



Highsted Knowledge Organiser

Subject: English

Year 8 Terms 5 & 6: Gothic Literature

What I need to know

- The conventions and characteristics of Gothic literature.
- How to identify and discuss the ideas in a text.
- How to confidently support all ideas and use appropriate textual evidence to illustrate my ideas.
- How to analyse the writer's use of form and structure.
- How to produce effective pieces of imaginative writing inspired by Gothic literature.
- How the author uses setting to explore key themes in the novel
- How to express your personal opinion about characters/themes/events in the novel

Key vocabulary

- Gothic
- Ancestry/ ancestral
- Archaisms (language/beliefs)
- Catholic or feudal society
- Crypts, cloisters and catacombs
- Doppelganger/double/evil familiar
- Embedded narratives
- Hyperbolic language
- Multiple narrative voices
- Obscurity/things hinted at
- Omens
- Persecution
- Women – seductresses and corrupters
- Frame narratives

Student reference point

- Understand and be able to give examples of the conventions of the Gothic genre of literature
- Read and understand Susan Hills' *The Woman in Black*
- Be able to comment on the impact of Hills' use of setting
- Be able to comment on how Hill creates tension at various points in the novel
- Write creatively, inspired by conventions of the Gothic genre
- Construct PETER paragraphs to analyse Hills' literary choices and their impact
- Readily identify how elements of a text confirm to, or subvert, conventions of the Gothic genre

Challenge questions

- To what extent does modern Gothic literature simply parody older Gothic texts, not taking the genre seriously enough?
- Write an alternative ending to *The Woman in Black*

Suggested reading

'Dracula' – Bram Stoker

'Frankenstein' – Mary Shelley

'The Strange of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' – Robert Louis Stevenson

'A Christmas Carol' – Charles Dickens



'Northanger Abbey' – Jane Austen

'Rebecca' – Daphne Du Maurier

'The Shadow of the Wind' – Carlos Ruiz Zafon

'The Historian' – Elizabeth Kostova