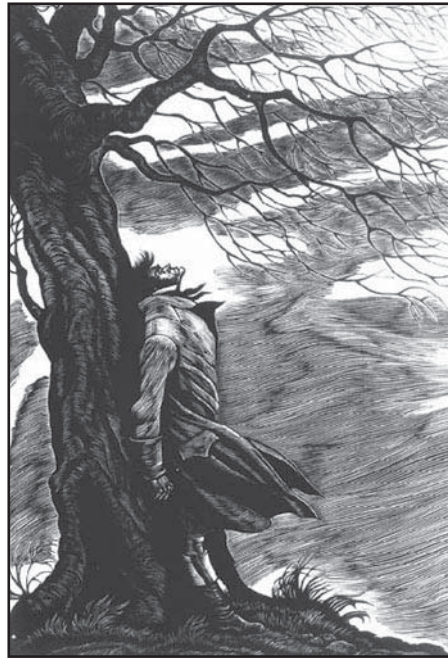


Words from Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights

Avocabo Word List 22

ABSOLVE, ASCRIBE, ASSIDUITY,
AUSTERE, CATECHISE,
COPESTONE, CULLENDERS,
DILAPIDATION, DOLEFUL,
EPITHET, EXECRATIONS,
EXPOSTULATE, HOMILY,
IMPUDENCE, INSOLENT,
INTERLOPER, LACHRYMOSE,
MAGISTRATE, MISANTHROPIST,
PEEVISH, PHYSIOGNOMY,
PIOUS, RECOMPENSE,
RHEUMATISM, RUFFIANLY,
USURPER, VINDICTIVE,
WUTHERING



“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. Pure, bracing ventilation they must have up there at all times, indeed: one may guess the power of the north wind blowing over the edge, by the excessive slant of a few stunted firs at the end of the house; and by a range of gaunt thorns all stretching their limbs one way, as if craving alms of the sun.”

-- Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*

Exercise 22-1 Fill-in-the-blanks

Choose the best list word (or variation of) to complete each of the following sentences. Definitions of the missing words are provided in italics. (27 marks)

1. In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect _____’s heaven—and Mr. Heathcliff and I are such a suitable pair to divide the desolation between us. *someone who dislikes people in general*

2. “The Lord help us!” he soliloquized in an undertone of _____ displeasure, while relieving me of my horse: looking, meantime, in my face so sourly that I charitably conjectured he must have need of divine aid to digest his dinner, and his pious ejaculation had no reference to my unexpected advent. *cranky: easily irritated or annoyed*

3. It includes kitchen and parlor, generally, but I believe at Wuthering heights the kitchen is forced to treat altogether into another quarter, at least I distinguished a chatter of tongues, and a clatter of culinary utensils, deep within; and I observed no signs of roasting, boiling, or baking, about the huge fire-place; nor any glitter of copper saucepans and tin _____ on the walls. *bowl-shaped strainers; used to wash or drain foods*

4. Joseph mumbled indistinctly in the depths of the cellar, but gave no intimation of ascending; so, his master dived down to him, leaving me vis- a- vis the _____ bitch, and pair of grim, shaggy sheep dogs, who shared with her a jealous guardianship over all my movements. *cruel and brutal*

5. Not anxious to come in contact with their fangs, I sat still—but, imagining they would scarcely understand tacit insults, I unfortunately indulged in winking and making faces at the trio, and some turn of my _____ so irritated madam, that she suddenly broke into a fury, and I leapt on my knees. *countenance; face*

6. ... his thick, brown curls were rough and uncultivated, his whiskers encroached bearishly over his cheeks, and his hands were embrowned like those of a common labourer: still his bearing was free, almost haughty, and he showed non of a domestic’s _____ in attending on the lady of the house. *great and constant diligence and attention*

7. And we all, including the rustic youth, drew round the table, a(n) _____ silence prevailing while we discussed our meal. *of a stern or strict bearing or demeanor; forbidding in aspect*

