



**ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL**  
A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION



**CLASS - IX**  
**ENGLISH TEXT STUDY MATERIAL**

**TOPICS: MILD THE MIST UPON THE HILL**

**DATE:28.06.2021**

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## **MILD THE MIST UPON THE HILL**

### **AUTHOR**

**Emily Bronte**, in full **Emily Jane Bronte**, pseudonym **Ellis Bell**, (born July 30, 1818, Thornton, Yorkshire, England—died December 19, 1848, Haworth, Yorkshire, English novelist and poet who produced but one novel, *Wuthering Heights* (1847), a highly imaginative work of passion and hate set on the Yorkshire moors. Emily was perhaps the greatest of the three Bronte sisters, but the record of her life is extremely meagre, for she was silent and reserved and left no correspondence of interest, and her single novel darkens rather than solves the mystery of her spiritual existence.

### **SUMMARY**

The poem immediately attempts to create a peaceful and natural image for the viewer: a misty hilltop. This image works well to frame a poem with, because it's an open concept without specific connotations that would tie the image irrevocably to an idea in the reader's mind. The mist surrounds the mountains. It casts a pall of gloom all around the place. The poet feels unhappy. Some gloomy thoughts haunt her mind. It seems that the day has wept till the evening. There is no sorrow anymore. So she harks back to the days of her childhood and youth. She used to lead a secured life in her youth under the care of her father. In her childhood she would stand near the old hall door. At present she watches the blue mists upon the mountain in the distant horizon. The cloudy evening falls. The long green grass elicits a soggy smell. She dreamily recalls her former years and is filled with pleasure. This poem allows Bronte to create a concept that is both open and meaningful, because while her intentions with the poem's meaning are unclear, she does make heavy use of poetic devices, along with word choice such as "storms," "wept," and "sorrow." This creates a very noticeable atmosphere for the piece that is unmistakable to the reader, even as they interpret the images and metaphors in their own unique way: the mild mist upon the hill means that the world is taking a break from being sorrowful. This kind of pattern allows Bronte to create a concept that is both open and meaningful, because while her intentions with the poem's meaning are unclear, she does make heavy use of poetic devices, along with word choice such as "storms," "wept," and "sorrow." This creates a very noticeable atmosphere for the piece that is unmistakable to the reader, even as they interpret the

images and metaphors in their own unique way. The mild mist upon the hill suggests that the world is taking a break from being sorrowful. The human sentiment and natural objects are intermingled with each other. The mist reminds her of her young days. So it is a reflective poem marked by vivid imagery and powerful imagination.

## **IMPORTANT WORD-MEANINGS**

mist – a condensed vapour setting on a surface

fill – make full

wept – shed tears

sorrow – sadness

youth – young

'neath – an abbreviated form of beneath

pall – a thick cloud

horizon – the line at which earth's surface and the sky appears to meet

damp- slightly wet

fragrance – sweet smell

## **QUESTION – ANSWER**

1. Where does the poet see herself when she thinks of her childhood?

Ans: The poet sees herself beneath her father's sheltering roof of their house and near the old hall door.

2. How has the day been over?

Ans: The day seems to have wept in such a way that there is no sorrow for tomorrow.

3. What does the poet mean by "silent sorrow"?

Ans: The expression "silent sorrow" means a gloomy day with no noise of storms or rain.

4. How has the poet personified the day?

Ans: The poet imagines the day to be a person whose eyes have been full of tears.

5. Why does the evening appear cloudy?

Ans: The evening appears cloudy due to the mist covering the sky at the end of the day.

6. What is seen in the distant horizon?

Ans: A series of mountains is seen under the cover of mist in the distant horizon.

7. Which fragrance does the poet refer to?

Ans: The poet refers to the damp eliciting a soggy fragrance. It makes the poet dreamy. It seems to speak softly to her ears and remind her of her 'other years'.

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