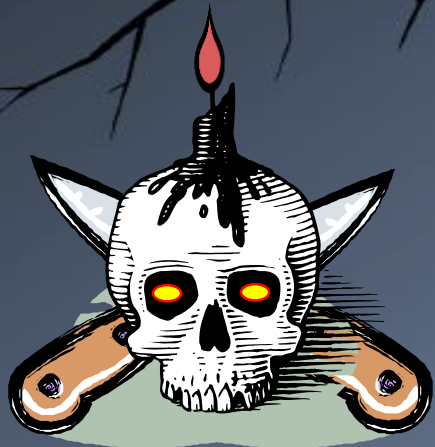




GOthic ELEMENTS



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Does This Scene Look *Familiar*?



That's because most

- Suspense
- Thriller
- Ghost/horror stories
- And detective fiction

have roots in Gothic literature and use the elements that first made gothic literature such a success.



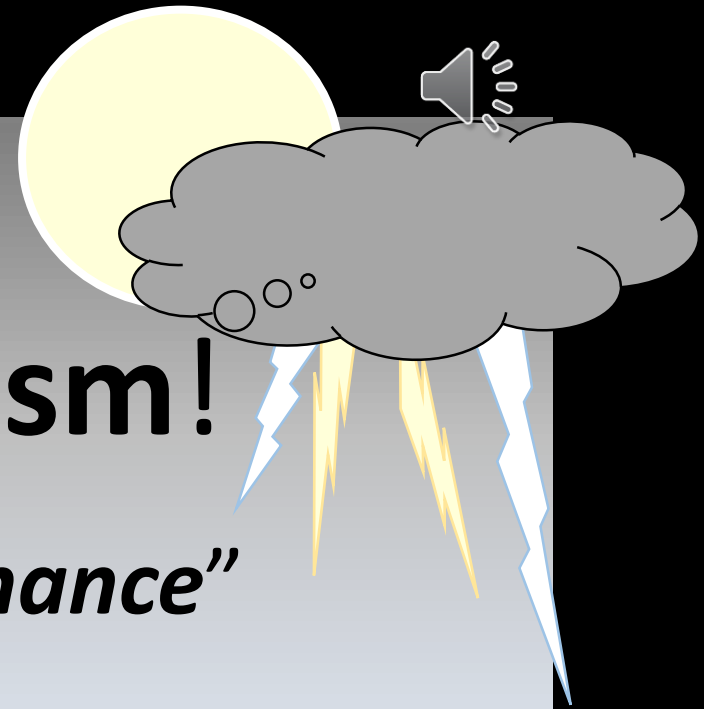


Gothic Literature, the Evil Sibling of . . .

Romanticism??



Gothic Literature IS Related to Romanticism!



The Romanticism is not “*romance*”
as you think, rather it was

An intellectual, artistic and philosophical
movement that included



Art/painting



Music



And Literature!



The Romantic Movement

Begins and enjoys popularity in Europe and America 1770-1860. The Romantic Movement:

A reaction to and against the Industrial Revolution, Age of Enlightenment, and the new scientific approach towards nature.

Valued: extreme emotions, intuition, nature, imagination, and expression (***over*** rational logic sought by the Enlightenment).



Romantic Literature



Romantic literature valued the tenets of Romanticism. Additionally, it allowed for *improbable events and fanciful ideas that realistic fiction didn't allow*. (A knight on a quest, fairies, dragons, magicians, and magic swords are *part* of the Romantic tradition).



Gothic Literature's Relationship to Romanticism



1. Their time periods overlap (Romanticism 1770s-mid-1800s, and Gothic roughly 1764-1898).
2. Gothic is a *subset* and *natural offshoot* of the Romantic movement.
3. Romantic and Gothic literature *BOTH* honor emotions, imagination, and nature, and allow for supernatural events.
4. If Romanticism is the *LIGHT*.....



Gothic Literature is the Dark!

Gothic Literature can be considered the dark side of Romanticism - what happens when man gives in to his dark desires, imagination, and inner nature?

Some critics and psychologists say Gothic literature fills a legitimate human need to be frightened and to safely explore the darker sides of our personalities that cannot be acted upon in society.

