

# Wuthering Heights

## Chapters 18–26

by Emily Bronte

### Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

**Practice words:** credulity, malevolence, obviate, peremptory, precarious, propensity, propitiate, prospective, sanctimonious, vestige

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#### PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview ..... 2

Answer Key — Preview ..... 3

**Caution:** share only if self-checking

#### OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context ..... 4

Answer Key — In Context ..... 5

**Caution:** do not share with students

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#### About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

#### About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

#### Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Chapters 1–9 · Lockwood's arrival at Wuthering Heights

Section 2 · Chapters 10–17 · Heathcliff returns to the moors

**Section 3 · Chapters 18–26 · A new generation at the Grange**

Section 4 · Chapters 27–34 · A visit to Wuthering Heights

**Bold = this section.** Other sections are available at [verbalworkout.com](http://verbalworkout.com).



verbalworkout.com  
(all resources free)

# Vocabulary Preview

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.*

1. His **credulity** made him an easy target for online scams.

- A. a timid manner
- B. a careless habit
- C. a too-trusting nature

6. She has a **propensity** for interrupting people in the middle of a sentence.

- A. a special talent
- B. a deliberate plan
- C. a natural tendency

2. The villain's **malevolence** showed in every cruel scheme he devised.

- A. deep ill will
- B. reckless pride
- C. burning ambition

7. He brought flowers to **propitiate** his angry sister.

- A. to politely greet
- B. to win over and soothe
- C. to quietly thank

3. Careful planning can **obviate** many problems before they ever arise.

- A. to prevent or remove
- B. to point out
- C. to delay

8. The **prospective** buyers toured the empty house before deciding whether to make an offer.

- A. present at the moment
- B. expected in the future
- C. experienced from the past

4. The captain gave a **peremptory** order that no one dared to question.

- A. commanding and final
- B. long and detailed
- C. carefully reasoned

9. His **sanctimonious** tone made everyone feel he was silently judging them.

- A. harsh and impatient
- B. smugly self-righteous
- C. cold and distant

5. The hikers crossed a **precarious** bridge swaying high above the river.

- A. dangerously unstable
- B. ancient and famous
- C. long and narrow

10. Only a **vestige** of the old fort remained after the storm.

- A. a faint memory
- B. a sturdy section
- C. a small remaining trace

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary Preview

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| #  | KEY |
|----|-----|
| 1  | C   |
| 2  | A   |
| 3  | A   |
| 4  | A   |
| 5  | A   |
| 6  | C   |
| 7  | B   |
| 8  | B   |
| 9  | B   |
| 10 | C   |

# Vocabulary in Context

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Score \_\_\_\_\_ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

**1** “A propensity to be saucy was one; and a perverse will, that indulged children invariably acquire, whether they be good tempered or cross.”

As it is used in the passage, the word ‘propensity’ most nearly suggests that Catherine’s sauciness was...

- A. a natural, inborn tendency
- B. a deliberately learned habit
- C. a brief, passing mood

**2** “... he took, to propitiate her, a fine crooked-legged terrier whelp from the kennel, and putting it into her hand, bid her whist! for he meant nought.”

The author includes Hareton’s offer of the terrier whelp in order to show his wish to...

- A. mock her childish distress
- B. be rid of an unwanted pup
- C. make peace with Catherine

**3** “He appeared to have bent his malevolence on making him a brute: he was never taught to read or write; never rebuked for any bad habit which did not annoy his keeper; never led a single step towards virtue, or guarded by a single precept against vice.”

In the passage, Heathcliff is characterized as...

- A. stern but hoping to reform him
- B. deliberately bent on degrading him
- C. merely careless and neglectful

**4** “He was donned in his Sunday garments, with his most sanctimonious and sourest face, and, holding his hat in one hand, and his stick in the other, he proceeded to clean his shoes on the mat.”

It can reasonably be inferred that Joseph’s manner at the door is...

- A. a sign of true devotion
- B. a burst of open anger
- C. a show of false piety

**5** “No plan offered itself: the very exhibition of any desire to keep him would have rendered the claimant more peremptory: there was nothing left but to resign him.”

The passage most strongly suggests that any show of wanting to keep Linton would have made the claim...

- A. weaker and more hesitant
- B. more insistent and unyielding
- C. more open to compromise

**6** “You may also tell him that the mother of Linton desired him to remain under my guardianship; and, at present, his health is very precarious.”

According to the passage, the state of Linton’s health is...

- A. dangerously uncertain
- B. steadily improving
- C. completely sound

**7** “To obviate the danger of this threat being fulfilled, Mr. Linton commissioned me to take the boy home early, on Catherine’s pony ...”

It can reasonably be inferred that Mr. Linton sends the boy off early in order to...

- A. head off Heathcliff’s threatened visit
- B. let the boy regain his strength
- C. spare Catherine a sad farewell

**8** “... his mother’s eyes, save that, unless a morbid touchiness kindled them a moment, they had not a vestige of her sparkling spirit.”

In context, the word ‘vestige’ emphasizes how completely Linton...

- A. lacks his mother’s liveliness
- B. hides his mother’s temper
- C. resembles his mother’s looks

**9** “My son is prospective owner of your place, and I should not wish him to die till I was certain of being his successor. Besides, he’s MINE, and I want the triumph of seeing MY descendant fairly lord of their estates; my child hiring their children to till their fathers’ lands for wages.”

The passage most strongly suggests that, as ‘prospective owner,’ Linton is expected to...

- A. own the Grange already
- B. purchase the Grange himself
- C. inherit the Grange in time

**10** “What use were anger and protestations against her silly credulity?”

Which statement about Catherine’s response to Heathcliff is best supported by the passage?

- A. She doubts his every word
- B. She believes him too readily
- C. She is talked out of visiting

# ANSWER KEY

## Vocabulary in Context

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| #  | KEY | NOTE                                                                                                          |
|----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | A   |                                                                                                               |
| 2  | C   | Character comprehension. Hareton's whelp is a peace-offering after Catherine has scorned him as a servant.    |
| 3  | B   |                                                                                                               |
| 4  | C   |                                                                                                               |
| 5  | B   |                                                                                                               |
| 6  | A   |                                                                                                               |
| 7  | A   | Event comprehension. The 'threat' is Heathcliff's vow, sent through Joseph, to come and seize Linton himself. |
| 8  | A   |                                                                                                               |
| 9  | C   |                                                                                                               |
| 10 | B   | Character comprehension.                                                                                      |

### Teacher Context: Chapters 18–26

Twelve years on, Nelly has raised Edgar and Catherine's daughter, young Cathy, at the Grange. Cathy discovers Wuthering Heights, meets her cousins Hareton and the sickly Linton Heathcliff, and is gradually drawn into Heathcliff's orbit as he schemes to bind the two estates together. Section ends before the visit that springs Heathcliff's trap, keeping that turn as the opening of the final section.