

# Emily Brontë

## An biography

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

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### 1. Read

Emily Brontë was a famous English writer. She was born in Yorkshire, England in 1818. She had two sisters, Charlotte and Anne, and one brother, Branwell. All four siblings were writers. They wrote poems and stories. Their mother died and they spent a lot of time together when they were children.

Emily only wrote one book, *Wuthering Heights*, but it was very good. The story was about two families, the Earnshaws and the Lintons, who lived in Yorkshire and a waif, Heathcliff. Heathcliff is in love with Cathy Earnshaw but it is a love/hate relationship and the consequences for all are dramatic. Cathy marries the rich Edgar Linton and Heathcliff decides to get revenge... but then Cathy dies. This is a true example of how love can lead to madness.

We don't know a lot about Emily Brontë because she was passionate but reserved. She didn't leave any personal letters that could help us to understand her personality. She died young from tuberculosis in 1848. However, most literary critics believe that she was the true literary genius of the family.

### Glossary

waif – *trovatello*

lead to – *portare a*

### 2. Tick the five themes in *Wuthering Heights*.

- a. Love
- b. Death
- c. Sport
- d. Money
- e. Hate
- f. Madness

### 3. Do you think *Wuthering Heights* sounds like an interesting story? Why/Why not?

*Yes, because... / No, because...*

### 4. Talk to a partner. What books about characters who do crazy things for love do you know? Tell your partner about them.

## Teacher's Notes

1. Before reading ask the students if they've ever heard of the Bronte sisters. Can they name any of their famous stories? Do they like the classics or do they prefer contemporary novelists?
  
2. Tick:
  - a. Love
  - b. Death
  - c. ~~Sport~~
  - d. Money
  - e. Hate
  - f. Madness

### \* Sarah Gudgeon

Sarah Gudgeon is a trained journalist and EFL teacher from Manchester, England. She has written numerous books for Pearson over the years and is a regular contributor to the Pearson Portal on [pearson.it](http://pearson.it).