8. ‘The red cow didn’t die by chance; and your _____ can hardly be reckoned among providential visitations!’ *any painful disorder of the joints or muscles or connective tissues*
9. On opening the little door, two hairy monsters flew at my throat, bearing me down and extinguishing the light, while a mingled guffaw, from Heathcliff and Hareton, put the _____ on my rage and humiliation. *finishing touch*
10. I shut it, and took up another, and another, till I had examined all. Catherine’s library was select, and its state of _____ proved it to have been well used, though not altogether for a legitimate purpose; scarcely one chapter had escaped a pen-and-ink commentary— at least, the appearance of one— covering every morsel of blank that the printer had left. *a state of deterioration due to old age or long use*
11. ...we were ranged in a row, on a sack of corn, groaning and shivering, and hoping that Joseph would shiver too, so that he might give us a short _____ for his own sake. *a sermon on a moral or religious topic*
12. I suppose Catherine fulfilled her project, for the next sentence took up another subject; she waxed _____. *tearful, sorrowful, sad, pertaining to tears, weeping, causing tears or crying*
13. “Seventy times seven time didst thou gapingly contort thy visage—seventy times seven did I take counsel with my soul— Lo, this is human weakness; this also may be _____!” *set free; granted remission of a sin to*
14. This time, I remembered I was lying in the oak closet, and I heard distinctly the gusty wind, and the driving of the snow; I heard, also, the fir-bough repeat its teasing sound, and _____ it to the right cause... *attributed or credited to*
15. I seemed to keep them closed above a quarter of an hour, yet, the instant I listened again, there was the _____ cry moaning on! *filled with or evoking sadness*
16. ...My presence in his sanctum was evidently esteemed a piece of _____ too shameful for remark. He silently applied the tube to his lips, folded his arms, and puffed away. *rudeness; effrontery*
17. ‘And you, you worthless—’ he broke out as I entered, turning to his daughter-in-law, and employing a(n) _____ as harmless as duck, or sheep, but generally represented by a dash. *a defamatory or abusive word/phrase*
18. Inquiries were made as to how it got there; I was obliged to confess, and in _____ for my cowardice and inhumanity was sent out of the house. *payment or reward (as for service rendered)*
19. So from the very beginning, he bred bad feeling in the house; and at Mr. Earnshaw’s death, which happened in less than two years after, the young master had learnt to regard his father as an oppressor rather than a friend, and Heathcliff as a(n) _____ of his parent’s affection... *one who wrongfully or illegally seizes and holds the place of another*
20. ‘ And I pray that he may break your neck; take him, and be damned, you beggarly _____! and wheedle my father out of all he has: only afterwards, show him what you are, imp of Satan—And take that, I hope he’ll kick out your brains!’ *someone who intrudes on the privacy or property of another without permission*
21. He complained so seldom, indeed, of such stirs as these, that I really thought him not _____— I was deceived, completely, as you will hear. *disposed to seek revenge*
22. By his knack of sermonizing and _____ discoursing, he contrived to make a great impression on Mr. Earnshaw, and the more feeble the master became, the more influence he gained. *having or showing or expressing reverence*
23. ... and she defying us with her bold, saucy look, and her ready words; turning Joseph’s religious curses into ridicule, baiting me, and doing just what her father hated most, showing how her pretended _____, which he thought real, had more power over Heathcliff than his kindness... *the trait of being rude and impertinent*
24. He carried her in; I followed, grumbling _____ and vengeance. *curses*
25. She sat on the sofa quietly. Mrs. Linton took of her grey cloak of the dairy maid which we had borrowed for our excursion, shaking her head, and _____ with her, I suppose; she was a young lady and they made a distinction between her treatment and mine. *expressing earnest opposition or protest*

Exercise 22-2: Synonyms

From three choices, circle the one that is closest in meaning to the bold list word in the context displayed.

- are you a troll, or just a mean-spirited **misanthropist**?
a) pessimist b) carnivore c) rational
- his **peevis** refusal to shake hands irked us
a) irritable b) obsessive c) amiable
- he **ascribed** Jane’s short temper to her upset stomach
a) attributed b) ignored c) counted upon
- Financially **recompensed** for babysitting
a) penalized b) reimbursed c) held responsible
- what first greets us are the **physiognomy** and physicality of a person
a) gender b) inspection c) countenance
- we do not pursue the cases in court with **assiduity**
a) zeal b) diligence c) interest
- protesting against the government’s **austere** economic policy
a) ascetic b) extravagant c) flexible
- the referee added a misconduct penalty when he persisted with his public **insolence**
a) rudeness b) humiliation c) nudity
- Some of them were acts of great beauty and **impudence**
a) ephemerality b) hesitancy c) effrontery
- these amendments to the policies do not **absolve** the decision-makers
a) condemn b) impeach c) acquit

