

Gothic fiction: Year 7 Knowledge Organiser

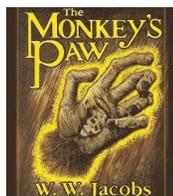
Topic	Key information			Self-testing activities
<p>Context – what is Gothic</p> 	<p>It first appeared in the late 18th century It tried to stimulate strong emotions in the reader - fear and worry. It uses setting and speech to build suspense and a sense of unease in the reader. Common subject matter includes the supernatural, family curses, mystery, and madness. Sometimes gothic fiction can combine the genres of both horror and romance. The term Gothic is also used to describe types of architecture, music and fashion, but we will be thinking about Gothic literature.</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you think of any Gothic books you've already read? • Can you think of any Gothic films you've seen? • What is the music usually like in scary or Gothic films? • What type of atmosphere might you expect to find in a Gothic book or film?
<p>Key features of Gothic literature</p> 	<p><i>Gothic settings and themes:</i></p> <p>Castles, dungeons, secret passages, winding stairs, haunted buildings</p> <p>Extreme landscapes – rugged mountains, thick forests, generally bad weather.</p> <p>Omens, ancestral curses and secrets</p> <p>An element of the supernatural</p> <p>Representation and stimulation of fear, horror and the macabre (gruesome or dreadful)</p>	<p><i>Gothic characters:</i></p> <p>Tyrants and villains</p> <p>Persecuted maidens, damsels in distress, madwomen</p> <p>Ghosts, monsters, demons, vampires, werewolves and spirits</p> <p>Byronic heroes – intelligent, sophisticated and educated, but struggling with emotional conflicts, a troubled past and 'dark' attributes</p> 	<p><i>Gothic weather:</i></p> <p>Gothic weather usually reflects the mood of the characters - this is called 'Pathetic Fallacy'</p> <p>Gothic weather tends to be wild, dangerous, dark and cruel.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which types of weather would you expect to read about in Gothic fiction? • Why do you think pathetic fallacy is an effective way to create tension? • What do you think about how women seem to be represented in Gothic literature? • 'Conflict' is one of our big ideas. What kinds of conflicts do you think you might see in Gothic literature? <p>Key terms:</p> <p>Suspense – a state of excitement or nervousness about what might happen</p> <p>Tension – emotional strain or nerves</p> <p>Pathetic Fallacy – when the weather creates a mood</p> <p>Hero/heroine – a man/woman who is admired for their courage or brave achievements</p> <p>Omens – signs about what might happen, usually negative in Gothic literature</p> <p>Foreshadowing – when the reader is given hints about what might happen later in the story</p> <p>The macabre – very disturbing and grisly events or scenes</p> <p>The supernatural – something beyond the laws of nature</p>

Key texts: as part of this scheme of work you will study a number of Gothic short stories and extracts from longer novels

Self-testing activities: can you complete the table below throughout the term?

The Monkey's Paw

Mr White and Mrs White live with their son, Herbert White, in the English countryside. One evening, they are visited by an old friend, Sergeant Major Morris, who brings with him a monkey's paw, which he came across in India.



Dracula



A young lawyer from London, Jonathan Harker, is sent to Dracula's castle as part of his job. When he arrives at Dracula's castle he soon discovers that his trip isn't exactly going to go to plan!

The Tell-tale Heart

The narrator of the story claims that he is not mad, but tells us how much he disliked his next door neighbour, because of his eye.

When you find out what the narrator does, it will be up to you to decide if he was mad or not. As we read, you will discover that the author (Edgar Allen-Poe) is a master of creating suspense and tension.

This story links to the big idea of 'perspectives' – can you think why?



Big idea	Where did you spot it and why?
<p>Culture Can you spot any different cultures being represented? How are they portrayed? How do you feel about that?</p>	
<p>Power Who has the power in each story? Do you notice any patterns about which things or characters tend to have the power and which don't?</p>	
<p>Conflict What kinds of conflicts do you notice? Who are the conflicts between? What happens as a result of the conflicts?</p>	
<p>Relationships What are the relationships like between characters in the texts we have read? What can we learn from the ways they treat each other?</p>	