Definition: Gothic Literature



A **fiction genre** from 1764-1898 that combined Romanticism and horror. It relied heavily on setting, mood or atmosphere (and, like Romantic literature) extreme emotions, intuition, nature, imagination, expression, and improbable or supernatural events. Gothic literature is typified by particular **elements**. (more later)

Gothic Literature – It Begins

First Gothic Novel: *The Castle of Otranto*, 1764 written by Horace Walpole, (under a pseudonym).

A short novel; set forth as a “translation of an Italian story;” features a **castle**, a mysterious and violent **death** and **ill-fated marriage** during the Crusades.

Hurray for Horace Walpole

“The Castle of Otranto” almost singlehandedly gave rise to a genre and series of elements WE now recognize as GOTHIC elements.

“...Otranto” and its elements inspired authors from the Romantic and later Victorian periods, and its presence and impact is *still* felt today.

GOthic ELEMENTS!



1. Gothic architecture - castles, monasteries, abbeys, wine cellars, grottos, dungeons, catacombs/graves, ruins, and secret: panels; doors; tunnels or passages.

Actual features - stained glass, narrow, long pointed windows, vaulted ceilings, pointed arches, turrets, the gargoyle (the mascot of Gothic literature), spires, flying buttresses, and in general a strong sense of “vertical” building or structure, and more.

* NOTE: not all elements will be found in all texts!!!

GOthic ELEMENTS!



2. Rugged terrain – the story may also feature cliffs, rocky shores, caves, underground tunnels, caverns, lonely moors, or uninhabited mountains, desolate forests or other rugged locales.

*The terrain works *with* the architecture to build a complete setting.

GOthic ELEMENTS!



3. Weather: Cold, gloom, harsh winter, winds, rain, fog, storms all are likely in the Gothic novel or story.

Weather contributes to

- Setting**
- Imagery and visual impact**
- The atmosphere/mood that is so important to this genre**

NOTE: Weather is part of nature, and can be used to affect the characters and the plot. SEE NEXT SLIDE!

GOthic ELEMENTS!



4. The power of nature to transform

or affect emotion: weather, natural settings, isolated and unforgiving climates and locales affect the novels' characters, and often turn the plot towards new, darker directions (modern ex.: Stephen King, *The Shining*)

As you might expect, the transformative power of nature in Gothic literature is usually dark and destructive, driving a character towards madness or evil actions.

Atmosphere and MOOD . . .



***is extremely important to Gothic writing! Elements #s 1-4 already mentioned –**
- architecture, rugged isolated terrain, weather, and the *transformative power* of nature - come together to create the essence of Gothic literature, namely, visual emotional writing full of atmosphere and mood. Add to this **#5**, another important element – the importance of specific setting.

#5 Setting: traditionally in the 1800s, in isolated exotic European locales. Gothic literature is **still** written today, and has been set in the deep American south, New England, and other unexpected places!

GOthic Elements!



6. A creature that incites fear, pity, or dread.

Examples: deformed beings, vampires, werewolves. Specific examples: Hop Frog, Quasi Modo, Frankenstein's creature, and more.

7. Features high/intense emotion:

dread, terror, anguish, horror, hysteria, mania, or torment.

(*As a result, Gothic can tend toward

melodrama, and even parody or *self-*

parody. While some Gothic literature is

terrifying, at least some has a sense of humor 😊)

GOthic Elements!



8. Darkness of the human soul made manifest in the world.

The ugliness within (in the heart, soul, or mind) escapes out into the world.

Examples may include:

- Madness and the slow descent into insanity
- Murder, violence, torture
- Unnatural acts against man/family/ or God

GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



9. Focus on the Mysterious or Supernatural. Examples:

- ✓ The occult/rituals/ceremonies
- ✓ Dark/unholy family secrets
- ✓ The sins of the previous generation returning to punish the next.
- ✓ Hauntings/spirits
- ✓ Curses
- ✓ The otherworldly/undead
- ✓ Doppelgangers (untrustworthy double)
- ✓ A prophecy or vision
- ✓ Inexplicable death/disappearance

GOthic ELEMENTS!



