



Year 8 English - Tales of Terror

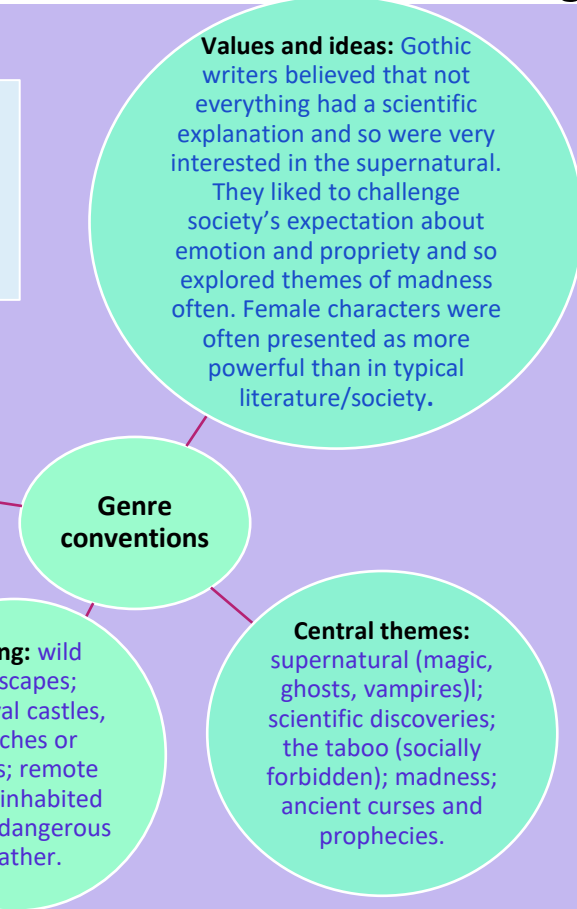


Essential knowledge

Definition of Gothic literature:
'Tales of the macabre, fantastic, and supernatural, usually set amid haunted castles, graveyards, ruins, and wild picturesque landscapes.'



How do I 'show not tell'?
Use your nouns, verbs and adjectives to 'show' your reader what you mean. Instead of 'The castle was scary' try:
'The castle loomed above the cliffs, its jagged towers clawing at the storm-grey sky.'



Key Terms	Definition
genre	The type or category of a story, like mystery, horror, or romance.
convention	A usual way of doing something in stories or films that audiences expect.
foreboding	a feeling that something bad will happen
pathetic fallacy	personifying the weather in order to set the mood/tone. E.g. <i>'Sinister clouds clawed their way across the sky as the wind howled angrily'</i>
symbolism	When something in a story (like an object, colour, or action) stands for a bigger idea or meaning.

Structural Features	
exposition	The start of a story where characters, setting, and background are introduced.
climax	The most exciting or important moment in a story, usually when the main problem happens.
denouement	The part of the story where everything is wrapped up and the final outcome is revealed.
cliffhanger	A suspenseful ending that leaves the audience wanting to know what happens next.
analepsis	A flashback; when the story goes back in time to show something that happened earlier.
suspense	The feeling of excitement or worry about what will happen next.
tension	A feeling of nervousness or stress in a story that keeps you interested.

Sophisticated vocab	Definition
desolate (adj.)	a place of bleak and miserable emptiness
grotesque (adj.)	strange in a way that is unpleasant or offensive
menacing (adj.)	threatening or scary
obscure (v.)	to cover or to hide
ominous (adj.)	suggestive that something bad is going to happen in the future
permeate (v.)	to spread through something
sinister (adj.)	Dark, creepy or suggesting something bad will happen

Writing structure



Drop-in – Provide your reader with an overview of the setting and atmosphere. Hint: try personifying the weather to create an atmosphere suitable to your setting and mood.



Shift – Shift in time, location or perspective. Shifting in time? Try: 'But it wasn't always this way.'



Zoom – zoom in on one object or person. Describe in detail. Tip: Choose something that you have plenty to write about.



Zoom 2 – zoom in on another object or person. Describe in detail.



Return/Link – return to the image you created in your 'drop in' paragraph and describe a change (e.g. the weather, a sudden appearance)

