

Chapter Five:

Summary:

Earnshaw grew old and sick, and with his illness he became irritable and somewhat obsessed with the idea that people disliked his favorite, Heathcliff. Heathcliff was spoiled to keep Earnshaw happy, and Hindley, who became more and more bitter about the situation, was sent away to college. Joseph, already "the wearisomest, self-righteous pharisee that ever ransacked a Bible to rake the promises to himself, and fling the curses to his neighbors" used his religious influence over Earnshaw to distance him from his children. Earnshaw thought Hindley was worthless, and didn't like Cathy's playfulness and high spirits, so in his last days he was irritable and discontented. Cathy was "much too fond" of Heathcliff, and liked to order people around. Heathcliff would do anything she asked. Cathy's father was harsh to her and she became hardened to his reproofs.

Finally, Earnshaw died one evening when Cathy had been resting her head against his knee and Heathcliff was lying on the floor with his head in her lap. When she went to kiss her father good night, she discovered he was dead and the two children began to cry, but that night Ellen saw that they had managed to comfort each other with "better thoughts than [she] could have hit on" imagining the old man in heaven.

Analysis:

The extremely close and entirely emotional relationship between Heathcliff and Cathy already manifests itself in an opposition to the outside world of parental authority and religion. Cathy is already charming and manipulative, though her love for her father is real. Joseph's false, oppressive religious convictions contrast with the pure, selfless thoughts of heaven of the grieving children.

Earnshaw's decline and death highlights the bond between the physical body and the spirit. The old man had formerly been charitable, loving, and open, but his physical

weakness makes him irritable and peevish: the spirit is corrupted by the body's decline. One might remember that Emily Brontë watched her brother Branwell die wretchedly of alcohol and drug abuse, having had his youthful dreams of gallantry and glory disappointed.

Chapter Six:

Summary:

Hindley returned home unexpectedly, accompanied by his wife, a flighty woman plagued by a peculiar fear of death, which Ellen initially failed to recognize as symptoms of consumption. Along with his wife, Hindley brought with him a new set of manners and rules, informing the servants that they would be relegated to inferior accommodations. Most significantly, he relegated Heathcliff to the status of a servant, halting his education and consigning him to toil in the fields like any ordinary farmhand. Initially, Heathcliff didn't mind much, as Cathy continued to impart to him whatever she learned and joined him in both work and play amidst the fields. They actively avoided Hindley as much as possible, growing up untamed and liberated. Ellen reminisces that "it was one of their chief amusements to run away to the moors in the morning and remain there all day, and after punishment grew a mere thing to laugh at." One day, following a punishment, they absconded to the moors. Upon their return, Heathcliff recounted to Ellen what had occurred. They had ventured to the Grange to observe the lifestyle there, where they encountered the Linton children, Edgar and Isabella, in a splendid room, bickering over who should hold the pet dog. Finding amusement and disdain in the scene, Heathcliff and Cathy laughed aloud, alerting the Lintons who summoned their parents. Despite their attempts to flee, Cathy was ensnared by a bulldog that clamped onto her leg. In a valiant effort, Heathcliff attempted to free her, but Mr. and Mrs. Linton mistook them for intruders and brought them indoors. Upon recognizing Cathy as Miss Earnshaw, Edgar and his parents expressed repugnance at the children's untamed behavior, particularly at Heathcliff's association with Cathy. They lavished care upon Cathy and expelled Heathcliff, who, after ensuring Cathy's well-being, trudged back to Wuthering Heights on foot. Upon learning of the incident, Hindley seized the opportunity to separate Cathy and

Heathcliff, thus commanding that Cathy remain for an extended stay with the Lintons while forbidding Heathcliff from communicating with her.

Analysis:

In this chapter we first hear young Heathcliff speak, and it is worth noting how his language differs from the narrators we have heard so far. He is more expressive and emotional than Lockwood or Ellen, and his speech is more literary than Ellen's and less artificial than Lockwood's. He tends to speak in extreme and vibrant terms: expressing his scorn for Edgar Linton's cowardice and whiny gentility, he says: "I'd not exchange, for a thousand lives, my condition here, for Edgar Linton's at Thrushcross Grange not if I might have the privilege of flinging Joseph off the highest gable, and painting the housefront with Hindley's blood!" (48) He admires the comparative luxury of the Grange and recognizes its beauty, but he remains entirely devoted to the freedom of his life with Cathy, and cannot understand the selfishness of the spoiled children: "When would you catch me wishing to have what Catherine wanted?" His devotion to Cathy is clear, and he sees it as completely natural and inescapable: "she is so immeasurably superior to them to everyone on earth; is she not, Nelly?" (51) He admires Cathy for her bravery, and he possesses that same kind of courage.