

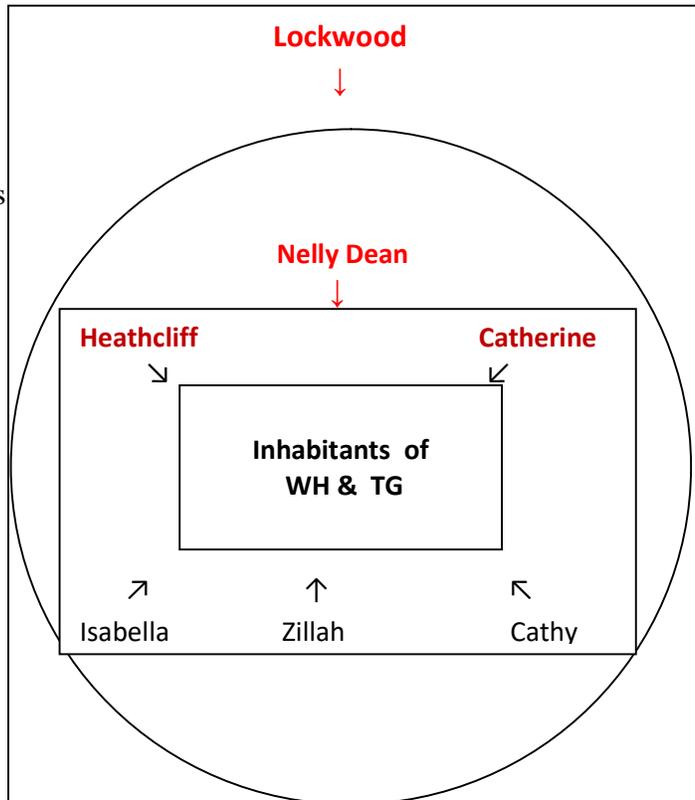
Narrative Technique in Wuthering Heights-I

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The Novel, 'Wuthering Heights' is in the form of
Lockwood's diary

Lockwood exists
In the Novel, but is
not part of the main
drama; he is an
outsider who watches
only the 'present'

Heathcliff &
Cathy are the main
characters in the
drama of elemental
passion of love.



Nelly Dean, though not part of
the main drama, **has watched**
everything as the governess of Cathy.

Wuthering Heights has a highly structured narrative technique. There are two narrators, Lockwood and Nelly Dean; yet, the main story is presented in a dramatic form in which dialogue plays a great part. The presence of two narrators does not mean that the events are told from two different perspectives. It only suggests that it is a multi-layered story. The two narrators have distinct time reference assigned to them. Lockwood provides the 'present narrative' - when he enters to rent Thrushcross Grange, a larger part of the action is already over, he meets his landlord Heathcliff, finds everything around him quite eerie and asks Nelly Dean to tell him the story of his landlord. In this way, Lockwood provides the external frame to the story. As he listens to Nelly's account and writes down everything in his diary, he puts the story in context. It is through him- through his reaction and curiosity- that the readers connect to the otherwise unusual story. Nelly Dean has the responsibility to tell the past events that she has herself watched. Thus, she describes the past. She provides the 'inner frame' to the story as she has taken part in the happenings. She being a governess of Cathy, lends an element of authenticity to the narrative that seeks to depict the clash of elemental passion of love.

The reason the novelist has used such an intricate narrative technique is to make the story seem plausible and convincing to the readers who would have found it beyond sensible comprehension.