the wilds of Yorkshire. There, the young boy develops a close attachment to the high-spirited daughter of the household, Catherine.

Wuthering Heights is a blend of the fanciful and the ordinary. The two main narrators, Mr. Lockwood and Mrs. Ellen (Nelly) Dean, are rather ordinary people. They, like the reader, are fascinated by the larger-than-life dramas played out between the houses of Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange. Although the book contains many emotionally charged scenes and suggests that supernatural events may have occurred, it is anchored in everyday reality. Brontë knew how to describe a scene by using vivid details to create convincing settings. She also had a good ear for the way people spoke—from the dialect of Yorkshire peasants to the speech of the upper classes.

Brontë manages to maintain the reader's sympathy for her two main characters, Heathcliff and Catherine, even though both frequently behave abominably. Her tale is full of suffering and cruelty but is tempered with lighter elements, such as the endless grumpiness and self-righteousness of Joseph, an old servant, and the wry comments of Nelly Dean.

Over the years, the book has received mixed reviews. One early critic saw the novel as a poetic dream, "a world of brilliant figures in an atmosphere of mists," and assumed that it was the "unformed" work of an immature artist. One hundred years later, British writer V. S. Pritchett, who spent much of his childhood in the north of England, praised *Wuthering Heights* as "the most

realistic statement about the Yorkshire people of the isolated moorland and dales that I have ever read." Far from seeing Emily Brontë as a naively poetic artist, Pritchett and many others have viewed her as a masterful writer, whose book reveals, among other things, a surprisingly accurate grasp of British law at the time.

Unusual as it may be, *Wuthering Heights* is masterfully written. When you read it, you care about the characters (whom you may not always like), and you want to know what happens next.

THE TIME AND PLACE

Wuthering Heights opens in 1801, when Mr. Lockwood meets Heathcliff, the owner of the isolated farmhouse that he has rented. The story then jumps back in time to 1771, when Heathcliff, an orphaned child, was brought home by Mr. Earnshaw, the owner of Wuthering Heights. The events of the story, which ends in 1803, take place in a few square miles of the West Yorkshire moors.

The remote heath in which the story is set is no mere backdrop to the events of the story. The heath, along with the people of Yorkshire, is central to Emily Brontë's vision. Unlike the soft, small-scale prettiness of the landscapes of southern England, the heath is bare, rolling, and wild.

Charlotte Brontë realized that one reason that so many British readers and critics were horrified by *Wuthering Heights* was that the novel represented a world that was alien to them. Charlotte understood that people in the south of England had been raised to "observe the utmost evenness of manner and guardedness of language"—in other words, to behave calmly and politely, no matter how they felt inside. The people in the Brontës' part of the world were different. Living in scattered farms and villages, fiercely independent and suspicious of outsiders, they tended to speak their minds, often harshly, and show, rather than hide, their emotions.

For most of the novel, Heathcliff is obsessed with revenge to a degree that may seem implausible. But critic V. S. Pritchett observes that the

local people were capable of “unending” hatred. From this point of view, Heathcliff is not a monster but a realistic example of a Yorkshireman who feels he has been mistreated.

Also essential to an understanding of *Wuthering Heights* is an understanding of the time period in which it is set. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, telephones and automobiles did not link remote Yorkshire farmsteads with the rest of Britain. Although railroads were common when Brontë wrote the novel, she set the story in a time when people still traveled on foot or by horse. Thus, when Mr. Earnshaw travels the sixty miles from his farm to Liverpool, a distance that would take an hour or two today, he must walk there and back—a journey of three full days.

In *Wuthering Heights*, many deaths occur: over the course of thirty years, eleven characters die—none of them beyond middle age. To a modern reader, familiar with antibiotics and other common medicines, a novel with so many deaths may seem melodramatic. In the world of the Brontës, however, death was a constant presence. All six Brontë children died from disease in childhood or before they reached middle age. In the early 1800s, the average working man in Leeds (an industrial city in Yorkshire) died at the age of nineteen. In the village of Haworth, 40 percent of the children died before the age of six. Tuberculosis, a disease that usually attacks the lungs and thrives in damp and crowded conditions, was rampant in Haworth.

Did You Know?

In 1861, Patrick Brontë died, and the contents of his house were sold in an auction. In 1893 the Brontë Society was formed in an attempt to reclaim the Brontës’ possessions for preservation purposes. Today, Haworth parsonage is a museum. Many of the family’s original belongings are on display. These include paintings and drawings, clothing and jewelry, the

piano that the children played, and even a settee that is believed to be the one on which Emily died. The museum is open year-round except for several weeks in midwinter. For more information, you can write to the following address: The Brontë Parsonage Museum, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8DR, Great Britain.

GLOSSARY of Yorkshire dialect

Joseph's speech may give you some problems at first, since he uses dialect a lot, and since the words are written phonetically to give you an idea of his accent. Read a few sentences out loud, and you'll catch on.

- Words with a long **e** are usually given a long **a** instead.
- Hence, **clane** for "clean," and **stale** for "steal."
- "Ow" is usually **ah**; "down" becomes **dahn**;
- "how," **hah**; "doubt," **daht**.
- A long **i** often becomes a long **e**.
- "Night" and "sight" are **neeght** and **seeght**. "Die" is **dee**.

Here are some words you'll get used to quickly.