10. The Use of Foreshadowing

- Lights going off or on
- Wind blowing out candles or moving curtains
- The man who shows up and **warns** the main characters
- Doors suddenly lock
- Rain/wind picks up in intensity
- Sudden thunder and lightning/ gusts of wind

- Clanking chains
- Glass breaking
- Unexplained footsteps
- Murmurs, sighs; cries or distant voices; crazed laughter???
- Wolves howling/baying
- Doors creaking
- Doors slamming shut
- Rusty hinges

*11. GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



“**ANIMALS as evil**” goes back to Biblical times, and can be found in Shakespeare. Still, the use of animals has come to be a classic *Gothic element*.

- These include: raven, crow, cat, bat, rat, owl, toad, frog, wolves, hyenas, coyotes, snakes, etc.
- They have historically served as *companions (familiars)* to witches, as the “devil in disguise,” or as evil omens in storytelling.
- Poe and others have written about and used such animals in their writing.






GOthic MOTIFS!

Motifs Include: heavy use of darkness, shadows, cold, isolation, gloom, dread, decay or ruin. These contribute to setting and atmosphere.



In a GOTHIC STORY, You May Meet . . .

- A disfigured man/woman hidden away
- Non- or near human creatures
- An overreaching mad scientist
- A raging and cruel tyrant
- Women abandoned or in distress
- A circus performer
- A cannibal
- The suicidal lover
- The devil himself!
- Vampires, monsters, werewolves, demons, hellhounds, wolves, witches!



Many writers were influenced by Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*, " (1764) and its Gothic elements.

Here is a short list of writers affected by Walpole and his contributions.

Writers Inspired or Influenced by Walpole's work

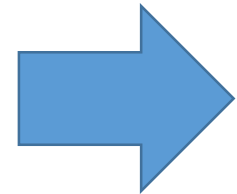
Ann Radcliffe: *The Mysteries
of Udolpho*, 1794



Matthew Lewis:
The Monk, 1796



Charles Brockden Brown,
Ormond, 1799



Writers Continued . . .

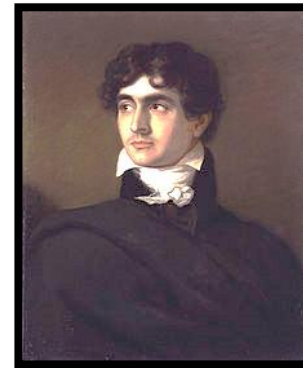
Jane Austen: *Northanger Abbey*, 1817



Mary Shelley:
Frankenstein, 1818

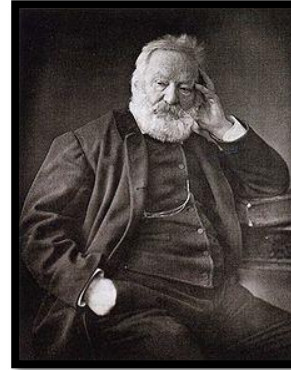


John Polidori:
The Vampyre, 1819

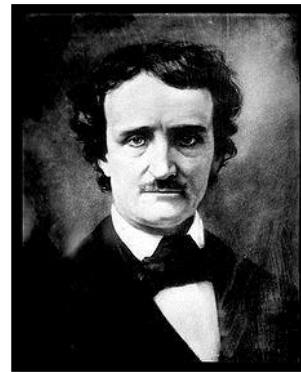


Writers Continued . . .

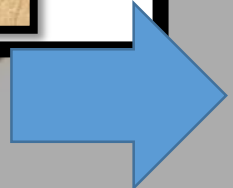
Victor Hugo: Hunchback
of Notre Dame 1831



Edgar Allan Poe:
The Oval Portrait, 1842
Numerous other works



Charlotte Bronte:
Jane Eyre, 1847

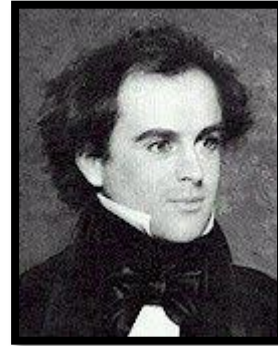


Writers Continued . . .

