

Emily Brontë

(1818-1848)

Emily Brontë was an English novelist best known for her novel, *Wuthering Heights*. She also published a poetry collection with her sister Annie Bronte and Charlotte Bronte. She published under the pen name Ellis Bell. Emily Brontë remains a challenge to her biographers as there is very little information available about her. It is said that she was of shy and reclusive nature. Emily had a deep fondness for nature, particularly wild moors. Over the years critics attest to the fact that her love for wild moors was manifest in *Wuthering Heights*.

Wuthering Heights was first published in London in 1847 under the pseudonym Ellis Bell. Emily's real name did not appear until 1850 when it was printed on the title page of an edited commercial edition. When *Wuthering Heights* was published first in 1847, critics did not believe that it was written by a woman. According to Juliet Gardner, "The vivid sexual passion and power of its language and imagery impressed, bewildered and appalled reviewers." Emily Brontë never knew the extent of fame she achieved with her only novel, as she died a year after its publication, aged 30.

The novel, *Wuthering Heights*, is a classic tale of love, revenge, hatred and the evident suffering which takes a toll encompassing the whole range of characters. From complicated to intense and complex emotions, the novel is filled with all the elements of a tragic and macabre love story. The intense distress its characters go through because of the love story of Heathcliff and Catherine goes far beyond

ordinary tragic romance. No wonder, it is considered a classic in the canon of English Literature.