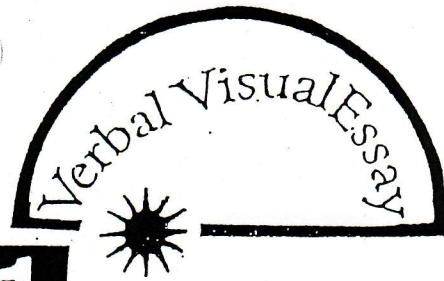


# TEACHER'S GUIDE

by James Barry

4



EXAMINE THE STUDENT EXAMPLES OF  
VERBAL-VISUAL ESSAYS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES.  
USE THEM AS DISPLAYS OR ON AN OVERHEAD TO  
GIVE THE STUDENT AN ILLUSTRATION  
OF THE ASSIGNMENT.

## 1 WHAT IS A VERBAL-VISUAL ESSAY?

A VERBAL-VISUAL ESSAY/MINDMAP MIXES VERBALS AND VISUALS (drawings, sketches, pictures from magazines) TO EXPRESS YOUR INTERPRETATION OF THE THEME(S), THE GIST, THE INTENT, THE MEANING OF A WORK OF LITERATURE (play, novel, poem, short story, song).

## 2 HOW MANY PAGES ARE INVOLVED IN THE ASSIGNMENT?

TWO 8½" X 11" PAGES.

It is like a two-page spread in a magazine. For classroom purposes, it has a frontside and a backside.

## 3 WHAT IS ON THE FRONT? WHAT IS ON THE BACK?

FRONTSIDE: There is a verbal and a visual component.



VISUAL COMPONENT: Employing pictures, graphics etc from magazines/newspapers and/or using drawings, illustrations, EXPRESS YOUR INTERPRETATION OF MEANING, GIST, INTENT, THEME(S) of a work of literature (novel, story, play, poem, song).

VERBAL COMPONENT: There will be ten verbals mixed in or bordering the visual comment.

5 Quotes from the work (with page or line reference)

+ 5 Comments of your own about the work.

=10 Verbals

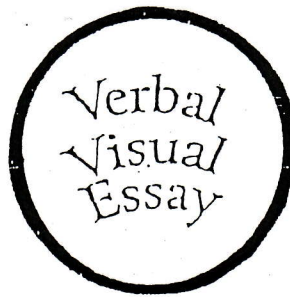
BACKSIDE: List the ten verbals: Five quotes from \_\_\_\_\_  
Five Personal Comments about \_\_\_\_\_



Write a one-paragraph EXPLANATION of the meaning, the intent of your visual representation,

## 4 IS THIS A MEDIA PRODUCT?

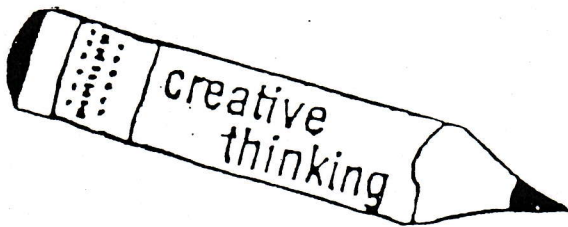
Yes. This is a media construct for the print world of business/communication.



## 5

### WHAT IS THIS TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT ALL ABOUT?

THE VERBAL-VISUAL ESSAY IS ABOUT PERSONAL CREATIVE RESPONSE TO A LITERARY WORK? THIS ASSIGNMENT IS NOT ABOUT ART BUT RATHER ABOUT INSIGHT. CREATE YOUR PRODUCT AND THEN WRITE ABOUT WHY YOU CHOSE TO INTERPRET THE LITERARY WORK SELECTED THE WAY YOU DID.



#### EXERCISE IN READING

COMPREHENSION

PRECIS/SYNOPSIS

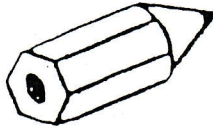
SENTENCE WRITING

CREATIVE THINKING

MAKING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN

ART AND WRITING

PRINT MEDIA PRODUCT



STUDENTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO WRITE BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY HAVE NOTHING TO SAY. NOW THEY HAVE MUCH TO SAY IN THE WRITTEN EXPLICATION, AND THEY CAN'T GET THIS ASSIGNMENT FROM THE INTERNET. THEY HAVE TO BE THEMSELVES AND STATE WHAT THEY THINK.

