

Name _____

Layered Stories

In *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë, the use of multiple narrators adds depth and complexity to the story. The novel begins with Mr. Lockwood, a tenant at Thrushcross Grange, who becomes curious about the mysterious *Wuthering Heights* and its inhabitants. Through his narration, we see the events unfold as an outsider trying to piece together the past.



The second narrator, Nelly Dean, provides a more personal account. Nelly has lived and worked at both *Wuthering Heights* and Thrushcross Grange, making her a key witness to the events. She shares the history of the Earnshaw and Linton families with Mr. Lockwood, helping him understand the relationships and conflicts that shape the story.

The layered narration influences how readers view the characters and events. Lockwood's narration reflects his limited perspective, as he often misinterprets the people and situations he encounters. For example, his first impressions of Heathcliff and Catherine are clouded by his own biases. Nelly's narration, on the other hand, is more detailed and emotional. She gives readers insight into the motivations and feelings of the characters, but her account is also shaped by her own opinions and experiences.

This narrative structure allows readers to see the story from different viewpoints, making it more engaging and thought-provoking. By combining Lockwood's distant perspective with Nelly's intimate storytelling, Brontë encourages readers to question how much they can trust each narrator. This uncertainty adds to the tension and mystery of the novel.

Through this multi-layered storytelling, *Wuthering Heights* explores themes of love, revenge, and the passage of time in a way that challenges readers to think critically about the events and characters. The use of multiple narrators makes the story richer and more intriguing, leaving readers with much to ponder.