AW

I

'BAHT

Without

BUD

But

FROUGH

From

HOR

Her

I'

In

MUN

Must

NOBBUT

No one else

NORTHER

Neither

NOWT

Nothing, a
worthless person

SHOO

She

SUD

Should

'T

It

T'

The

TUH

To

UN

One

UN'

And

WAR

Worse

from SPEECH IN WUTHERING HEIGHTS: JOSEPH'S DIALECT ...

BY IRENE WILTSHIRE

In Wuthering Heights regional dialect is used by the author to delineate social class and manners. Each principal character is given a distinctive form of speaking to denote his or her social standing. The outsider Lockwood speaks received English while the servant Joseph speaks the purest form of Yorkshire dialect.

Joseph's speech constitutes linguistic verisimilitude and Emily Brontë was not deterred by the possible problems encountered by southern readers, or else she was less aware of the difficulty, since she had spent less time in London than her sister had done. Nonetheless, a faithful rendering of Haworth, or at least West Yorkshire, had to contain some dialect speech. By restricting strong dialect speech to one central character and giving standard speech to the chief narrators, the main strand of the narrative remains accessible. Joseph escapes being at total variance with the social milieu through the inclusion of very minor dialect parts such as the herd-boy, the hostler and the old woman at the Grange; important touches that add credibility to the speech of Joseph. Given that Emily's intention was to include dialect speech as an intrinsic part of the social scene, this was done with eminent success. Joseph is the one central character who, unlike Hareton, retains his regional speech. For this very reason he cannot be transplanted to the Grange, but must remain at Wuthering Heights. Joseph also performs a delicate balance between credibility and reductiveness. The balance is achieved because his perception of incidents can seldom, if ever, be shared by the reader. While we see, through Joseph, an alternative and more prosaic interpretation of events, we see, not only the value of this perception, but also its limitations. Joseph is real to us but so are the passions of the other characters.

Dialect Words in Wuthering Heights

Page numbers are for the Clarendon edition of *Wuthering Heights*.

Page	Word	Meaning
134	Barn	Child
387	Barthen	Shelter
383	Bide	Stay/Wait
388	Brust	Burst
69/281	Cant/Canty	Pleasant/Brisk
104	Chimbley	Chimney
172	Deaved	Deafened
188	Dree	Cheerless
18	Faishion	Make/Dare
12	Flaysome	Fearful
44	Flighted	Frightened
172	Flitting	Moving house
53	Frame	Make progress/Get on with
26	Gait	Way/Path
167	Ganging	Going
128	Girn	Snarl/Grimace
172	Guilp	Scum from porridge
411	Harried	Robbed
374	Jocks	Food
26	Laced	Flogged
26	Laiking	Playing
12	Laith	Barn
26	Lugs	Ears
173	Meeterly	Moderately
174	Mells	Interferes
370	Mensful	Proper
387	Mun	Must
172	Neive/Nave	Fist
172	Ortherings	Orderings
26	Pawsed	Kicked
175	Plisky	Mischief/Rage
388	Quean	Woman
374	Reaming	Foaming/Frothy
104	Riggs	Ridges
26	Riven	Torn
26	Scroop	Back of book
379	Side (out)	Move away
305	Skift	Move quickly
116	Sough	Ditch
172	Thible	Porridge stick
353	Thrang	Busy
104	War	Worse
51	Wick	Wicked/lively

CHRONOLOGY OF *WUTHERING HEIGHTS*

Ch.	1757, before September	Hindley Earnshaw born.
	1762, before September	Edgar Linton born.
	1764, before September	Heathcliff born.
	1765, summer	Catherine Earnshaw born.
	1765, late	Isabella Linton born.
4	1771, summer, beginning of harvest	Heathcliff brought to W.H.
	1773, spring or early summer	Mrs. Earnshaw dies.
5	1774, October	Hindley sent to college.
	1777	Hindley marries.
	1777	Mr. Earnshaw dies.
6	1777	Hindley returns with his wife.
3	1777, October or November	The scene described by Catherine Earnshaw in the book Lockwood read
6	1777, Nov., 3rd week, Sunday	Catherine and Heathcliff go to Thushcross Grange.
7	1777, Christmas Eve	Catherine returns to W.H
	1777, Christmas Day	The Lintons visit W. H.
8	1778, June	Hareton Earnshaw born.
	1778, late	Frances Earnshaw dies.
	1780, summer	Edgar Linton calls at W.H. and proposes to Catherine
9	1780, summer	Hindley returns drunk.
	1780, summer	Catherine tells Ellen about Edgar.
	1780, summer	Heathcliff goes off.
	1780, summer	Catherine gets wet through and catches fever.
	1780, autumn	Catherine, convalescent, goes to T. G. Mr. and Mrs. Linton catch the fever and die.
	1783, April	Edgar marries Catherine.
	1783, September	Heathcliff returns and sees Catherine.
	1783, Autumn	Isabella falls in love with Heathcliff, who visits T.G. from time to time.
11	1783, December	Ellen Dean sees Hareton.
	1783, December	Heathcliff kisses Isabella.
	1784, January 6, Monday	Violent scene at T.G. Heathcliff is turned out and Catherine goes on a hunger strike.
12	1784, January 10, Friday	Catherine delirious.
	1784, January 10, Friday, 2 AM	Isabella elopes with Heathcliff.
13	1784, March 13, Monday	The Heathcliffs return to W. H.
14	1784, March 15, Wednesday	Ellen Dean goes to W. H.
15	1784, March 19, Sunday	Heathcliff sees Catherine; violent scene.
16	1784, March 19, midnight	Catherine Linton born.
	1784, March 20, Monday, 2 AM	Catherine (the elder) dies.
	1784, March 21, Tuesday	Heathcliff puts a lock of hair in Catherine's locket

