

Y8 Gothic Fiction –Writing – Knowledge Organiser

What is Gothic Fiction?

Gothic literature can be defined as writing that employs dark and picturesque scenery, startling and melodramatic narrative devices, and an overall atmosphere of exoticism, mystery, fear, and dread. Gothic writers have also used supernatural elements, romance, and travel to entertain their readers.

The type is a subgenre of Romantic literature—that's Romantic the period, not romance novels, and much fiction today stems from it. You will learn more about Romantic literature in Y9 when you study poetry.

The Big Idea!

“All that we see or seem is but a dream within a dream.” – Edgar Allan Poe

Edgar Allan Poe (January 19, 1809 – October 7, 1849) was an American writer and poet. Poe is best known for his poetry and short stories, particularly his tales of mystery. He is widely regarded as a central figure of Romanticism in the USA. Poe was one of the country's earliest practitioners of the short story, and considered to be the inventor of the detective fiction genre.

Discuss: What do you think the quotation from Poe means? Write your answer below:

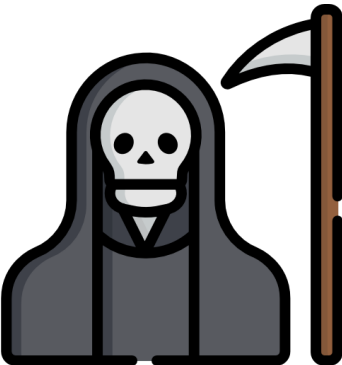
Key Concepts



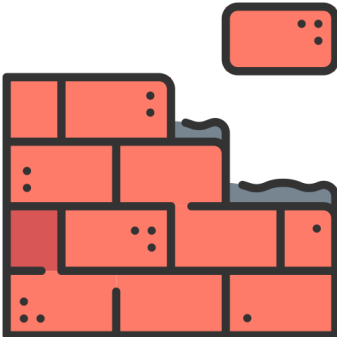
Structure



Withholding and revealing information



Supernatural



Suspense



Macabre

Glossary of key structural techniques:

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| Zooming in from something big to something small (and the other way around) |
| Shifting between times and places |
| Sudden introduction to new characters at significant points |
| Switching perspectives - between different points of view |
| Flashbacks – switching to a previous memory/ time and then back again |
| Repetition of an image |
| Cyclical structure – returning at the end to what happened at the beginning |
| Chronological/ Linear narrative (in time order) |
| Non- linear narrative (not in time order) |
| Omission (when the writer holds back information, usually to create suspense) |
| Introduction of new information |
| Foreshadowing (a warning or indication of a future event) |
| Cliff-hanger |