الجامعة: تكريت

الكلية: كلية التربية للبنات

القسم: اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الثالثة

المادة: الرواية

عنوان المحاضرة:

***Wuthering Heights* characters**

اسم التدريسي: ا.م.د. زينب عبدالله حسين

الايميل الجامعي : zainabeng@tu.edu.iq

Character analysis for characters in *Wuthering Heights*

The First Generation: Passion, Betrayal, and Revenge

Heathcliff

Archetype: Byronic Hero / Antihero

Motivation: Passion for Catherine, revenge against those who degraded him (Hindley, Edgar, and their estates).

Key Traits: Fierce, vengeful, resilient, obsessive, emotionless to others, deeply bound to nature and Catherine.

Analysis: Brought to Wuthering Heights as a foundling by Mr. Earnshaw, Heathcliff faces immediate racial and social outsider status. Severe abuse from Hindley and betrayal by Catherine transform his raw affection into calculated cruelty. He operates as an archetype of destructive vengeance, acquiring both estates to destroy his abusers' legacies. Yet, his motives remain singularly rooted in his otherworldly bond with Catherine; his death comes not from defeat, but from a total surrender to her spirit.

Catherine Earnshaw Linton

Archetype: Tragic Heroine / Divided Self

Motivation: Desire for social mobility and refinement vs. her instinctual connection to Heathcliff.

Key Traits: Wild, headstrong, narcissistic, passionately devoted, socially ambitious.

Analysis: Catherine is defined by a fundamental duality: her wild, elemental nature

shared with Heathcliff, and her desire for status, luxury, and social respectability offered by Edgar Linton. Her declaration, "Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same," captures her spiritual link to Heathcliff. Her decision to marry Edgar breaks her own spirit, driving her into physical illness, mental instability, and an early death.

Edgar Linton

Archetype: Refined Victorian Gentleman

Motivation: Maintaining civil order, protecting his family, loving Catherine within societal bounds.

Key Traits: Gentle, cultured, moral, physically delicate, patient, cowardly in physical confrontation.

Analysis: Edgar represents the civilizing influence of Thrushcross Grange—the polar opposite of the chaotic, stormy Wuthering Heights. Though genuinely loving toward Catherine and later his daughter Young Cathy, his polished manners mask an inability to understand or handle the dark passions around him. He operates strictly within social and legal frameworks, leaving him vulnerable to Heathcliff's ruthless schemes.

Hindley Earnshaw

Archetype: Fallen Heir / Self-Destructive Antagonist

Motivation: Jealousy of Mr. Earnshaw’s affection for Heathcliff; grief after his wife Frances dies.

Key Traits: Cruel, jealous, abusive, weak-willed, addicted to gambling and alcohol.

Analysis: Hindley triggers the tragedy by abusing Heathcliff following Mr. Earnshaw's death, denying Heathcliff an education and reducing him to a servant. Following the death of his wife Frances, Hindley devolves into alcoholism and gambling, allowing Heathcliff to manipulate his debts and claim ownership of Wuthering Heights.

Isabella Linton Heathcliff

Archetype: Deluded Romantic / Victim

Motivation: Romantic idealization of Heathcliff; escaping her brother's sheltered estate.

Key Traits: Naïve, spoiled, resilient under extreme mistreatment.

Analysis: Isabella mistakes Heathcliff's brooding hostility for Byronic heroism. She elopes with him, only to face severe psychological and physical abuse at Wuthering Heights. Uniquely among Heathcliff's victims, she finds the resolve to escape to London, where she raises their son, Linton, independently until her death.

The Second Generation: Inheritance, Cycles, and Healing

Young Catherine (Cathy) Linton

Motivation: Curiosity about the world beyond Thrushcross Grange, love for her father, compassion for Linton.

Key Traits: Spirited, compassionate, educated, initially arrogant toward Hareton, resilient.

Analysis: Combining Catherine's fiery spirit with Edgar's capacity for empathy,

Young Cathy represents the potential for balance. Though forced into a coercive marriage with Linton Heathcliff, she adapts, learns humility, and ultimately breaks the cycle of hatred by teaching Hareton to read and extending genuine affection to him.

Hareton Earnshaw

Motivation: Seeking self-respect, loyalty to Heathcliff, affection for Cathy.

Key Traits: Rough, illiterate, dignified, loyal, hardworking, sensitive.

Analysis: The son of Hindley, Hareton is systematically deprived of education and raised as a brutalized servant by Heathcliff as revenge against Hindley. Despite this, Hareton maintains an innate nobility and deep loyalty to Heathcliff. Through his relationship with Cathy, he reclaims his rightful heritage as an Earnshaw and breaks the ancestral curse.

Linton Heathcliff

Motivation: Survival, pleasing his manipulative father.

Key Traits: Sickly, selfish, cowardly, spiteful, easily manipulated.

Analysis: The son of Heathcliff and Isabella, Linton serves as a pawn in Heathcliff's plan to control the Linton estate. Lacking both his mother's resilience and his father's strength, Linton uses his chronic illness to manipulate Cathy, showing how cruelty can stem from weakness.