

Justification of the title "Wuthering Heights"

In this novel Wuthering Heights is the name of a house where most of actions take place. Heathcliff is brought to the Heights from Liverpool by Mr. Earnshaw, the old master. Hindley, Heathcliff and Catherine all grow up at Heights. It is at Heights that attachment between one another develops. Besides, Heathcliff is persistently ill-treated by Hindley becomes his inveterate enemy and swears revenge on him at Heights. In short, it can be said that the foundation on which the structure of the novel is built is laid at Wuthering Heights. The first phase of love between the hero and the heroine is developed at the Heights. Likewise, it is at the Heights that the enmity between Heathcliff and Hindley is formed, so the former decides to take revenge on the latter for the wrong done to him.

Heathcliff returns to Heights after three years of absence. During this period, he works out his plan of revenge on Hindley. The Heights witnesses both the prosperity and the ruin of the Earnshaw family. Hindley gets his miserable state and finally dies there. After marrying, Isabella Heathcliff brings her to live at the Heights till the end of the story. Heathcliff lives and dies at the Heights and spiritually united to his beloved, Catherine. The ghosts of the lover and the beloved reside in their final union at the Heights while Hareton and Catherine go to live at the Grange. Thus, most of the events in the story occur at Wuthering Heights which is the principal scene of action in the story.

The characters in the novel are also deeply attached to the Heights. Catherine tells Nelly that she once dreamt that she was in Heaven and was miserable because heaven was not the Heights. The strong winds blowing around Wuthering Heights are in consonance with the stormy and violent nature of the hero and the heroine.

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In other words, Wuthering Heights dominates the Grange. Heathcliff becomes the master of the Heights and Grange also. The inhabitants of the Grange are under his control.

In this way, we find that the story of the novel begins and ends at Wuthering Heights. In the opening scene Mr. Lockwood visits Heathcliff at the Heights, and towards the end, he visits the Heights again to find that Heathcliff is dead, and the younger Catherine and Hareton are about to be married. Hence, it can be concluded that the title of the novel is apt and appropriate.