Exercise 22-3: Etymologies

_____ 1. This word derives from two Greek words meaning *one who hates mankind*?

_____ 2. Which word derives from the Latin word meaning *continual presence*?

_____ 3. Which word derives form the Latin word from *dolere*, meaning to *suffer or grieve*?

_____ 4. Which word derives from a French word as a “descriptive name for a person or thing”?

_____ 5. Which word derives from the Greek word *dakryma*, meaning “tear”?

_____ 6. Which word derives from the Latin word *usurpare*, meaning to “make use of, seize for use”?

_____ 7. Which word derives from the Latin word *vindicta* meaning “revenge”?

_____ 8. Which word derives from the Latin word from *absolvere*, meaning to “set free, loosen, or acquit”?

_____ 9. Which word derives from the Latin word *expostulatus*, meaning “to demand or to claim”?

_____ 10. Which word derives from a Northern England dialectal variant of Scottish, meaning “rushing, whizzing, blustering”?

Exercise 22-4: Making connections

In one or two sentences, describe the relationship between each pair of words. Use a good dictionary to clarify unclear words.

1. austere ascetic

2. execration Dagnabbit!

3. usurper Henry IV of England

4. cullender pasta

5. copestone

finishing touch

Exercise 22-5: Descriptive Poetry Inspired by Setting

All the action of Wuthering Heights takes place in or around two neighboring houses on the Yorkshire moors—Wuthering Heights and Thrushcross Grange.

Read Sylvia Plath's 'Wuthering Heights'

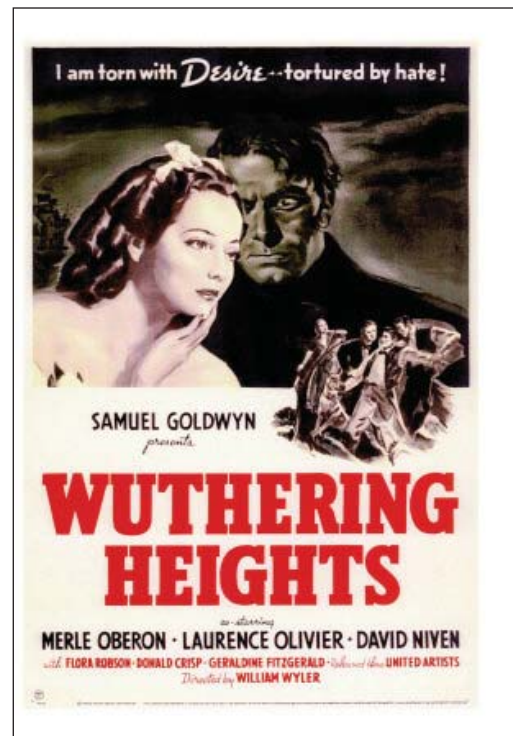
*The horizons ring me like faggots,
Tilted and disparate, and always unstable.
Touched by a match, they might warm me,
And their fine lines singe
The air to orange
Before the distances they pin evaporate,
Weighting the pale sky with a solid color.
But they only dissolve and dissolve
Like a series of promises, as I step forward.*

*There is no life higher than the grasstops
Or the hearts of sheep, and the wind
Pours by like destiny, bending
Everything in one direction.
I can feel it trying
To funnel my heat away.
If I pay the roots of the heather
Too close attention, they will invite me
To whiten my bones among them.*

*The sheep know where they are,
Browsing in their dirty wool-clouds,
Gray as the weather.
The black slots of their pupils take me in.
It is like being mailed into space,
A thin, silly message.
They stand about in grandmotherly disguise,
All wig curls and yellow teeth
And hard, marbly baas.*

*I come to wheel ruts, and water
Limpid as the solitudes
That flee through my fingers.
Hollow doorsteps go from grass to grass;
Lintel and sill have unbinged themselves.
Of people and the air only
Remembers a few odd syllables.
It rehearses them moaningly:
Black stone, black stone.
The sky leans on me, me, the one upright
Among all horizontals.
The grass is beating its head distractedly.
It is too delicate
For a life in such company;
Darkness terrifies it.
Now, in valleys narrow
And black as purses, the house lights
Gleam like small change.*

Write a free verse poem in which you describe a setting that evokes powerful personal feelings, or a place that has a profound and persistent influence on character.



This Avocabo Unit, *Words from Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights* was produced by Brigitte McIntyre, December 2010.