An Introduction to Gothic Literature

By: Tina Heller

Before viewing this PowerPoint and before discussing gothic literature, let's see what you already know...

By: Tina Heller

Write down your answers to a few questions.

Pre-quiz on gothic literature.

Pre-Quiz
Gothic Literature

By: Tina Heller

1. What is the time period (century) of gothic literature?
2. What color (s) do you associate with gothic literature?
3. What atmosphere (tone) is produced in gothic literature?
4. Name two other elements (character types, settings, events, etc.) that are typically found in gothic literature.

Without discussing your Pre-Quiz on Gothic Literature, view the PowerPoint

By: Tina Heller

Do not change your answers on the pre-quiz...

it is not THAT type of quiz and no grade will be taken.

Do NOT discuss your quiz answers yet.

Only discuss what is asked of you.

Gothic Literature

Which of the images is "gothic"?

Gothic Literature

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Gothic Literature

DON'T DISCUSS...

THINK...

What do the "gothic" images have in common?

Gothic Literature

Without discussing,

each student should make another list

of five more elements...

to answer the following question.

What elements might you expect in gothic literature?

(What can you anticipate discovering in gothic literature?)

Gothic Literature

Now...DISCUSS your answers.

Gothic Literature Pre-Quiz Answers

1. Gothic Period:

This period crosses from the late 18th Century to the early 19th and mixes into

the Romantic Period with Gothic Romances.

Gothic Literature Pre-Quiz Answers

2. Gothic Colors:

Dark colors...shades of black create mystery and danger.

Deep red...reveals injury, death, murder...or anger.

Jewel tones that reflect the Renaissance may create setting.

Gothic Literature
Pre-Quiz Answers

3. Gothic Tone/Atmosphere:

Mysterious

Dangerous

Suspenseful

Confusing

Horriffying

Gothic Literature Pre-Quiz / Quiz Answers

4. Other Gothic Elements:

Setting...

Old Church   Cemetery   Old Castle

Old Mansion   Old House

Caves   Forest   Ruins

Shadowy, Dark Rooms

Atmosphere...

FearFear of the Unknown
SuspenseMystery
A Threatening Feeling
Isolation

An Ancient Prophecy...

LegendForeshadowing
Old TalesUnclear Meanings
ConfusionUnknown

Omens, portents, visions...

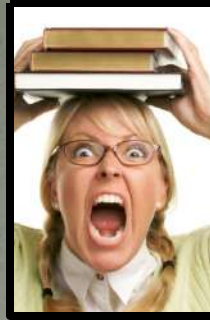Disturbing DreamsPredictions
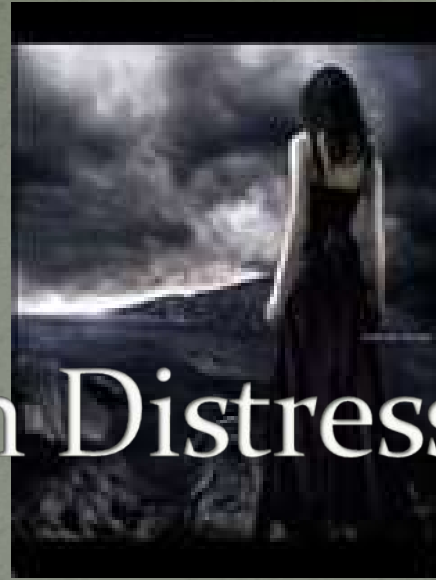Foreshadowing   VisionsLurking
Doom

