



جامعة تكريت

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عنوان المحاضرة : Quotations about this novel

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Quotations about this novel

Certainly! Below are quotations from Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* that reflect feminist ideas or can be interpreted through a feminist lens, along with explanations for each:

1. Catherine's Desire for Freedom and Identity

"Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same."
– Catherine Earnshaw

Explanation:

Catherine asserts her equality with Heathcliff — not just in love, but in identity. In a time when women were expected to submit or follow, this statement boldly claims sameness of spirit and independence of self. It resists traditional gender roles and hierarchical relationships.

2. Catherine Rejecting Domestic Submission

"I am Heathcliff! He's always, always in my mind—not as a pleasure, any more than I am always a pleasure to myself, but as my own being.

Explanation:

Here, Catherine merges her identity with Heathcliff, suggesting her selfhood is as strong and central as his. Instead of being a wife or daughter defined by men, she sees

herself as a full, independent person. This self-awareness and rejection of passive femininity is a proto-feminist stance.

3. Nelly Dean on Catherine's Spirit

"She was a wild, wicked slip of a girl. She burned too bright for this world."

Explanation:

Though Nelly is critical, this quote reflects how Catherine defies Victorian expectations for women to be meek and obedient. Her fiery, untamed spirit stands in contrast to the ideal of the "angel in the house" — a common Victorian image of the perfect woman.

4. Catherine's Marriage for Social Status

"It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him..."

Explanation:

Catherine chooses to marry Edgar Linton for social advancement, showing how women were forced to compromise their desires to survive in a patriarchal society. This critique of social and economic pressures on women's choices is central to feminist thought.

5. Isabella's Experience of Patriarchal Abuse

"He's not a human being... I gave him my heart, and he took and pinched it to death; and flung it back to me." – Isabella Linton on Heathcliff

Explanation:

This quote exposes the horrors of patriarchal marriage. Isabella is trapped in an abusive relationship with Heathcliff, who treats her cruelly. Her voice highlights the vulnerability of women in a system that gives them little legal or social power.

6. Nelly on Female Resistance

"She never had the power to conceal her passion; it always set her whole complexion in a glow, and gave her eyes an expression of wild vindictiveness."

Explanation:

Women were often expected to be emotionally restrained, yet Catherine is described here as fiery and expressive. This disrupts traditional gender norms, suggesting that female emotion and rebellion are powerful, not shameful.

7. Hindley's Control Over Women

"He drove her from her foolish confidences by the matter-of-fact tones in which he addressed her."

Explanation:

This reflects how male authority figures often silence women and dismiss their emotions. The suppression of female voice and autonomy is a key concern in feminist criticism.

Summary:

These quotations show how *Wuthering Heights* critiques gender roles, power imbalance, and the limitations imposed on women. Emily Brontë created female characters—especially Catherine—who are emotionally complex, self-aware, and rebellious, making her work rich for feminist interpretation.

Would you like a comparison with her sister Charlotte Brontë or a summary of *Wuthering Heights* from a feminist perspective next