	1784, March 24, Friday	Catherine's funeral.
17	1784, March 24, Friday, midnight	Heathcliff nearly kills Hindley, who tried to kill him.
	1784, March 25, Saturday	Isabella runs off.
	1784, September	Linton Heathcliff born.
	1784, September or October	Hindley Earnshaw dies. All his property is mortgaged to Heathcliff.
18	1797, early June	Catherine goes to Penistone Crag and meets Hareton.
19	1797, June	Isabella dies. Edgar brings back Linton Heathcliff.
20	1797, June	Linton Heathcliff is taken to live at Wuthering Heights
21	1800, March 20	Catherine and Ellen meet Hareton, and go to Wuthering Heights where they see Linton.
	1800, March or April	Catherine and Linton correspond.
22	1800, late Oct. or Nov.	Catherine sees Heathcliff, who says that Linton is seriously ill.
23	1800, late Oct. or Nov.	Catherine and Ellen go to see Linton. Ellen catches cold and is ill for three weeks.
24	1800, November	During Ellen's illness, Catherine visits Linton secretly.
25	1801, March 20	Edgar too ill to visit his wife's grave.
	1801, June	Edgar declining.
26	1801, August	Ellen and Catherine go to meet Linton.
	1801, August, Thursday, a week later	Ellen and Catherine are kidnapped and held hostage at WH.
	1801, August, the following Monday?	Catherine and Linton marry.
27	1801, August or September	Ellen is let out.
	1801 Aug. or Sept. the following Tuesday	Edgar is dying; he sends for Mr. Green, the lawyer, who does not come.
	1801, harvest moon	Catherine escapes to T. G.
28	1801, Sept., Wednesday, 3 AM	Edgar Linton dies.
29	1801, September, evening	Heathcliff comes to the Grange after the funeral and takes away Catherine.
30	1801, October	Linton Heathcliff dies. Hareton tries to please Catherine.
1	1801, late November	Lockwood calls at W. H.
2	1801, late November, next day	He calls again and has to stay the night. He finds Catherine's diary and sees Heathcliff's outburst.
	1801, late November, next day	Lockwood leaves at eight. Catches cold.
4	1801, late November, next day	Ellen Dean begins her story.
10	1801, three weeks later	Heathcliff sends grouse.
	1801, one week later	Heathcliff calls.
15	1802, January, one week later	Lockwood continues his account.
31	1802, January, 2nd week	Lockwood calls at W. H.
32	1802, beginning of February	Ellen goes to live at W. H.
	1802, March	Hareton has an accident.
	1802, Easter Monday	Catherine is nice to Hareton.
33	1802, Easter Tuesday	Scene about altering garden.
	1802, after March 18	Heathcliff getting odd.
34	1802, April	Heathcliff goes on hunger strike.
	1802, May	Heathcliff dies.
	1802, September	Lockwood visits T.G. and W.H.
34	1803, January 1	Catherine and Hareton marry.

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Chapter 1

Who is Lockwood?

Describe the atmosphere at Wuthering Heights.

Describe Heathcliff.

Chapter 2

Whom does Lockwood go to visit in Ch. 2? What people does he meet on this visit?

What does Heathcliff reply when Lockwood asks if the sullen woman is his wife?

What happens as Lockwood attempts to leave the Heights?

Chapter 3

To which room does Zillah take Lockwood in Ch. 3?

What names are carved into the window ledge? Can you tell what the “purpose” of this might have been?

What things are written in the book margins? By whom?

Describe Lockwood’s first dream.

Describe his second dream.

When Heathcliff hears Lockwood’s scream and comes to the room, what is his reaction to Lockwood’s description of the second dream?

What does he do at the open window?

What does Lockwood think of Heathcliff's behavior? Does Heathcliff's behavior make sense to the reader? Explain.

Chapter 4

Who is now the narrator of the main story?

How has Heathcliff treated Hareton? Why?

Summarize how Heathcliff got to Wuthering Heights in the first place and what others thought of this.

Which person continued to hate Heathcliff? Why? Did Heathcliff deserve this, do you think?

How did Heathcliff keep Hindley from triumphing completely before Mr. Earnshaw died?

Why did people begin to pamper Heathcliff?

Where is Hindley eventually sent?

Describe the character of Cathy Earnshaw.

Chapter 5

What is "the worst punishment" anyone could inflict upon Cathy?

Describe the relationship of Cathy and Heathcliff as it is portrayed in Ch. 5.

Chapter 6

Whom does Hindley bring home with him in Ch. 6?

Is Nelly Dean a **reliable** narrator? Should we take what she says at face value? EXPLAIN!

What is Heathcliff's place in the household after Hindley's return? Why?

How does Cathy happen to come in contact with Thrushcross Grange?

What is the difference between the Lintons and the Earnshaws?

Why didn't Heathcliff stay with Cathy at the Grange?

What is Heathcliff now forbidden to do?

Chapter 7

How has Cathy changed during her stay with the Lintons?

How has Heathcliff changed since Cathy went away? Why has this happened?

