

The Definition of Symbolism

The word symbol is derived from (symballein), meaning to throw together, from the Greek (symbolon) and Latin (symbolum), which meant token, sign. Although the school of **symbolism appeared in France in 1880**, but one thousand years before this school appeared, people used symbols for expressing their feelings and thoughts about phenomena, life and death. **The founders of school of symbolism were three great poets, Stephan Mallarme, Poul Verlaine and Arthur Rimbaud**, who used symbols for expressing their thoughts. In literature, symbolism is defined as a figure of speech in which a person, situation, word, or object is used to represent another thing. Usually, symbolism can be seen through the use of metaphors and allegories in a short story or novel. It is one of the most commonly used literary devices.

Symbols in Wuthering Heights:

Symbolism is a literary device that uses common elements to represent complex ideas, and Wuthering Heights, written by Emily Brontë, contains many symbols. Throughout the novel, the weather is used to signify characters' turbulent emotions.

The Title Wuthering Heights

Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr. Heathcliff's dwelling, "wuthering" being a significant provincial adjective, descriptive of the atmospheric tumult to which its station is exposed in stormy weather.

Windows and Doors

Windows in Wuthering Heights are symbols of the boundaries between poverty and wealth or differences between classes or characters. When Catherine and Heathcliff are children, they spy on the Lintons at Thrushcross Grange. Through the window, they see how luxuriously the Lintons live in contrast to the Earnshaws. All window images in the novel suggest barriers, which separate characters from each other and from their hopes or desires. The images of doors serve very much the same purpose as windows in the novel. They are also used to suggest spiritual entrance and escape such as the entrance of Catherine's ghost. Locked doors and windows are used to symbolize the damaging effects of revenge and sometimes symbolize an intolerable situation that needs to be escaped. In General, represent barriers that isolate the characters from one another and prevent the characters from fulfilling their dreams.

Gates

Thresholds symbolized boundaries between different worlds – often impenetrable, with closed windows, locked doors and barred gates separating, excluding or imprisoning characters. Gates symbolized the close society that rejects any strangers or outsiders according to their social conditions.

Books

Books symbolize intellect, education and civilization. Throughout the novel, characters demonstrate their civility through their association with books while other characters demonstrate their lack of intellect and propriety by not knowing how to read.

Dogs

The dogs symbolize the savagery of human nature. They are also an extension of their masters' personalities, as Heathcliff's dogs are big and powerful, and Edgar's dogs are small and weak.

Ghost

Catherine's ghost is a symbol lost souls, memory, and the futility of any attempt to change the past or the inescapable past. She haunts Heathcliff and Wuthering Heights, reminding the inhabitants of the previous generation's cruelty and violence, behavior that the current generation cannot escape.

Hair

Hair acts as a symbol of immortality. It is the cord that ties together the living and the dead. Heathcliff's hair in Catherine's locket represents a (liminal area) between life and death, connecting him with Catherine beyond the grave.

Thrushcross Grange and Wuthering Heights

Bronte has used Thrushcross Grange and Wuthering Heights to depict isolation and separation. The dark and foreboding environment described at the beginning of the novel foreshadows the gloomy atmosphere found in the remainder of the book. The novel is the tale of two very different families living in two different houses, living two extremely different lives. Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange differ greatly from each

other in appearance and mood. Thrushcross Grange represents the positive aspects of wealth and education. The residents of this house are well-educated and civilized. They are also generally calm, well-mannered, and happy. Wuthering Heights, on the other hand, is a place of despair and wildness.

Oak- Paneled Bed

The oak-paneled bed is the symbolic center of Wuthering Heights, providing the setting for the novel's most dramatic events. Residing in Catherine's childhood bedroom, the bed is described by Lockwood when he spend the night in Catherine's room. it symbolizes a place of protection, security, and retreat. As Lockwood soon finds out, though, the oak-paneled bed was also a retreat for young Catherine, there she had dreamed as well, had carved her name into the wooden panels, and had preserved parts of her childhood diary.

Dreams

Dreams are a ubiquitous ^{سمة} feature of ancient, medieval, and modern literature. In older literature dreams are very often prophetic, and their message may be straightforwardly literal or formulated with symbols that require decoding. Dreams have the ability to show the manifestations ^{تجليات} of the characters innermost ^{الاعمق} desires; they act as a way for characters to transcend their limitations that are placed on them throughout their lives. Within Wuthering Heights dreams have the ability to shape and changes characters, it is important to know how dreams and visions affect the characters and often are used to tell the reader something about the characters.

Nature

Natural setting and imagery are central in reflecting characters, attitudes and events while giving us vision to social class. Emily links the psychological state of the characters to nature .The most prominent characters that can be linked with natural setting and imagery are Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw. Heathcliff's name, a combination of two aspects of basic nature, is an immediate indication of his close link with the natural surroundings. His character can be seen to directly conform to the stormy moors that become his refuge ^{ملجأ} and solitude ^{عزلة} from the tyranny ^{طغيان} of Wuthering Heights. Catherine and Heathcliff often describe their love and their own individual identities through metaphors of nature.

Trees

Trees are natural events used in the novel to represent different emotions and tone of the circumstances in the novel. Trees symbolize how the emotions of one character shape or disfigure the growth of another character, as much as how the emotional and physical environment plays a role in shaping or contorting a character's disposition

Rain

The rain stands for the bliss and mercy of heaven because Heathcliff seems to smile when he was dead the weather was raining and he has now joined the natural environment of Wuthering Heights in his death with Catherine's spirit.

Wind

Strong winds or storms have long been a metaphor for passionate or tumultuous مضطرب motion. Typically, storms and rain symbolize angry, violent, or passionate emotions, while breezes نسيمات and calm weather reflect peace, hope, and goodness. The wind-swept location in the novel is also suggestive of the tempestuous عاصفة او هائجة relationships. The storm which blows تهب at the out of the house and gives it its name is echoed يردد صداها by the storm within the house, a tempest whose ultimate source, it may be, is the people living there.

The Moors

The wild and desolate moors play an important part in establishing the mood of the novel. It gives it a power beyond anything which the action itself can convey They are open, wet, wild, and infertile قاحل areas that mean different things to different people. To Lockwood, the moors serve as a confusing areas, they represent threat mystery .While they are a source of To Catherine and Heathcliff, the moors exist as a supernatural, liberating, and boundary less region. For them, the ultimate freedom is associated with walking on the moors symbolizing their wild tendency ميل. As young children, they created their heaven on earth, escaping their abusive تعسفي home to run free on the moors. Catherine seems to belong to the moors and to Heathcliff, not significantly to heaven as seen through conventional Christian eyes.

Catherine's Grave

The location of her grave itself is a symbol of the conflict that ultimately claims her life. She is not buried in the chapel with the Lintons nor is she placed with the Earnshaws. Instead, she is buried in the corner of the churchyard between Edgar and Heathcliff. This symbolic placement of her body represents her torn loyalties and her torn heart.