

Sup (H)
B.A. Eng II
19/11/20

(WUTHERING HEIGHTS)

Date: _____ Page: _____
19/11/20
The HV. Thakur
V. S. J. College, Pimpri

Character sketch of Edgar Linton

Edgar Linton is an antithesis to Heathcliff in the novel, Wuthering Heights in several respects. Unlike Heathcliff, he is sensible and has faith in God and religion. He understands his duty towards his sister, wife and daughter. Heathcliff is cruel, stupid and reckless whereas Edgar is thoughtful, kind and considerate. Wuthering Heights, says Doody, reflects a tension between two kinds of reality - metaphysical reality - between civilized and elemental cosmic forces. The novel presents a conflict between the two worlds of civilization - wild and tame.

Edgar loves his wife, Catherine sincerely, and is a devoted husband by nature. He is not capable of loving as intensely as Heathcliff. But he does not mean that he is not true and sincere in his love. His love is calm and gentle like himself and it aims at domestic bliss. It is his misfortune that domestic bliss eludes his grasp. Perhaps it is due to the fact that he marries a woman whose nature is dissimilar to his own. He does all that he can possibly do to make Catherine happy. During her illness, he nurses her with tender care. When she dies, he is overpowered by grief for some time. But loss of his wife does not make him desperate like Heathcliff. His faith in God and religion consoles him in bereavement. He realizes that though his wife is dead, those alive in

his family have a claim on his care and attention, and that he must overcome his grief and renew again his interest in life for their sake. The elder Catherine leaves behind a little helpless baby, who has full claim of his care and attention. So his former love and devotion to the mother has now turned to the daughter.

A tender love exists between father and daughter. Edgar is anxious not only to provide her all physical comforts but is equally desirous of her mental improvement. So he takes upon him the responsibility of educating her, and develops her love for learning. Even during his illness he does not neglect her education. It is constantly her welfare that is present in his mind. If he agrees to her marriage with Linton Heathcliff, he is ignorant of the reality about the young man. Had he not fallen ill and been confined to bed, perhaps he could have saved his daughter from falling into the trap of Heathcliff. Edgar dies peacefully like a good Christian. He lived a good life and died a good death.

But in spite of his good Edgar is weak-willed. He lacks manly qualities, and when annoyed, finds relief in shedding tears. He has neither Heathcliff's physical strength nor his strength of will.