

The Brontë Sisters





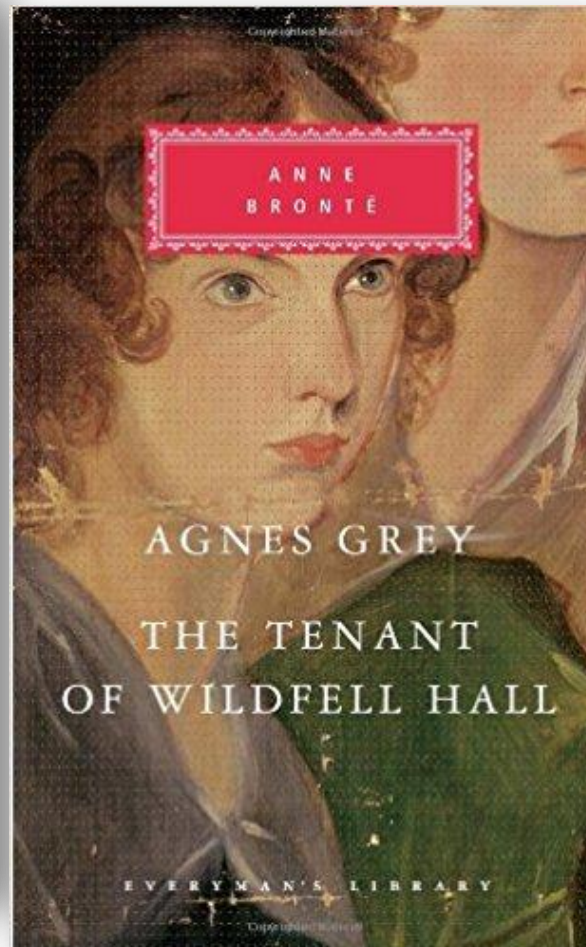
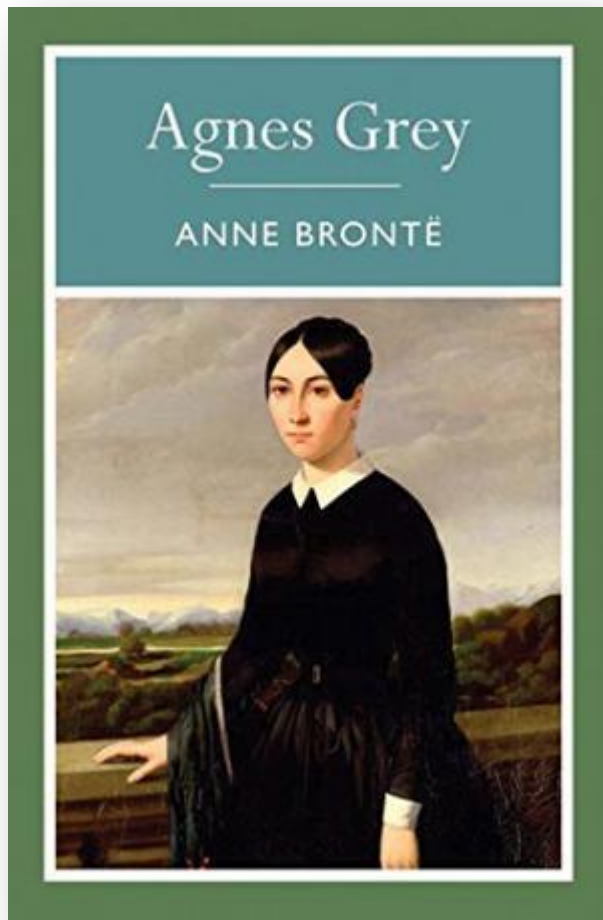
They had two sisters, both of whom died in childhood and a brother, Branwell. Their father, Patrick, was an Anglican clergyman who was appointed as the rector of the village of Haworth, on the Yorkshire moors. After the death of their mother in 1821, their Aunt Elizabeth came to look after the family.

ANNE BRONTË



Born on January 17, 1820, in Thornton, Yorkshire, England, Anne Brontë would go on to pen a book of poetry with sisters Charlotte and Emily. Anne worked as a governess. Her 1847 novel, *Agnes Grey*, was inspired by her experiences. Her subsequent novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, the story of a woman leaving her abusive spouse, was published the following year. Anne died of tuberculosis on May 28, 1849, in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England.

