

Here is a list, in no significant order, of the topic questions people submitted with the research paper proposals. It may well prove to be both interesting and instructive reading.

1. With her depiction Catherine Linton's illnesses in *Wuthering Heights*, is Emily Brontë making a statement regarding the plight of women in nineteenth-century Victorian society?
2. In essence, how does the racial swerving in the novel depict discriminations of the 19th century, resemble modern day life racism?
3. What does *Wuthering Heights* say about the dividedness of Heathcliff's psychological make up during childhood and his emotional connections between others in his adult life?
4. Does Catherine become a ghost as a result of her own convictions or because of Heathcliff's turmoil?
5. What does Heathcliff's preternatural connection with the physical world of *Wuthering Heights* lead us to infer? Is he other than human? Is he a true "monster" or is he merely "monstrous?"
6. Is Heathcliff's revenge plot justifiable in that it is a direct result of his victimization and the outcome of Battered Person's Syndrome?
7. Do Nelly's 'Old Wives Tales,' and Bronte's realistic portrayal of the supernatural establish *Wuthering Heights* as Folklore?
8. How do the physical and mental illnesses of Catherine reflect the 19th century's depiction and perception of health issues?
9. How do the characteristics attributed to masculinity and/or femininity within the novel relate to the gender roles of 19th century society?
10. Would Nelly be consider a gossip of no harm or would she be a villain with a motive?
11. Does the novel deliberately exploit vampire lore or is this simply a pattern of characterization with no real connection to the folklore?
12. What is Nelly Dean's true identity in *Wuthering Heights* and to the reader?
13. Does *Wuthering Heights* express the idea that children without parents can find happiness or does it cause them to be to unstable and damaged?

14. How do the characters of Heathcliff and Gatsby represent contrasting and seemingly contradictory views on the importance of family background in both 19th-century England and 20th-century America?
15. What is Lockwood's purpose in this story? Is he a social commentary and a vital piece of this story or is he merely a vessel through which Bronte tells the main story of *Wuthering Heights*?
16. How does Heathcliff's life and actions, including his cruelty, parallel the struggles of the lower class and "dark races" of the peasantry and working class of early nineteenth century England?
17. What is the purpose of Bronte telling the story of Heathcliff and Catherine's love through a third person?
18. Was Heathcliff's revenge and harsh treatment of everybody around him the direct result of his low class treatment during his upbringing or does he overcome his social roots and seek revenge for losing Catherine?
19. How does Emily Brontë use Heathcliff to attempt to liberate women in *Wuthering Heights*?
20. How accurately does Catherine's ingrained ideals of social class and marriage expectations represent the Victorian era and define her subsequent choice in a spouse?
21. Does Catherine's mental state of mind, and her ultimate physical decline, have a direct correlation to the way she was treated, both kindly and not so kindly as a female in the 19th century?
22. Does Heathcliff's rise in social status support or undermine the accepted social hierarchy of 19th-century England?