

## Degree - 2 English (Honours)

Paper - 4

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### Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte

#### The Structure of Wuthering Height (Lecture - 4 final)

##### Two Narrators

The story in Wuthering Heights is told partly by Nelly Dean, the servant of the Linton family, and partly by Mr. Lockwood who takes Thrushcross Grange on rent after Edgar Linton's death. Such a method serves two purposes. Firstly, it ensures that we witness the drama in all the fresh reality in which it would have shown itself to its spectators; and secondly since these spectators are detached and normal, we witness it as it really was undistorted by the emotions of those persons who were involved in it.

##### The Beginning of the Story

Again, as in Lord Jim, Emily Bronte begins her story in the middle. The book opens with Mr. Lockwood's first visit to Wuthering Heights at the climax of Heathcliff's revenge, when he has at last obtained complete power over young Catherine and Hareton, before the forces of harmony have begun to make themselves felt.

##### The Story Made Convincing

Such an opening, finally, strikes the right emotional key.



This is very important. For the plot of this novel is so remote from our ordinary experience that, unless we approach it from a start with a mind turned to its key, we are bound to find it unconvincing. If the ~~and~~ author had started off with the relatively credible incidents of Heathcliff and Cathy's childhood, she would have found it very hard to maintain the reader's belief in the story when the time came to tell him of its extraordinary catastrophe. But with supreme daring, she storms the very citadel of the reader's scepticism at the outset. She begins straightway with ghosts and infernal passions, and this induces in us a heightened, inflamed mood of the imagination that makes us accept without any difficulty the most sensational events of its climax.

### A Coherence of Structure

The structure of *Wuthering Heights* is remarkable for the degree of deliberate skill with which it has been constructed, and the minute attention that has been paid to details. It is precisely the structure which gives to the novel its coherence. The stresses and contradictions inherent in the Heathcliff-Cathy relationship are reflected in varying ways in all the relationships of the novel. Heredity, above all, ~~the~~ plays structural and unifying role that deserves attention.