

Q1.

Even though the “Wuthering Heights” and “Pride and Prejudice” were written both in the 19th century they are very different in terms of style and theme. Whereas “Wuthering Heights” has a dark atmosphere describing how destructive love can be, “Pride and Prejudice” is lighter and can be considered as a parody of society at the time. I have chosen therefore to analyze two male characters from these novels, Heathcliff and Mr. Darcy not only because the two novels are different in style but because these two men correspond to two different descriptions of how men should be and behave according to 19th century standards.

To begin with, Heathcliff's character is exactly what he shouldn't be, the exact opposite of Edgar Linton. Whereas Edgar is “handsome, and young, and cheerful and rich”, Heathcliff corresponds to a different characterization, according to which traditional romance novel heroes “appear dangerous brooding and cold at first only later to emerge as fiercely devoted and loving” (www.sparknotes.com). This is partly true for Heathcliff who not only appears, but is very dangerous and revengeful. Although a not very easy character to confine in characterizations, Heathcliff's behavior towards the people who have hurt him and those who surround them is terrible. We expect him therefore despite his “wuthering” character to be hiding a romantic heart and affectionate thoughts and feelings but our expectations are never fully fulfilled. The reader therefore is told by Nelly of the mistreatment his wife Isabelle suffers upon marrying him believing that he will eventually reveal a better self; “picturing in me a hero of romance and expecting unlimited indulgences from my chivalrous devotion” while at the same time forming a fabulous notion of my character. The difference Isabelle undergoes during the first days of her marriage is shocking. Nelly describes Heathcliff striking as “a born and bred gentleman” whereas Isabelle “as a thorough little slattern”.

In addition he also causes great harm to the second generation whose lives are stigmatized by his behavior. Hareton being Hindley's son is treated the way Heathcliff was being treated by Hindley, as a servant. Neglected and uneducated, Hareton who according to Nelly should have been “the first gentleman in the neighborhood, was reduced to a state of complete dependence on his father's inveterate enemy”. Linton being weak physically and mentally is despised by his father who uses him in order to continue his revenge on the Linton family. He plans to marry him off with Cathy in order to become the owner of Thrushcross Grange after his son's death. His only concern is if Edgar dies after his son which would ruin his plans. Lastly, young Cathy is forced to marry Linton even though she claims to love him. Her situation is no better than Hareton and Linton's since she is mistreated by Heathcliff who forbids Zillah from aiding her at all. Moreover she is left alone to “act the nurse” to Linton who died shortly after their marriage. Her situation gets worse when after Linton's death she feels that she has been left “so long to struggle against death, alone” that as a result she now “feel and see only death!”. Heathcliff is therefore shown to be a malevolent character determined to harm those who harmed him.