

## *Character Sketch of Catherine*

Catherine is one of the most important character in the novel *Wuthering Heights* which has been written by a great novelist of the Victorian Era. This novel was written at that time when the conditions of the women were not favourable because of the domination and the power of men. At that time, women had to hide their identity if they would have been showed their talents in the field of literature. This is the only novel which was written by Emile Bronte which has become a symbol of excellence in the arena of literature. The main story of this novel *Wuthering Heights* is based on the theme of love, passion and revenge.

Let us figure out the the character sketch of the main heroine of the novel Catherine who is the principal heroine of the novel *Wuthering Heights* because the other heroine also by the name of Catherine emerges later in the novel after the first has died. Catherine is the central heroine because she loves, and loved by the most dominated character in the novel Heathcliff. All Heathcliff's actions are determined largely by the frustration of

his love Catherine or Cathy. The central concern of the novel *Wuthering Heights* is the Cathy- Heathcliff relationship. There is an immortal love. Cathy loves Heathcliff with the same intensity and with the same passion which Heathcliff loves her, even though Cathy marries another man and tries her utmost to remain faithful to him.

When we analyse all aspects of Catherine's character and her personality then we find there is a duality in his character. She shows her mode of conduct according to situation and circumstances.

To describe the character of Catherine Earnshaw is complicated. As mentioned before, the only true voice of her is given to the reader by the inscription in her chamber with her name repeated with three different surnames as well as her diary. She seems to be aware that her brother Hindley is trying to separate her and Heathcliff. Her explanation of her dream also includes how she would feel if they were to be separated.

To conclude, what has one learnt about Catherine? One simple answer could be that she is confused about whether to become a civilized lady or stay at the Heights. Sooner or later one must leave childhood behind to be able to develop into an individual.

If she could have kept both Heathcliff and Edgar as her friends she may not have fallen into madness. Also, her parents dying when she was a young girl made her and Heathcliff behave as they wished, without rules, except those set by her brother Hindley. Growing up without any mother or father-figure or guidelines must have been difficult when she was to decide between men. Ellen was not a good help to her; even though she knew of Catherine's wild nature and bad temperament, she did not warn Edgar.

Being at Thrushcross Grange made Catherine feel enclosed, at least after the return of Heathcliff when she realized that she had lost him. In a sense she lost herself, which is obvious by her madness when she does not even recognize herself in the mirror. The struggle of her character is that she cannot make up her mind between her two choices. She has not developed into an individual as she has not been able to keep both Heathcliff and Edgar, which lead to her death. By coming back as a ghost, she seems to be stuck in the middle between her two choices, even in death. She does not find peace or happiness in life or in death. She is torn between them until Heathcliff is dead as well. So, she does not find peace until all three of them are dead.

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