

WITHERING HEIGHTS

Explanation

② I listened doubtfully an infant, . . . . than before.

These lines occur in the third chapter of Miss Emily Brontë's solitary masterpiece, Wuthering Heights. These words are spoken by Mr. Lockwood, the sophisticated tenant of the Heights from South England.

When the chapter opens, the first Catherine is dead, but her ghost is present begging admission to the Heights. Heathcliff is nearing his end. The story is thrown into the middle of the deep end, and the story folds back like a flashback.

Mr. Lockwood narrates the strange experiences he had at the Heights. On the night when he stayed in what was once Cathy's room upstairs Mr. Lockwood is in the midst of a dream. He is awakened by the sound of the wind touching the branch of birch tree near the window. At first Mr. Lockwood takes it as supernatural intervention. But he feels assured when he discovers that it is nothing but the sound produced by the north wind with a branch of the birch tree clashing against the window. Then Mr. Lockwood who has been in a half-conscious state remembers that he was lying in an oak closet. Then he heard clearly the strong wind accompanied with snow-balls. He heard also the sound of a birch tree producing its disturbing sound. But he was so disturbed that he wanted to stop the sound then and there.

## Explanations

③ Possibly some people might..... manifestations of mutual kindness.

These lines occur in the novel, *Wuthering Heights* written by Emily Brontë. In the given lines Mrs. Lockwood proceeds to an analysis of the psychological or mental traits of Heathcliff who seems to suffer from an inferiority complex because he is an orphan fed on the charity of old master Earnshaw. Mrs. Lockwood develops a sympathy for Heathcliff and tries to understand his inner motivations. Actually he is not proud of anything. He has felt like an outsider in the Earnshaw family. He does not like to give expressions to his feelings publicly. He is a man of reserved outward feelings and does not express them in presence of others. He conceals his feelings. He is a man of intense feelings. He loves and hates intensely but does not like that his strong feelings should be reciprocated.

Mrs. Lockwood's analysis of Heathcliff's character is fully borne out by subsequent events. He is a man of volcanic passion. His heart is like a volcano which becomes active under provocation.