

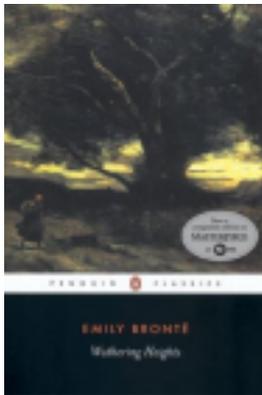


2021-2022 RISING TWELFTH GRADE AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION SUMMER READING

Students will read TWO required books.

(England Study Abroad students are exempt from these assignments.)

Please be aware that, although the assessments are spaced out for grading purposes, all summer reading should be complete *before* the school year begins. Other assignments will be required during those first few weeks back, and you will not want to start the year overwhelmed. Please commit to reading in full because these will be part of an important repertoire of content knowledge which will come up again and again in preparation for the national exam.

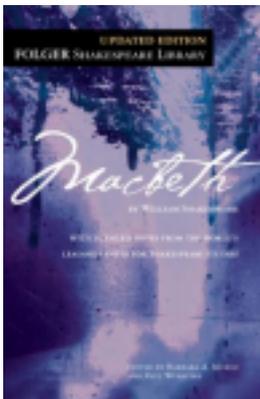


REQUIRED ONE:

Wuthering Heights (novel)

by Emily Brontë

Due to the complexity of the text, Mrs. Zefo is providing her introductory notes to aid in your understanding of *Wuthering Heights* (see notes attached). For this work, you will participate in a class discussion and will complete an in-class essay the fifth day of class. Read Mrs. Zefo's introductory notes before you begin reading the novel.



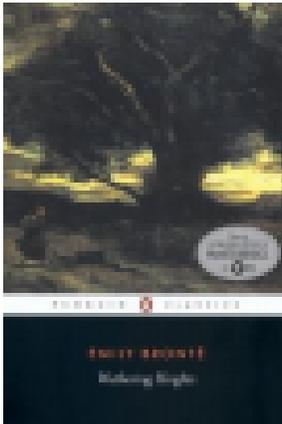
REQUIRED TWO:

Macbeth (play)

by William Shakespeare

Any edition is fine as long as it is the full-length text in the **original Shakespearean** language (no side-by-side modern translations). You will participate in class discussions and will complete an objective assessment the third day of class.

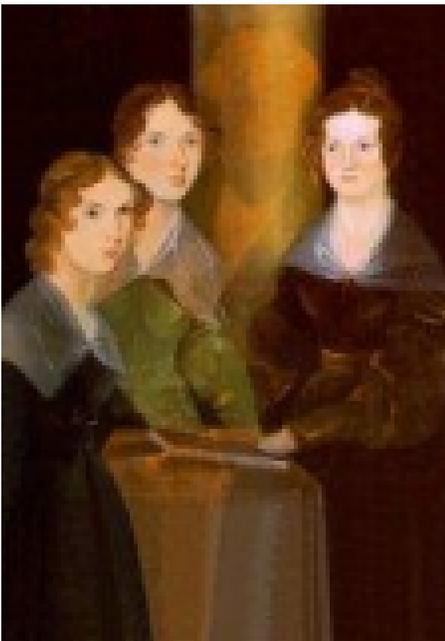
NOTES ON WUTHERING HEIGHTS



The Penguin Classics edition has an excellent preface, introduction, notes, and genealogy table. Use these resources to help you understand. Additionally, you may want to **follow up** your readings with chapter summaries/analyses from Sparknotes. Summaries are **not** to be read IN PLACE OF the novel itself. You are responsible for reading both volumes 1 and 2 in their entirety.



Mrs. Zefo's
Wuthering Heights
lecture on the moors
in Haworth, England



Emily Brontë, daughter of a pastor, grew up in the very small town of Haworth with two of her sisters (Charlotte and Anne, who are also famous authors) and her brother Branwell. Though she lived a tame life in a tiny community, she somehow speaks with the voice of experience in her writings. Charlotte wrote that her sister (Emily) was young and naïve and had no idea what she was saying. This was probably in defense of critical reviews that questioned the source of Emily's violent characters and poignant storyline. Charlotte questioned whether or not it was appropriate for a Christian woman to create a character such as Heathcliff. Some were so astonished that *Wuthering Heights* was the work of a female (it was originally printed under the pseudonym Ellis Bell since women were not esteemed for writing during that time) that they began wondering if Branwell (the opium-addicted brother) may have written it. It could have been their overbearing, hypocritical aunt who helped raise them who became the inspiration for the character Joseph. It might have been an evil and abusive teacher who gave Emily the perspective that there is darkness in the world.

This is Anne, Emily, Branwell's shadow, and Charlotte as painted by Branwell

Largely associated with Romantic Era novels such as *Emma*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Pride and Prejudice* and with the novel *Jane Eyre* (written by Charlotte Brontë), many readers are shocked to find that *Wuthering Heights* cannot possibly be compared to these endearing, romantic, chick-flick kind of novels. Rather, *Wuthering Heights* is more a Gothic novel with thrills of violence, madness, incest, supernatural occurrences, wicked revenge, and complex character development. It has a satisfactory ending, though not an entirely happy one. Yet, despite everything, there is a love story of almost unfathomable depth, but it is a much different kind of love than is described in I Corinthians 13.

Pay close attention to how characters change and what causes change. Also, notice the use and symbolism of physical barriers in the text (breaking the lock, pushing the gate, climbing through the window, slamming the door, etc.).

Browse this site for pictures of Haworth and other places of significance to the Bronte sisters (<http://www.haworth-village.org.uk/brontes/bronte.asp>). There are also pictures of Top Withens (possibly the inspiration for the home called Wuthering Heights) and Ponden Hall (probably Thrushcross Grange).



What makes this book so amazing is its infinite study-ability, its limitless number of themes, and the way you will find something new with every reading. Sir Francis Bacon once said, "Some books are to be tasted, others swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." Chew on this one. Digest it. Enjoy it. Submerge yourself into it so that you will not become daunted by its length.

Did I mention that this is probably my third favorite book, just under the Bible and *Hamlet*? I LOVE to talk about, think about, read it. Please email me if you are struggling to understand something or just want to make a comment or have a discussion about it.

Good luck with your reading!!

Mrs. Zefo
gzefo@mtparanschool.com



Emily Bronte painted by brother Branwell