Nathaniel Hawthorne:

House of Seven

Gables, 1851




Bram Stoker:

Dracula, 1897



Southern Gothic: 1920s

(William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor and others) There are many more not listed.

Many OTHER forms of fiction are still influenced by Walpole's novel, Gothic literature and GOTHIC ELEMENTS. 

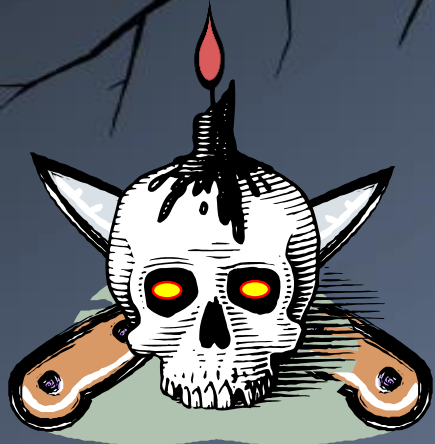
These include but are not limited to:
GHOST STORIES,
HORROR,
DETECTIVE/CRIME NOVELS,
SUSPENSE,
THRILLERS,

AND MORE!

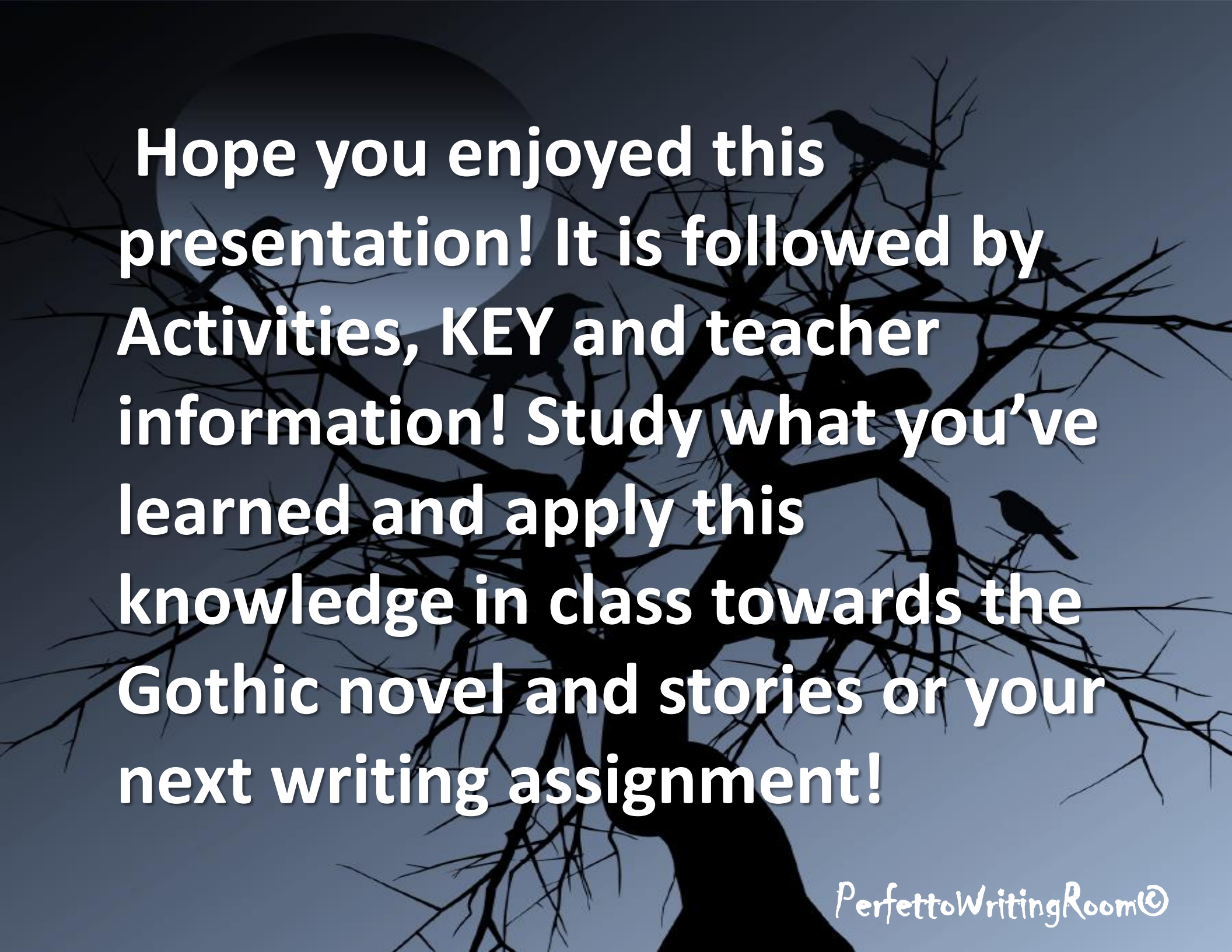
Thank You for Watching!



