



7.3 Knowledge Organiser: The Gothic

Examples of Gothic Literature

- 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley
- 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker
- 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' by Robert Louie Stevenson
- 'The Turn of the Screw' by Henry James



Gothic Features

	Castle
	Graveyard/ Cemetery
	Moonlight
	Silhouettes
	Fog and Mist



Key Vocabulary: Terms and Definitions

Genre	A style or category of art, music, or literature.
Gothic	A genre developed over time that has elements of fear, horror, death and gloom.
Perspective	Point of view on a subject. In Literature, it is also the way a character's perceptions, values and opinions affect a story.
Allusion	information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view.
Contrast	In writing, placing two very different ideas, images, or characters near to create a sense of difference.
Mood	The way a literary text makes you (the reader) feel
Atmosphere	The way a description of a place or setting makes you (the reader) feel
Adaptation	The process of taking the words from a novel and deciding how this will look on screen

Transformation

In a gothic text there is usually something physical that changes which causes the character pain. In turn the reader might pity the character.

Perspective & Tense



First Person Narrator	mode of storytelling when a narrator recounts events from their own point of view using "I" 'my' 'mine'
Third Person Omniscient Narrator	(All-Knowing) When the narrator has full knowledge of everything.
Simple present tense	<i>I study the Gothic in every lesson.</i>
Continuous present tense	<i>We are studying the Gothic today.</i>

Four Elements of the Gothic Genre

Fear

Horror

Gloom

Death

Writing Like a Gothic Writer

- **Show, don't tell:**
"He shivered and wrapped his arms around himself"
- **Bring fear, horror, gloom and death into your writing.**
"The fog in the cemetery hung low: she couldn't even see her own shadow, never mind the source of the screaming."
- **Zoom in on specific/physical details**
"As the clouds rolled across the moon, the colour of it turned from yellow, to grey. It fit his mood."
- **Use simile/metaphor that fit the mood of your writing.**
"Suddenly, the monster leapt at them with the speed of lightning, but their feet were stuck: the mud was like glue."