Under what condition do the Lintons let their children come to Wuthering Heights?

How does Heathcliff react to Cathy's return? Why?

What advice does Nelly give Heathcliff?

What does Heathcliff vow to do after Hindley banishes him from the dinner?

What is Heathcliff's and Cathy's relationship like by the end of Ch. 7?

Chapter 8

What happens to Frances?

In what way is Cathy now leading a "double life" of sorts?

How old are Cathy and Heathcliff now?

What is Heathcliff like now?

Describe what happens the day Hindley goes away for the afternoon.

What now is the relationship between Edgar Linton and Cathy Earnshaw?

Should the reader view this in a positive or a negative light? Explain.

Chapter 9

How does Hindley treat his son?

What almost happens to Hareton? Who saves him? Why?

What does Cathy confide to Nelly?

What is your opinion of Cathy at this point?

What reason does Cathy give for marrying Edgar Linton when it is obvious even to her that she belongs with Heathcliff? What does Nelly say to all this?

What happens to Heathcliff in Ch. 9?

What happens to Cathy (where does she go, etc.)? Why?

What is the **symbolic** significance of the coincidence of Cathy's visit to the Lintons and the deaths of the elder Lintons?

Why do you suppose Cathy waits three more years before marrying Linton?

Chapter 10

What did Heathcliff do and how did he change during these three years?

What is Linton's attitude towards Heathcliff?

What had Heathcliff originally planned to do immediately upon his return? Why? Why didn't he do so?

Where is Heathcliff staying now? Why do you suppose he is doing this?

What happens to Isabella?

What does Cathy tell Isabella about Heathcliff? Does this seem odd coming from Catherine? Explain!!

What does Heathcliff ask Cathy about Isabella? What is the significance of this question? (What is Heathcliff planning to do?)

What do you think of Nelly's appraisal of the situation at the end of Ch. 10?

Chapter 11

What is Heathcliff doing to Hareton?

About what do Cathy and Heathcliff argue?

What happens between Heathcliff and Edgar?

What does Cathy threaten to do if she can't see Heathcliff?

What choice does Edgar demand Cathy make?

What is her reaction?

What does Edgar tell Isabella?

Cite **three misjudgments** that Nelly Dean makes in Ch. 11.

Chapter 12

What does Nelly think of Cathy's illness?

What does Cathy imagine herself saying to Heathcliff?

On her way to get the doctor, what does Nelly find? Who probably did this? Why? (What early episode concerned a pet dog?)

Where has Isabella gone?

What is Edgar's reaction?

Chapter 13

What does Edgar do for Cathy in Ch. 13? Why hadn't he done this when she was first ill?

What is Cathy's condition now?

What do Isabella's letters say?

Chapter 14

What reason does Nelly give for Linton's staying with Cathy? What does Heathcliff say to this?

What request does Heathcliff make of Nelly?

What contrasts does Heathcliff make between his feelings for Cathy and Edgar's feelings for her?

What is Nelly's behavior like during this visit?

How is Heathcliff treating Isabella?

In your opinion, does Isabella deserve this treatment? Why or why not?

How is Heathcliff keeping Isabella from leaving him?

What does Heathcliff tell Nelly will happen if she does not grant his request?

What does Nelly agree to?

Chapter 15

Describe the visit of Heathcliff to Cathy. How is this behavior both unusual but typical of these two characters?

How is Nelly behaving? How is this typical of her?

Chapters 16

What happens after Cathy gives birth to Catherine?

Who will now inherit the estate after Edgar's death?

How does Heathcliff react when Nelly comes out to the garden to speak with him?

Explain what happens with the locket.

Where is Cathy buried? Why is this appropriate?

Chapter 17

What does Isabella do in Ch. 17? Why?

What did Heathcliff do to Hindley?

Describe the scene as Isabella escaped from Wuthering Heights. How do Hareton's actions at the time recall a past incident? Who taught him to do this, do you suppose?

Who is Linton Heathcliff?

What happens to Edgar? To Hindley?

Why doesn't Edgar lay claim to his nephew, Hareton, now?

What does Heathcliff intend to do with Hareton?

Chapter 18

What is young Catherine like?

What happens to Isabella?

Where does Edgar go for three weeks?

While he is gone, what experiences does Catherine have?

What does the argument between Catherine and Hareton recall?

What information does Catherine give Hareton? Why is this bad? (Why shouldn't people at the Heights know about this?)

Chapter 19

Which parent does Linton most take after? Explain.

How does Catherine react to Linton?

Who demands custody of Linton?

What could Edgar demand in return? Why wouldn't that be very practical at this time?

Do you sympathize with Linton? Why or why not?

Chapter 20

What is Heathcliff's reaction to his son? Do you blame him for feeling this way?

What are Heathcliff's plans for Linton?

How does Linton like Wuthering Heights?

Chapter 21

What news does Nelly get about Linton in Ch. 21?

What happens when Catherine turns 16?

What are Heathcliff's plans for Catherine and Linton?

How does Catherine react to seeing Linton again?

How does Linton act? Who finally keeps Catherine company?

How does Heathcliff feel about Hareton?

What do Linton and Catherine make fun of?

Why is Catherine upset when Edgar forbids her to go to Wuthering Heights?

What does she continue to do?

How does the Linton -Catherine-Hareton situation recall the Edgar-Cathy-Heathcliff triangle?

In what ways are the two situations different?

