

Describe how are the themes of love and revenge interwoven into 'Wuthering Heights'?

:- 'Wuthering Heights' is a story both of love and revenge. It is a story of Heathcliff and Catherine. But it is also a story of Heathcliff's revenge on his enemies. The love as presented in the novel is extra-ordinary in its intensity. The lovers think that they are inseparable parts of each other. Time can't mitigate the intensity of their love. Catherine dies. Still Heathcliff continues to love her with the same intensity. In the final union of the two lovers, again, this story is extra-ordinary. The story doesn't end with their marriage. After Catherine's death, Heathcliff survives for many years. But after his death, the lover and the beloved are united as spirits.

The revenge is as extra-ordinary as love. Heathcliff's revenge is not confined only to his enemies; it, rather, passes on to their children too. He is not satisfied with ruining the life of Hindley; he also tries to ruin his son. Like Hindley, he also regards Edgar Linton as his enemy for he married Catherine whom he loved.

The two themes of love and revenge are closely interwoven. The two themes develop side by side in the novel. As a boy and girl Heathcliff and Catherine are inseparable companions. They not only live in the same house but are always seen together. After her father's death, Catherine becomes a neglected child. Her brother Hindley is so much absorbed in his wife that he takes the least care of his sister. As a result, she constantly keeps the company of Heathcliff. Hindley not only neglects his sister, but also ill-treats Heathcliff. He employs him to do the duties of a menial servant. He also subjects him to other similar degradations. He mercilessly beats him when he does anything wrong. Heathcliff can't tolerate this unjust and inhuman treatment, and he decides to take revenge on Hindley. Finding that Catherine is engaged to Edgar Linton and that he has no chance of marrying her, he leaves Wuthering Heights and returns to it after three years, but as a rich man.

When Heathcliff returns back to Wuthering Heights, he finds Hindley a confirmed drunkard and gambler following

the death of his wife. Heathcliff now finds it an opportunity of taking revenge on him. He lends him money so that he may continue in his evil ways. Thus, by lending him money, he takes possession of his entire property and makes him a helpless dependent on him. Side by side, he starts ruining Hindley's son Hareton. He stops his education and by teaching him bad habits, corrupts his manners. The result is that he grows up to be vulgar, uneducated young man. He is fit only to be a farm labourer.

Heathcliff's revenge is also extended to Edgar Linton, for he married Catherine whom he loved. Circumstances prevent him from harming Linton directly. But he makes a plan to ruin his daughter's life. He succeeds in marrying her to his ailing son who is about to die. Since Linton is seriously ill and nearing his death, finds himself unable to prevent that unfortunate marriage. Within a very short span of time, Heathcliff's son and Linton^{both} die. He becomes the master of ~~his~~ the latter's property and the poor widowed Catherine becomes a helpless dependent on him like Hindley's son Hareton. Heathcliff's enemies are dead

and he has absolute control over their children and can do with them whatever he likes. It is in this way that Heathcliff takes revenge on Hindley and Edgar Linton.

By nature, Heathcliff is not destructive and revengeful. He is capable of intense love and making great sacrifices. This is evident from his love for Catherine. Frustration in love coupled with his suffering and humiliation made him cruel, callous and revengeful. Had Hindley treated him kindly, he would have been a different man. But cruel treatment bred cruelty in him and awakened in him an intense desire for revenge. He is a man of unusual physical and mental powers. His powers could have been directed to constructive ends. But for want of love and sympathy, they turn destructive.

'Wuthering Heights' is a story of love and revenge. The lover in it turns revengeful and destructive. The story develops begins with the development of love between Heathcliff and Catherine and ends in their spiritual union after death.

The End

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