

CHARACTER SKETCH OF HINDLEY

Hindley is the only son of Mr. Earnshaw master of Wuthering Heights. Obstinacy and violent temper are outstanding traits of the Earnshaw family, and these traits are best illustrated in Hindley Earnshaw. Since his very boyhood, he is cruel and merciless. He hates Heathcliff because he is a Gypsy boy, and never spares an opportunity of mercilessly thrashing him. His father dislikes him for his cruelty. He is sent to a university during his father's life time but we know nothing of what he did there. After his father's death, he returned home with a wife for him. The husband and the wife are wholly absorbed in each other's love, and are least interested in the world around them.

Hindley neglects his sister, and lets her roam about the moors in Heathcliff's company. One cold night she visits the Threshcross Grange with Heathcliff. The Lintons detain her there, and next morning the old Mr. Linton visits Hindley and explains to him the need of his taking greater interest in his family. Hindley realizes his mistake and realises his duty towards his sister. He begins to take greater interest in her. But soon after his wife dies, and he takes recourse to drink to forget his sorrow. The newly awakened sense is lost too good.

Hindley's hatred for Heathcliff intensifies after his father's death and l

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behaves towards him worse cruelly than he ever did before. Now that he (Hindley) is the master, he can treat him (Heathcliff) in any way he likes. He forgets that Heathcliff was the companion of his boyhood, and treats him like a domestic servant. Hindley's character which is bad enough grows worse after his wife's death.

He regards her death as a divine injustice, and to avenge himself on God deliberately takes to evil ways. Even before his wife's death he had little faith in God or human goodness. Faith lends strength to human character, and in the absence of any faith he grew up to be weak and impulsive. He had not the strength of character to bear like a man the loss of his wife. He grows desperate and in his weakness of character behaves in a despicable manner. He finds consolation for the loss of his wife in wine, gambling and low company. The result is that decent persons have stopped coming to his house. He is drunk everyday and creates a riotous scene in the house.

In the end, Hindley drinks himself to death. One night, he is found lying unconscious in his room. On his bed, there are empty bottles of wine, which suggest that he has drunk excessively. All efforts to bring him back to consciousness fail, and he dies before dawn. Thus, ends his short career of stupidity. He lived a fool, and he died a fool.