Anne was largely educated at home and worked as a governess for a several years before working on a book of poetry with her sisters, Charlotte and Emily, in 1846. Anne contributed 21 poems to the work, entitled Poems by Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell.

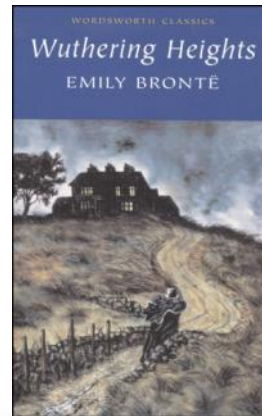




EMILY BRONTË

(1818–1848)

Born on July 30, 1818, in Thornton, Yorkshire, England, Emily Brontë is best remembered for her 1847 novel, *Wuthering Heights*.



'Wuthering Heights'

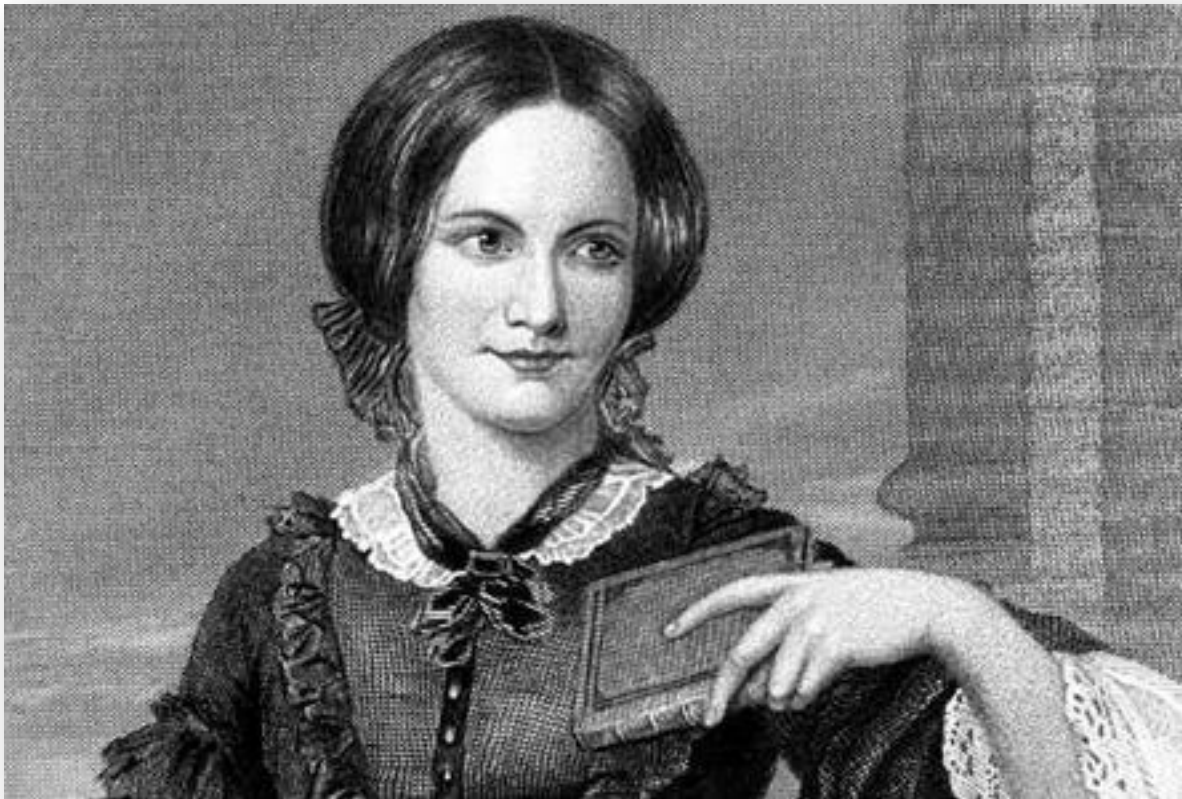
At first, reviewers did not know what to make of *Wuthering Heights*. It was only after Brontë's death that the book developed its reputation as a literary masterwork. She died of tuberculosis on December 19, 1848, nearly two months after her brother, Branwell, succumbed to the same disease.