Chapter 22

What happens to Edgar?

About what is Catherine upset?

What happens to Catherine when she tries to get a rose?

Chapter 23

What does Heathcliff say about Linton? Does this work?

What quality in Catherine is Heathcliff playing on to carry out his design?

What is the first we hear of Linton when they visit him the next day?

What (if anything) does Linton really seem to want with Catherine?

What do Linton and Catherine argue about? How does the argument end?

Isn't Nelly's description of Linton as "the worst-tempered bit of a sickly slip that ever struggled into its teens" absolutely **perfect**?!

What does Catherine do while Nelly is ill?

Chapter 24

What did Linton and Catherine argue about one day?

How does Catherine embarrass Hareton?

How does Hareton react?

What does Linton do?

What happens the next time Catherine visits Linton?

When Linton apologizes, what does he say about the connection between his own behavior and how Heathcliff treats him? Do you sympathize at all now with Linton? Explain why or why not.

Why does Catherine stop going to Wuthering Heights?

Does Edgar disapprove of Linton? Explain.

Chapter 25

According to Nelly, why aren't Linton's letters to Edgar filled with his usual whining and complaining?

Chapter 26

Why does Linton want Catherine to stay another half hour, even though he is clearly not enjoying their visit?

What does Nelly think is the cause of Linton's worsened condition? Do you think she is right?

Why or why not?

Chapter 27

How is Edgar Linton's health? What difference does this make to the plot of the novel (what will or will not happen because of this)?

How does Linton act during their meeting in Ch. 27? How does Catherine react to this?

What was the purpose of Linton's histrionics?

What sort of person does Linton turn out to be? How is this to be expected when we consider his parentage?

Why must Heathcliff force Catherine to marry Linton? (Explain how the inheritance works.)

How does Catherine react to Heathcliff's beating? How do you suppose her mother would have reacted in a similar situation?

Chapter 28

What does Edgar try to do before he dies? What prevents him from doing it?

Chapter 29

Where will Catherine now be living? Why?

How did Heathcliff punish Linton for his part in Catherine's escape?

How does Linton feel about Catherine now? Why?

What does Heathcliff tell Nelly about Catherine's ghost?

What did he do after her funeral (years ago)?

What did he do just before Edgar's funeral? How did this change his feelings about the ghost?

What does Heathcliff bribe the sexton to do?

Chapter 30

Why does Heathcliff not send for a doctor for Linton?

What does Heathcliff show Catherine?

How does Hareton feel about Catherine?

Chapter 31

Who is narrating the novel in Ch. 31?

What does Catherine think about Hareton? How does she treat him?

What does Heathcliff say about Hareton's face? What change does this mark in Heathcliff?

Chapter 32

When does Ch. 32 take place? How much time has passed since the opening of the novel?

What changes have taken place at the Heights since Lockwood was there?

Who narrates Ch. 33?

Chapter 33

What is ironic about Heathcliff's threat to Hareton?

How does Hareton feel about Heathcliff? Is he foolish, do you think? Does Heathcliff deserve any sympathy? Why or why not?

What does Heathcliff tell Nelly?

Chapter 34

What mood is Heathcliff in during the days before his death?

What significance is there in Heathcliff's refusal to eat?

What is the significance to the location of Heathcliff's death and to the open window?

What actually caused Heathcliff's death?

What is rumored to take place now that Heathcliff is dead?

Does the novel have a happy ending or a tragic one? Explain!

Before You Read

Wuthering Heights Chapters 1–9

FOCUS ACTIVITY

What are the most influential forces in the shaping of a child's values and behavior? Parents, guardians, or other family members? Schooling? Friends?

Think-Pair-Share

With a partner, list influences that are, in your opinion, important in a child's development. Together, rate the importance of each influence. Then speculate on what may happen to a child if any of these influences are missing in his or her life.

Setting a Purpose

Read to discover what forces are important in making Heathcliff, Catherine, and Hindley who they are.

BACKGROUND

Inheritance Laws

In England around the time in which *Wuthering Heights* is set, the property rights of female heirs were generally in the hands of their husbands and brothers. Until the coming of the Industrial Revolution (beginning in the late 1700s), European inheritance laws and traditions generally favored the eldest sons in landowning families. Because landowners wanted to keep family holdings intact, property was not divided among the children at the death of the father. Often, the eldest son of the family inherited most or all of his father's land and wealth, with the other sons receiving little or nothing. Eldest sons were expected to accept responsibility for the financial welfare of their mothers and sisters and for maintaining the social status of the family. As you read, note the importance of inheritance laws in shaping the plot of *Wuthering Heights*.

Did You Know?