GOthic ELEMENTS



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Hope you enjoyed this presentation! It is followed by Activities, KEY and teacher information! Study what you've learned and apply this knowledge in class towards the Gothic novel and stories or your next writing assignment!

Gothic Literature – Pre-Activity

What do you think of when you think of the word “Gothic”? It can relate to the way people **dress**, to **architecture**, to **literature** and its plot/story lines, to character types, etc. In small groups, or on your own, fill out this hand out. Discuss what might be considered “gothic” in each category.

- 1. Weather** most likely found in a Gothic movie or book _____

- In what way would the **WEATHER** affect the plot of the story, if at all, in a Gothic tale? _____

- 3. Main location(s)** for the Gothic story (Building) _____

- 4. Describe outside environment(s)** surrounding main building) _____

- 5. Setting(s)** for Gothic story (year, era, country, what the outdoors would look like, what the indoors would look like, the season.) _____

- Types of **objects and clothing** you might find in a Gothic story (simply around, that help determine the time period, set the mood or atmosphere) _____

- 7. Animals that might show up** in a Gothic Tale “Creatures” or “monsters” that might be found in a Gothic Tale _____

- 8. Character types or Scene Scenarios** you expect in a Gothic tale _____

- 9. Clichés you might find in a Gothic tale** having to do with story line, character type, other _____

Gothic Literature – Post-Activity

Show what you know about Gothic Elements.

1. How is Gothic and Romantic literature related? (essay) _____

2. Why is weather so important and how does it relate to other Gothic elements? (essay) _____

3. Who was the FIRST Gothic author. Name the author, the book and the date. _____

4. Name a few (3?) authors you remember who followed in the footsteps of this book and tries their hand at the Gothic genre. Name the author and the full title. Teacher discretion if the date is required. _____

5. Who are some characters that are typical in the Gothic genre? _____

6. Foreshadowing is one of the Gothic Elements. Give as many examples as you can, then ALSO explain in your own words what foreshadowing offers to the Gothic tradition, or why it is so appealing in this genre. (essay) _____

Gothic Literature – Post-Activity

Show what you know about Gothic Elements.

7. Gothic literature enjoyed prominence from 1764 to 1898.

TRUE FALSE

8. List as many motifs as you can. _____

9-16 For the next eight answers, remember and write down the Gothic elements and one example for each not already mentioned on the Post-Activity sheet. This means you will not mention *weather* or *foreshadowing*. (One will not be used).

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

If you liked “Gothic Elements PPT ” by PerfettoWritingRoom ©, Please consider:

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The perfect classroom resource for any teacher or college professor that simply loves words, tropes, literary or rhetorical devices, and poetic terms. For the wordsmith in all of us, this is a lovingly crafted treasury of over 90 terms, with 9 quizzes, keys and more that will be an ideal enrichment in your classroom. (Grades 8 with NO upper grade limit).

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Gothic Literature – Post-Activity

Guide and Answer Key

Grading Guide

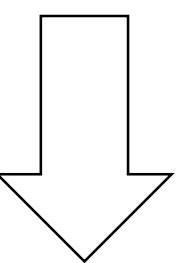
Essays 1, 2, 6, , 10 each = 30 pts.,

All others 5 pts. each, = 70

Total 100.