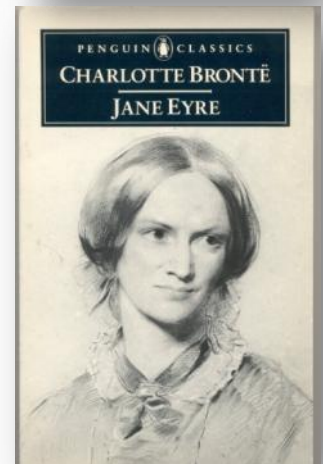
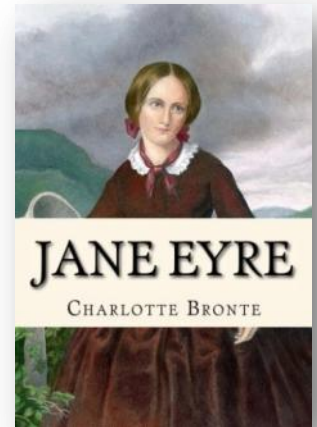
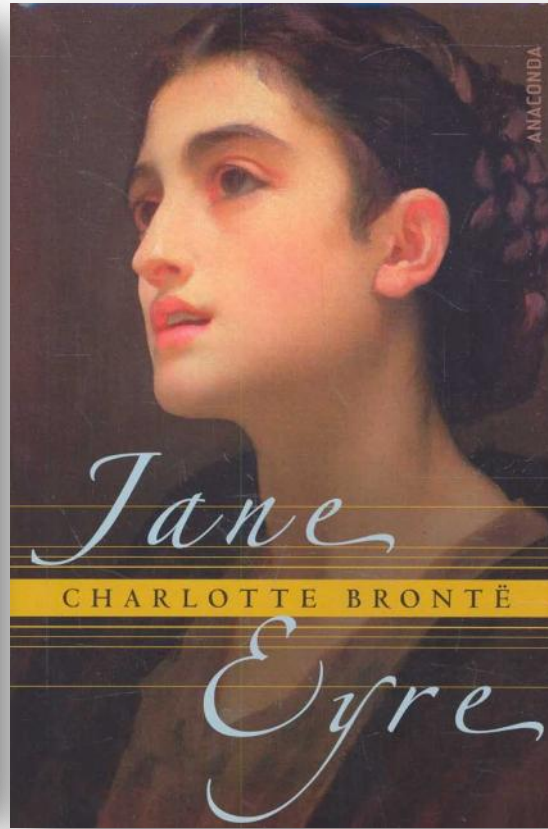
Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855)

Born on April 21, 1816, in Thornton, Yorkshire, England, Charlotte Brontë worked as a teacher and governess before collaborating on a book of poetry with her two sisters, Emily and Anne, who were writers as well. In 1847, Brontë published the semi-autobiographical novel *Jane Eyre*, which was a hit and would become a literary classic. Her other novels included *Shirley* and *Villette*. She died on March 31, 1855, in Haworth, Yorkshire, England.



'Jane Eyre'

A writer all her life, Brontë published her first novel, *Jane Eyre*, in 1847 under the manly pseudonym Currer Bell. Though controversial in its criticism of society's treatment of impoverished women, the book was an immediate hit. She followed the success with *Shirley* in 1848 and *Villette* in 1853.





In 1854, Charlotte married Arthur Bell Nicholls, but died the following year during her pregnancy, on March 31, 1855, in Haworth, Yorkshire, England. The first novel she ever wrote, *The Professor*, was published Posthumously in 1857.





In the Victorian era, it was a widely held belief that women writers were inferior to male writers. In the beginning of the Brontë Sisters' careers, they had to use fake male names in order to publish their work. Charlotte was published as Currer Bell, Emily was published as Ellis Bell, and Anne was Acton Bell. Before writing novels, the sisters first published a volume of poetry in 1846.



Many novels of the Charlotte, Emily, and Anne are based on women in Victorian England and the difficulties that they faced like few employment opportunities, dependence on men in the families for support, and social expectations. The Bronte's novels can be seen as "expressions of early feminism where the protagonist struggles to gain independence and self-reliance".