In *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Brontë employs several narrative devices: She uses the voices of two minor characters, Mr. Lockwood and Nelly Dean, to give eyewitness accounts of the lives of the main characters. When neither Lockwood nor Nelly can observe what is happening, Brontë describes events through letters or diary entries of the main characters. As you read, think about the effects of these literary devices in shaping your impressions of the characters.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

annihilate [ə nī'ə lāt] *v.* to destroy completely

caprice [kə prēs'] *n.* whim; illogical or unpredictable action or idea

degradation [deg' rə dā' shən] *n.* a lowering of rank, status, or moral character

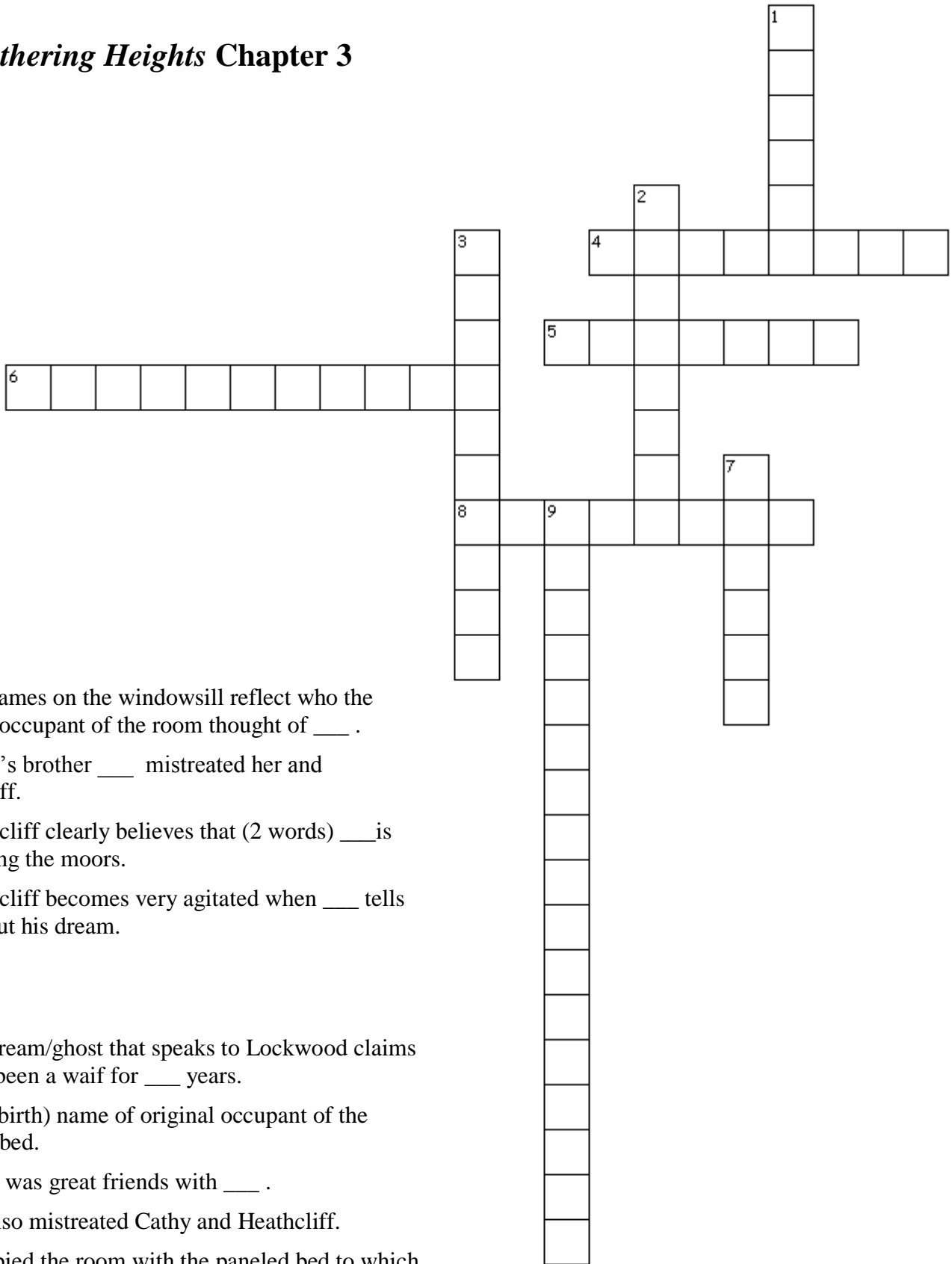
laconic [lə kon' ik] *adj.* using few words; terse to the point of rudeness

malignity [mə lig' nə tē] *n.* the quality of wishing or causing harm or evil to others

misanthropist [mis an' thrə pist] *n.* one who hates other people

morose [mə rōs'] *adj.* gloomy; depressed

Wuthering Heights Chapter 3



Across

- 4. The names on the windowsill reflect who the original occupant of the room thought of ____ .
- 5. Cathy’s brother ____ mistreated her and Heathcliff.
- 6. Heathcliff clearly believes that (2 words) ____ is wandering the moors.
- 8. Heathcliff becomes very agitated when ____ tells him about his dream.

Down

- 1. The dream/ghost that speaks to Lockwood claims to have been a waif for ____ years.
- 2. Last (birth) name of original occupant of the paneled bed.
- 3. Cathy was great friends with ____ .
- 7. ____ also mistreated Cathy and Heathcliff.
- 9. Occupied the room with the paneled bed to which Zillah takes Lockwood in Ch. 3 (entire first name and last names).

Active Reading

Wuthering Heights Chapters 1–9

In chapters 1–9, the two houses—Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange—and most of the main characters of the novel are introduced. As you read each chapter, pay attention to who is living in each house and who is no longer there because of marriage, disappearance, or death. For each chapter, in order to keep track of the characters' movements back and forth between the two houses, fill in the chart below with the names of the persons residing in each house.