## 6

### HOW DOES ONE EVALUATE CREATIVE ASSIGNMENTS SUCH AS THIS?

The best way to be on the inside of the Evaluation here is to do a verbal-visual essay yourself. Then one realizes how challenging, how time-consuming and how interesting such work is.

I tell the students to take pride in their work. The rest seems to take care of itself.

## 7

### ALTHOUGH THE ASSIGNMENT IS NOT JUDGED ON ARTISTIC FLARE, IT DOES USE THE COMPONENTS OF THE ARTISTIC AND GRAPHIC WORLD TO MAKE ITS POINT, DOESN'T IT?

A VERBAL-VISUAL COLLAGE uses visuals (DRAWINGS/SKETCHES/PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MAGAZINES etc) MIXED WITH VERBALS to get at the meaning, the themes, the gist, the intent of a work of literature.

This assignment is not about art but rather about insight.

However, the assignment does employ the "stuff" of the artistic and graphic world to make its point. Therefore in making a "meaningful artistic work", you might consider incorporating some of the following in your collage:

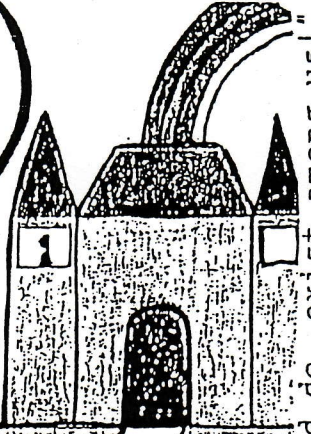
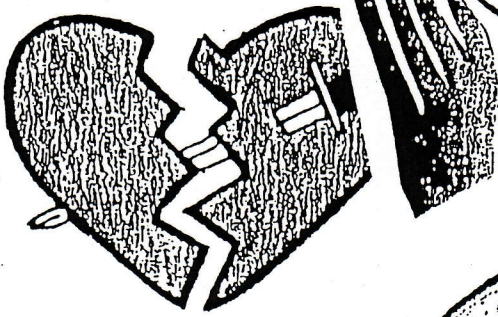
1. The Gestalt (total impression)
2. Focus of Interest
3. Symbols
4. Allusion
5. Colour Symbolism
6. The Placement of the Verbals
7. Use of Negative Space (the space not used)
8. Subliminals
9. Juxtaposition/Foil/Contrast
10. Aesthetics (Form)

Love is the dominant force in life and hate is the automatic result of its deprivation.

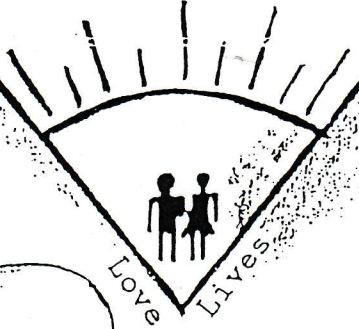
Emily Bronte's  
novel  
WUTHERING  
HEIGHTS



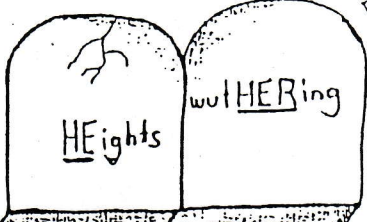
Verbal  
Visual  
Essay



"I have a strong faith in ghosts: I have a conviction that they can, and do, exist among us!" (p. 348)