Answer Key

1. Their time periods overlap; both valued extreme emotions, intuition, nature, imagination, and expression. Both allowed for supernatural an improbable events, but where Romantic literature was light and had knights and chivalry, Gothic literature was ominous, dreary and was in many ways the dark side of Romanticism. (essay 10 points)
2. Weather is not merely a Gothic element that tends towards the cold, wet and dreary. It works as a part of the setting towards atmosphere and mood. In a larger sense it is part of nature, and is used in another Gothic Element! At it's most effective, writers can use weather to affect change in the characters, and even affect the plot. (essay 10 points)
3. Horace Walpole Castle of Otranto 1764
4. **Ann Radcliffe:** *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, 1794; **Matthew Lewis:** *The Monk*, 1796; **Charles Brockden Brown**, *Ormond*, 1799; **Jane Austen:** *Northanger Abbey*, 1817; **Mary Shelley:** *Frankenstein*, 1818; **John Polidori:** *The Vampyre*, 1819; **Victor Hugo:** Hunchback of Notre Dame 1831; **Edgar Allan Poe:** *The Oval Portrait*, 1842; **Charlotte Bronte:** *Jane Eyre*, 1847; **Nathaniel Hawthorne:** *House of Seven Gables*, 1851; **Bram Stoker:** *Dracula*, 1897; **Southern Gothic:** **1920s** (William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor and others 1920s
5. Some typical characters: the suicidal lover, overreaching mad scientist, damsel in distress, disfigured or misshapen creatures, madmen or women hidden away, vampire, werewolves, more. Accept reasonable responses.
6. Foreshadowing examples are many (doors locking, storm getting worse to various creepy sounds) but foreshadowing fits right in to the Gothic genre because it appeals to the reader's deep desire to be frightened. The setting and atmosphere is already dismal and gloomy, the writing is already focusing on supernatural events and high emotion. Foreshadowing – the hint of what is to come is one more trick that sets up the reader and creates unease. People reader Gothic literature because they enjoy this! Foreshadowing for this reason is a natural and welcome element. (essay 10 points).



Gothic Literature – Post-Activity

Guide and Answer Key 2

Grading Guide

Essays 1, 2, 6, 10 each = 30 pts.,

All others 5 pts. each, = 70

Total 100.

7. TRUE!

8. Motif List – shadows, darkness, cold, isolation gloom, dread decay and ruin.

Answer Key 8-16 ANY ORDER (one element and example each)

9. Gothic Architecture – either castle, abbey, monastery, grotto, or other choice from the slide presentation. TEACHER DISCRETION: also add an architectural detail flying buttresses, stained glass, secret passageways, etc.

10. Rugged Terrain – mountains, forests, moors, hills, caves, caverns, ruins, cliffs, or other choice from the slide presentation

11. The power of nature to transform or affect nature – may drive a character to madness

12. Setting – 1800s in Europe is most traditional.

13. A creature that inspires pity fear and dread – Quasi Modo or Hop Frog or Frankenstein's creature; a misshapen creature or pitiful being

14. High Intense Emotion – insanity, mania or terror

15. Darkness of the human soul made manifest in the world: unnatural acts again man or God

16. Focus on the Mysterious or Supernatural – curses, spirits, more

* Animals as Evil is another element students might choose, and any suitable animal can be selected: cat, owl, raven, crow. Used as a foreshadowing devil, witch's familiar, or "stand-in" for the devil. **This makes your answer key complete. Only 16 answers total are needed!**

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While some folks scoff at the idea of a tiny company, we know, and hope you do too, that amazing things all started small, and often, with just ONE person who really knew his stuff, or HER stuff! There is a difference between large companies and passionate companies. We put out a 90-word literary term glossary with words like *bildungsroman*, *synecdoche* and *metonymy*; we are *wordsmiths* that love learning *for the sake of it*. We always use Common Core, rubrics, plans and assessments. But when passion and quality is more important than the bottom line, when you think more about what is FASCINATING, it simply MUST SHOW in your products. OUR work stands BEYOND its usefulness. It becomes the treasure you want to keep. The writing prompt unit you use every single year, the glossary you refer to over and over. Some of our stuff is fun and silly or challenging and functional, and yes, we have posters. But don't think we can't whip up some “Lit Crit Explicated” either—(we know our Derrida!)

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