Chapter	Wuthering Heights	Thrushcross Grange
1	Heathcliff, Joseph, Zillah, Mrs. Heathcliff, Hareton Earnshaw	Mr. Lockwood, Mrs. Ellen (Nelly) Dean
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		

Wuthering Heights Genealogy Chart

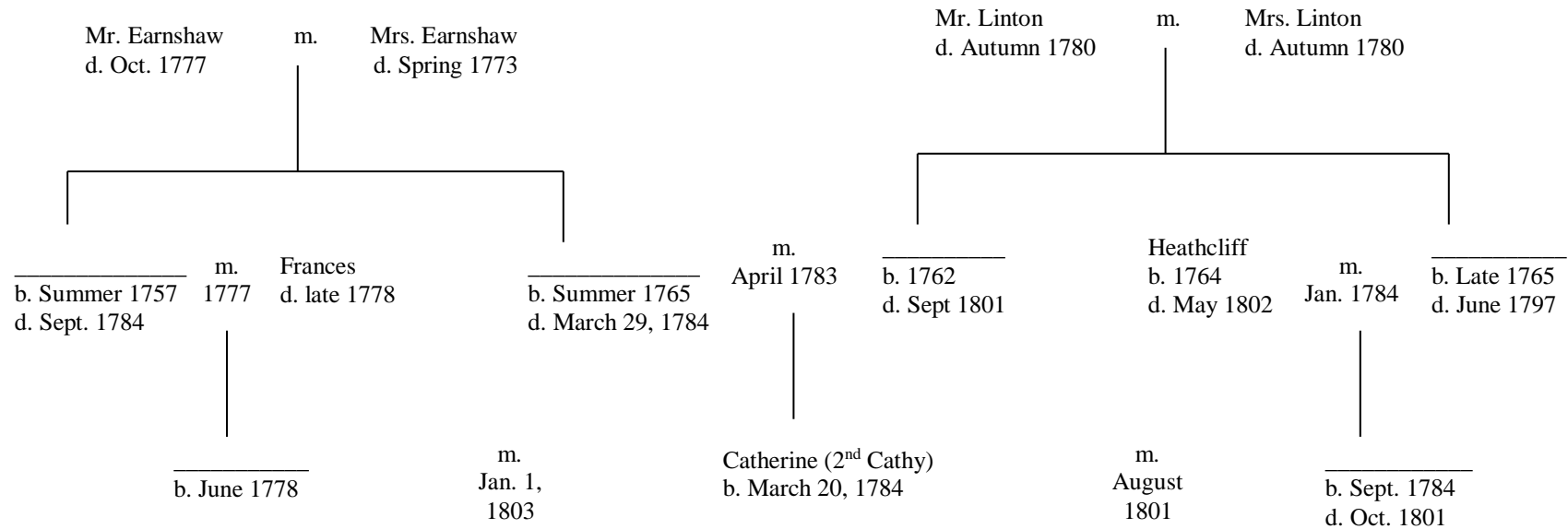
b = born

d = died

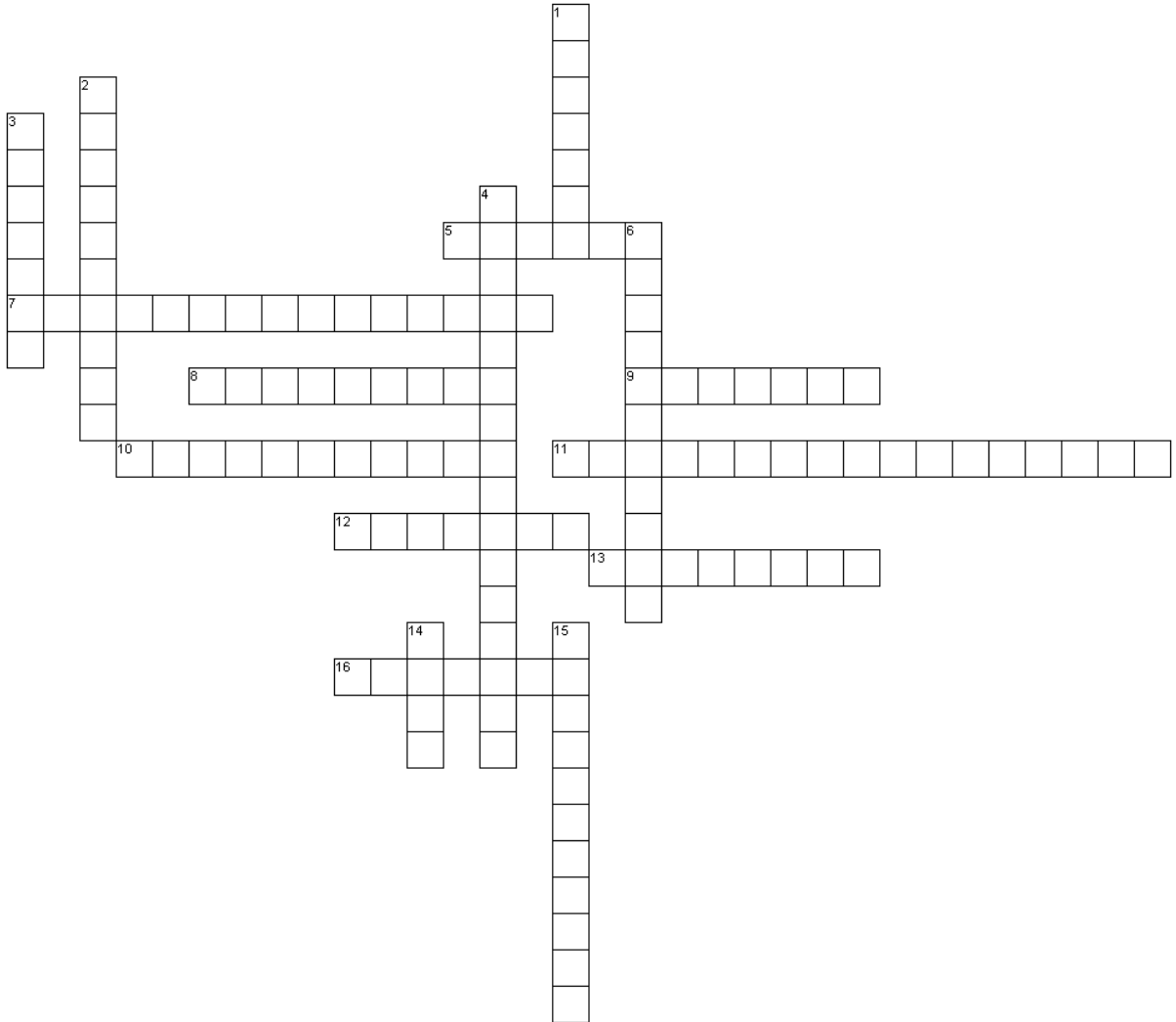
m = married (the 2 people on either side of the m.)

