

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall

ANNE BRONTË

- 1
 - (a) The young farmer is Gilbert Markham.
 - (b) The tenant is Mrs Helen Graham.
 - (c) The landlord is Frederick Lawrence.
 - (d) The vicar's daughters are Mary and Eliza Millward.
 - (e) The small boy is Arthur Graham.
 - (f) The black and white dog is called Sancho.

- 2
 - (a) Gilbert Markham asks this question.
 - (b) He is talking to Helen Graham.
 - (c and d) Helen Graham says that she does not want anyone to know where she is.

- 3 When Gilbert first sees Mrs Graham, he thinks that she looks proud, cold and not very happy. At first, he finds it difficult to talk to her. But after they have met several times, he feels more friendly towards her. They have interesting conversations about books and paintings (chapters 1 and 2). By June, Gilbert is beginning to fall in love with his beautiful neighbour, but he is afraid to tell her this. When he sees Mrs Graham and Mr Lawrence talking together, Gilbert becomes jealous.

- 4 Eliza and her friends gossip and pass on the scandal that Mr Lawrence is Arthur's father. Mr Millward thinks that it is his duty to warn Gilbert about his friendship with Mrs Graham. Gilbert loves Helen, but when he sees her with Frederick Lawrence, Gilbert thinks that she has deceived him. Gilbert cannot forget Helen and he is unhappy and bad-tempered with everyone. When Lawrence tells Gilbert that Helen has rejected him, Gilbert hits Lawrence and he is badly injured.
These sentences are just examples. You may have other ideas.

- 5 *Helen's character.* Helen wants to get her own way and to marry for love. She refuses to marry old Mr Boarham because he is dull. She does not listen to advice from older people, like her aunt. Helen gets bored easily and she enjoys parties, dancing, drawing and painting. She makes up her mind very quickly. She is clever too, because she partly understands Arthur's character, but she is too stubborn to admit this. She can be serious about important things like religion.
Arthur's character. Arthur is good-looking and amusing. He does not like taking things seriously, even religion. Helen's aunt thinks that he may have a bad character and says that he is wild and careless. But he can persuade many people that he is not. He is very attractive to women and can talk well. He is cheerful and amusing.

- 6 Helen and Arthur are married early in 1822. By the end of the year, Helen has a son. Helen now understands her husband's character more clearly. She is not sorry that she married him, but she realizes that Arthur has many faults. He is selfish and he expects her to agree with everything that he does. He does not take religion seriously and this upsets Helen. Arthur tells Helen about other women that he has loved and this makes her very angry. They begin to quarrel. Arthur hates their quiet country life in Grassdale Manor. He begins to spend more time in London. When they have friends to stay in the autumn, Arthur drinks too much and behaves badly. Helen is very angry when Arthur flirts with Annabella, the wife of his friend, Lord Lowborough. Helen and Arthur quarrel again, but Arthur says that he is sorry and that he only loves Helen, his wife. Helen believes him, because she still loves him.

- 7 Helen dislikes and distrusts Annabella (Lady Lowborough). Helen later learns that Annabella loves Arthur and is having an affair with him. Helen also distrusts Walter Hargrave, her husband's friend who tells her that he feels sorry for her. Helen guesses that Walter Hargrave wants to have an affair with her. Worst of all, Helen no longer trusts Arthur, her own husband. He breaks his promises to her and behaves badly with Annabella at Grassdale. Helen guesses that he behaves badly in London too.

- 8** Walter Hargrave tells Helen that he is her 'true friend' but he is not. He tries to make love to her, when her husband is away from home. Helen sends him away.
- 9** After five years of marriage, Helen decides to leave Grassdale as soon as she can. Helen also decides to tell Lord Lowborough about Annabella's affair with Arthur, if she does not end it at once. Lord Lowborough finds out about the affair and he decides to take his wife away from Grassdale and Arthur Huntingdon too. Helen is a good artist. She decides to paint pictures and sell them. Then she will have a little money to live on when she leaves Grassdale with her son, Arthur, and her servant, Rachel. But Helen's husband finds out about the paintings. He destroys many of them and her painting things too. He also decides that he will never allow Helen to leave him. But Helen does leave. She goes to live in Wildfell Hall, where she was born. Her brother, Frederick Lawrence, will help her. She will call herself Mrs Graham and tell people that she is a widow.
- 10** (a) Helen apologises to Gilbert because she did not tell him the truth from the beginning. Her life was too terrible to speak about. She also explains to him why they cannot meet, even as friends. She is still married to Huntingdon and she cannot allow the love between herself and Gilbert to grow. But Helen promises that she will answer Gilbert's letter, if he does not write for six months. She thought that Gilbert might forget her in that time.
- (b) Gilbert apologises for believing the bad stories about Helen. He had not known the truth about her marriage. Gilbert also explains that he had behaved badly towards Frederick and so he cannot ask for his help. But after he has left Wildfell Hall, Gilbert goes to see Frederick and apologises to him. Gilbert is very sorry that he hit Frederick. Gilbert had not known that Frederick was Helen's brother. He had thought that he was her lover. Gilbert also explains why he was not going to see Helen again. He had made a promise to her not to do so.
- (c) Frederick promises that he will not tell Helen about Gilbert's fight with him. He wants to be friends with Gilbert.
- (d) When Rachel sees Gilbert, she explains that Helen cannot see him. She wants to protect her mistress.
- 11** Helen's letters to her brother show how drink destroys her husband, Arthur Huntingdon. He falls from his horse because he is drunk. His body is already weak, because he has been drinking so much. So when he hurts his leg, he cannot get better quickly. Too much drink has made his mind weak too. He cannot recognize his wife and he cannot think clearly. He shouts and says bad things. He is afraid of dying.
- 12** Gilbert is afraid that Helen might forget him. Her husband is dead and there is no need for her to live at Wildfell Hall. Helen is now the owner of Grassdale Manor. She is a rich woman, not a poor artist. Gilbert himself is still a farmer. He thinks that he will not make a suitable husband for her and, in time, she will choose someone else.
- 13** (a) Frederick Lawrence marries Esther Hargrave in the little church near Grassdale.
- (b) Helen Huntingdon still loves Gilbert. Now that her husband is dead, she can talk about her feelings. She tells Gilbert that she will be happy to marry him at the end of the summer. After the marriage, they live at Staningley and are very happy. In time, they have children of their own. Arthur lives with them too.
- (c) Mrs Maxwell lives with Helen, Gilbert and Arthur at Staningley until she dies.