

# The Gothic

## Context

In the most general terms, 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. It is broadly thought to have commenced in the mid 18th Century, with writers such as Horace Walpole (*The Castle of Otranto*, 1765), Ann Radcliffe (*Mysteries of Udolpho*, 1794), Matthew Lewis (*The Monk*, 1796), and Charles Brockden Brown (*Wieland*, 1798). Today the term Gothic is a label for any prose or poetry based on the principal elements of dramatic action, horror and the supernatural, and is related to sensations of fear of the unknown (dating back to the fear felt by the civilised Romans about the savage 'goths' beyond the empire).

## Key Vocab

Dismal	
Grotesque	
Horror	
Melancholy	
Morose	
Ominous	
Sublime	
Terror	
Transgression	
Trepidation	

## Themes / Ideas

Transgression	
The sublime	
Horror / Terror	

## Reading

Retrieve, Interpret, Infer, Consider	
Analyse Methods (language), Analyse Methods (structure)	

## Writing

Article: Explain Point of View	
Story: Narrate	
Adverbs, Verbs (modal, imperative)	
Sentences: Simple, Compound, Complex	
Hyphens, Brackets, Colons, Apostrophes	

## Media

Mise-en-Scene	
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## Assessment

HT3: Reading: Analyse a Gothic prose extract 19th C or earlier (method, theme, context, structure)	
HT4: Writing: Narrate: Write a Gothic story	
HT3/4: Spoken English: Formal Debate	

CLICK  
CLACK  
THE  
RATTLEBAG

NEIL GAIMAN  
Illustrated by Teri Pookford

DRACULA

Coraline

Interview  
with the  
Vampire

ANNE RICE