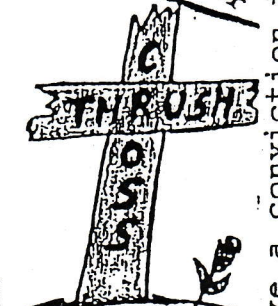
Status = Power



wUTHERing+HEIGHTS

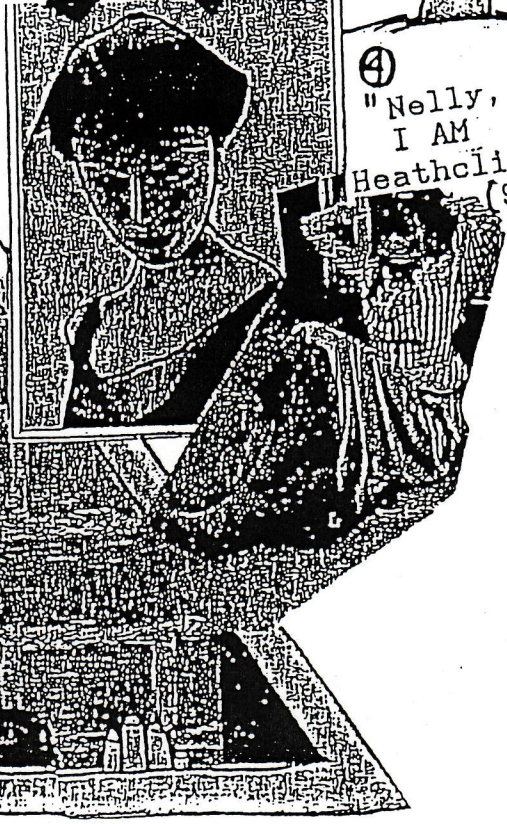
Heathcliff loves as fiercely as he hates.

Tri Love!



④ "Nelly, I AM Heathcliff" (97)

① "Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same." (p.95)  
② "It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now." (p.95)



③ "Be with me always - take any form - drive me mad! Only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot live without my life!"

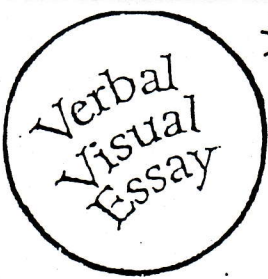
TRI LOVE!

I cannot live without my soul!" (p.202)

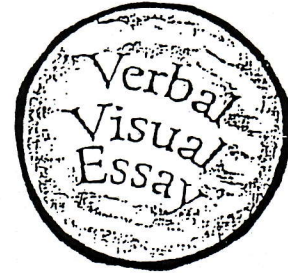
7/24

⑤

BE WITH ME ALWAYS - TAKE ANY FORM - DRIVE ME MAD.



Emily Brontë's  
WUTHERING HEIGHTS



Five Quotes from the Novel

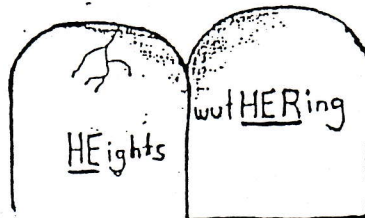
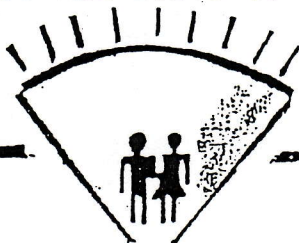
1. "Whatever our souls are made of, his and mine are the same." (p.95)
2. "It would degrade me to marry Heathcliff now." (p.95)
3. "Be with me always - take any form - drive me mad! Only do not leave me in this abyss, where I cannot live without my life! 'I cannot live without my soul!'" (p.202)
4. "Nelly, I AM Heathcliff." (p.97)
5. "I have a strong faith in ghosts: I have a conviction that they can, and do, exist among us!" (p.348)

Five Personal Statements about the Novel

1. Tri Love!
2. Love Lives
3. Heathcliff loves as fiercely as he hates.
4. Heathcliff's fortress of love.
5. Love is the dominant force in life and hate is the automatic result of its deprivation.

EXPLANATION OF COLLAGE

In the collage the passionate, cruel and barbaric nature of Wuthering Heights is compared and contrasted to the rational, comforting and civilized world of Thrushcross Grange. This is indicated by various visual effects - the storm clouds brewing over Heathcliff's Fortress of love (Wuthering Heights) stand in contrast to the peaceful setting of Thrushcross Grange. Grass (symbolic representation of life and happiness) grows abundantly at the Grange whereas it is absent at Wuthering Heights. The broken ladder represents confinement to the lower rungs of the social ladder whereas the 'yellow brick road' symbolizes Catherine's preferred path to social glory. The icy hand of Catherine strikes a dagger into the broken heart of Heathcliff - her true love. The love triangle represents the various interrelationships between Catherine, Edgar, and Heathcliff. The two people in the triangle, Catherine and Heathcliff, wish to unite but cannot - they must wait until the afterlife to do so. The eye serves to represent the Gothic overtones prevalent to this great novel. One sees the two possible outcomes of Catherine - comfort and joy as a member of the upper class upon marrying Edgar, and degradation and poverty if she chooses Heathcliff. (Incidentally the women in the two photos are the same, this lady, once a very famous model has presently fallen victim to the cruelties of skid row) The lovers walking toward the sunset obviously represent Heathcliff and Catherine and serve to symbolize their long-awaited union in heaven.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