Supernatural
or
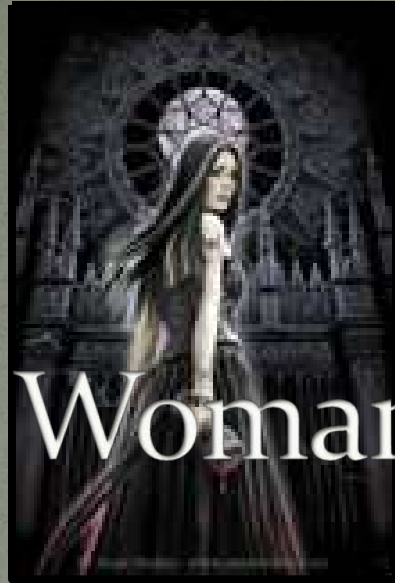# Inexplicable Events

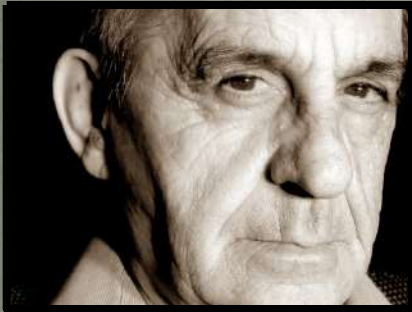Ghosts   GiantsWalking Dead
MonstersDemons

High or Raw Emotions

Screaming   WailingCryingMoaningTerror

Woman in Distress

Distraught HeroineNeeds a Protector
AlonePensiveWeakLost
FrightenedVulnerableFainting

Woman Threatened often by Powerful, Tyrannical Male Figure

Commanded to Marry
or to
Commit a Crime
or to do something intolerable

Metonymy
(A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated
(such as "crown" for "royalty.")

of Gloom and Horror
(all suggest some element of mystery, danger, or the supernatural)

wind, especially howling rain, especially blowing

doors grating on rusty hinges sighs, moans, howls, eerie sounds

footsteps approaching   clanking chains lights in abandoned rooms

gusts of wind blowing out lights

characters trapped in a room doors suddenly slamming shut

ruins of buildings baying of distant dogs (or wolves?)

thunder and lightning crazed laughter

Common Vocabulary for Gothic Literature

Mystery: diabolical, enchantment, ghost, goblins, haunted, infernal, magic, magician, miracle, necromancer, omens, ominous, portent,preternatural, prodigy, prophecy, secret, sorcerer, spectre, spirits, strangeness, talisman, vision

Fear, Terror, or Sorrow: afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive,

commiseration, concern, despair, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow, sympathy, tears, terrible, terrified, terror,

unhappy, wretched

Surprise: alarm, amazement, astonished, astonishment, shocking, staring, surprise, surprised, thunderstruck, wonder

Haste: anxious, breathless, flight, frantic, hastened, hastily, impatience, impatient, impatiently, impetuosity, precipitately, running, sudden, suddenly

Anger: anger, angrily, choler, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully

Largeness: enormous, gigantic, giant, large, tremendous, vast

Gothic Literature
often also contains elements of
Romantic Literature

Romantic Period: From the late 18th Century to the late 19th, the Romantic period flourished with authors including Jane Austen (*Jane Eyre*), William Blake, Samuel Coleridge, and William Wordsworth.

1. **Powerful, overwhelming love**
2. **Uncertainty of reciprocation of that love**
3. **Unreturned love**
4. **Tension between true love and father's control**
5. **Lovers parted**
6. **Illicit love or lust threatens the virtuous one**
7. **Rival lovers or multiple suitors**

Gothic Literature

Now go to Mrs. Heller's Homepage

and access the Novels and Composition link.

Go to The Works of Edgar Allan Poe

Remember the short story "The Masque of the Red Death"

and the poem "The Raven."

Discuss the gothic elements in these two pieces.

Gothic Literature

Now go to Mrs. Heller's Homepage

and access the Novels and Composition link.

Go to The Works of Edgar Allan Poe

Now read the poem "Annabel Lee."

On a piece of paper, list as many gothic elements

as you can identify in this poem. Give specific examples.

Discuss.

Gothic Literature

Now go to Mrs. Heller's Homepage

and access the Novels and Composition link.

Go to The Works of Edgar Allan Poe

Now read the short story "The Black Cat."

On a piece of paper, list as many gothic elements

as you can identify in this short story. Give specific examples.

Gothic Literature

Now go to Mrs. Heller's Homepage

and access the Novels and Composition link.

Go to The Works of Edgar Allan Poe

Now read the short story "Berenice."

On a piece of paper, list as many gothic elements

as you can identify in this short story. Give specific examples.

Gothic Literature

After our discussion and examination of these
two short stories of Poe's ,
we are now ready to begin reading our gothic novel.