long vertical line down from m. = children resulting from a marriage

horizontal line = connects siblings, listed at ends of short vertical lines



Wuthering Heights Chapters 1–21



Across

5. "I won't rest till you are ____" (2 words)
7. Died while pregnant
8. Town nearest the Heights
9. Good school with rigid routine
10. Clergy Daughters' School location
11. Emily's aunt
12. Can't read his own name
13. Toy _____
16. Where Charlotte and Emily went in 1842

Down

1. Brontë hometown
2. What little Hareton calls Hindley
3. Author's father
4. Name of Heathcliff's son
6. Reads books while wife becomes deranged
14. Heathcliff refers to his wife as a ____
15. Died in December, 1848

Before You Read

Wuthering Heights Chapters 18–34

FOCUS ACTIVITY

Recall a time when you tried to help someone come to terms with feelings of hurt and anger. What did you say?

Journal

In your journal, describe what caused the person to feel so upset and what you said (or did) to help the person cope.

Setting a Purpose

Read to find out how the characters in *Wuthering Heights* learn to cope with their feelings.

BACKGROUND

Brontë and the Law

In chapters 18–34, Heathcliff, who has seized ownership of *Wuthering Heights*, uses his knowledge of British law to gain control of even more property. Scholars who have studied British property law say that Emily Brontë correctly applied the law to the situation she describes, taking into consideration the different rules applying to male and female heirs, husbands and wives, and minors.

Did You Know?

Eighteen-year-old Hareton is unable to read basic written information, such as the inscription over the doorway to his house. Today he would be called functionally illiterate. Adult illiteracy is still a problem: just as in Hareton's time, illiteracy poses major obstacles to personal development and freedom. In the United States, an estimated 27 million adults cannot read. Literacy Volunteers of America, a nonprofit organization, provides tutoring to illiterate adults. The volunteer tutors receive training on how to teach reading skills. For information, you can contact: <http://www.literacyvolunteers.org>.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

antipathy [an tip'ə thē] *n.* strong dislike

cogitation [koj'ə tā'shən] *n.* serious thought

expostulate [iks pos'chə lāt'] *v.* to argue with

indisposition [in'dis'pə zish'ən] *n.* a slight illness; a disinclination

obdurate [ob'dər it] *adj.* hardhearted, stubborn

peruse [pə rōōz'] *v.* to read carefully

perversity [pər vur'sə tē] *n.* the quality of being obstinate in opposing what is right, reasonable, or accepted

transgress [trans gres'] *v.* to break a rule or limit

vapid [vap'id] *adj.* dull

The Two Catherines

Catherine Earnshaw Linton and her daughter are very different, but they do share some similarities. In the graphic organizer below, note the characteristics of the mother on the left, the daughter on the right, and of things they have in common in the middle. In the top part, note the *physical* characteristics. In the bottom part, note characteristics of temperament, actions, personality, etc. Two examples are done for you: The mother had brown hair; both the mother and daughter maintain ties with old attachments.

Mother	BOTH	Daughter
Physical		
Brown hair		
maintain ties with old attachments		
Personality, Temperament, Actions		

Wuthering Heights Opinions and Insults

Chapters 20-24

Complete the sheet by filling in the correct characters' names, indicating who said what to or about whom.

INSULT/OPINION (chapter)	SPEAKER	TO OR ABOUT	PERSON INSULTED/DESCRIBED
1. puling chicken (20)		to	
2. wicked slut (20)		about	
3. whey-faced whining wretch (20)		about	
4. yon dainty chap (20)		about	
5. faint-hearted creature (21)		about	
6. ninny (21)		about	
7. vapid thing (21)		about	
8. uncivil little thing (21)		about	
9. colossal dunce (21)		about	
10. more a lass than a lad (21)		to	
11. those <i>detestable</i> creatures (23)		about	
14. spiteful, cruel thing (23)		to	
15. You're not much (23)		to	
16. worst-tempered bit of a sickly slip that ever struggled into its teens (23)		about	
15. dunce (24)		to	
16. 'Thear, that's t' father! (24)		about	