



Horror & Suspense

EQ: How does the author create suspense? What strategic elements are essential to this genre?

What is Horror Fiction?

- Horror fiction, horror literature and also horror fantasy is a genre of literature, which is intended to, or has the ability to frighten its readers, scare or startle viewers/readers by inducing feelings of horror and terror.
 - It creates an eerie and frightening atmosphere.
 - Horror can be either supernatural or non-supernatural.
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Creating Suspense

- Suspicion is *a*: the act or an instance of suspecting something wrong without proof or on slight evidence : mistrust; *b*: a state of mental uneasiness and uncertainty : doubt
 - An author can create suspense by including the following:
 - Surprise, mislead the reader
 - Cruel/powerful antagonist (bad guy)
 - Nightmares come to life
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Creating Suspense

- Fear/phobia that the character has to confront
 - Show the danger is real
 - Never make things easy for main character
 - External event out of character's control
 - Haunt character with past failure
 - Impose a deadline
 - Add a final twist near end of story
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Creating Suspense

- Flawed, Imperfect Characters—people who have issues; EX: In “The Tell-Tale Heart”, the narrator’s insanity makes him untrustworthy and unreliable!
 - Mood/Tone – Vocabulary and emotions of the characters can influence the mood or tone of a story which then creates suspense
 - Setting—the time/pace of a story; author uses to help create mood and tone; EX: a haunted house setting will be more suspicious than an enchanted castle.
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Foreshadow, Flashback, Chronological Order

- Foreshadow—to present a series of clues throughout the story indicating what is going to happen
 - Flashback—an interruption in a present scene to give you background info of a past event
 - Chronological Order—a sequence of events in a story...remember, flashbacks come first!
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Points of View (POV)

- 1st person POV—uses pronouns such as I, me, we, us, ours
 - 2nd person POV—uses pronoun such as you, your; usually giving directions, inspiration or call to action
 - 3rd person POV—uses pronouns such as he, she, they, them, it, her, him
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2 Types of Conflict

- External Conflict—a struggle with an outside force; EX: character vs. character, character vs. nature, character vs. society
 - Internal Conflict—a struggle with one's self, battle of the mind; EX: character vs. himself, right decision vs. wrong decision, dealing with emotions, solutions to a problem
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Imagery

- Vocabulary is very IMPORTANT!
 - Imagery is using words that appeal to 1 of your 5 senses- see, hear, taste, smell, touch.
 - EX: The quiet (hear) room in the cold, damp (feel) house was filled with an overwhelming stench of urine (smell) that you could almost taste in the air.
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