

Year 8 Stepping Up: Gothic Fiction

Key Conventions of Gothic Texts

Typical features that you may find in a Gothic text:

1. Death and darkness
2. Supernatural
3. Curses or prophecies (predictions about the future)
4. Madness/intense emotions
5. Mystery/terror/suspense

Typical characters that you may find in a Gothic text:

1. Mysterious characters with high social status (position in society) e.g. Princes, counts
2. Female or feminine characters that are threatened by powerful men. They usually need saving by a man.
3. Threatening women who are monsters or vampires.
4. Powerful, tyrannical (cruel) male figures
5. Villains, vampires, ghosts, werewolves, giants

Typical settings that you may find in a Gothic text:

1. Wild landscapes
2. Medieval style castles, churches or abbeys
3. Gloomy, decayed and ruined environments
4. Remote, deserted places (older gothic) or monsters within everyday life (newer gothic)
5. Dangerous and threatening weather (symbolism)

Paragraphing

Time: You move on to a new period of time

Topic: You change from one topic to another

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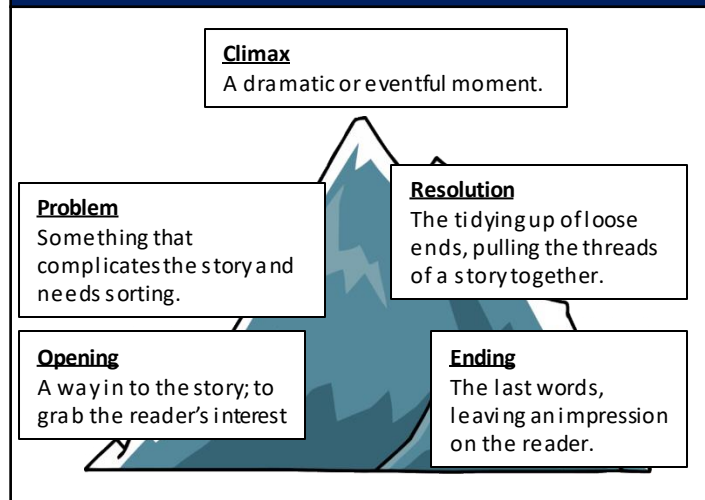
Place: You move on to a different location.

Person: If a new person speaks or change from one person to another.

Key Authors and Texts

Horace Walpole	Castle of Otranto (1764)
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein (1818)
Edgar Allen Poe	The Oval Portrait (1842), The Fall of the House of Usher (1839)
Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre (1847)
Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights (1847)
Robert Louis Stevenson	The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886)
Bram Stoker	Dracula (1897)
S. E Schlosser	The Bloodstain
Daphne Du Maurier	Rebecca (1938)
Ann Radcliffe	The Italian (1797)
Susan Hill	The Woman in Black (1983), The Mist in the Mirror (1992)

Narrative Structure



Key Vocabulary

Supernatural – Things that cannot be explained by science.

Grotesque – Strange or unpleasant especially in a silly or frightening way

Macabre – Is used to describe something that is very strange and unpleasant because it is connected with death or violence.

Hysteria – Extreme fear, excitement, anger etc., that cannot be controlled.

Séance - a meeting at which people attempt to make contact with the dead, especially through the agency of a medium.

Ominous - giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threateningly inauspicious.

Key Terms

Pathetic Fallacy

Is when the weather reflects the tone/mood of a scene.

Symbolism

The use of a symbol to stands for ideas. For example, the colour red means danger or death.

Figurative Language

Language techniques used to convey a complicated meaning, colorful writing, clarity, or evocative comparison. (e.g. metaphor / simile / personification)

Show Don't Tell

Physical descriptions (rather than statements of fact or events) to help develop character, mood and atmosphere.

Sensory writing

Sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste. Writers employ the five senses to help their reader imagine the setting they are creating in detail.



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- Draw a picture of a Gothic setting.
- Include as many features, characters and settings as you can to show your understanding of Gothic conventions.