CHARACTERISTICS OF GOTHIC ROMANTIC LITERATURE
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GOTHIC does NOT = HORROR

Mia Wasikowska in Crimson Peak
ROMANTICISM IS THE BROAD TERM FOR THE ERA… BUT THERE ARE SUB GENRES, AS WELL:

GOTHIC OR DARK ROMANTICISM

Transcendentalism
CHARACTERISTICS OF GOTHIC LITERATURE ARE AS FOLLOWS…

(REMEMBER: FILM/CINEMA IS ALSO CONSIDERED A “TEXT!”)
SETTING is the single most important literary device in Gothic Literature.

Examples include:
- Large castles or houses...haunted or not
Wild, extreme landscapes, such as rugged mountains, thick forests, or icy wastes

Extreme weather
SECRET PASSAGES OR HIDDEN Chambers,
DARK CORRIDORS, AND WINDING STAIRCASES
 SETTINGS (CONT’D)

- Spooky attic or basement

- Sinister, ruined buildings
Dungeons, cemeteries, crypts and catacombs.
Passion-driven, willful villain
**CHARACTERS (CONT’D)**

![Image of Christina Ricci as Katrina Van Tassel in *Sleepy Hollow*](image)

**Damsel in Distress** - Curious heroine with a tendency to faint and a need to be rescued—frequently

Christina Ricci as Katrina Van Tassel in *Sleepy Hollow*
**CHARACTERS (CONT’D)**

Ralph Fiennes as Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*

Brandon Lee as *The Crow*

**Hero** whose true identity is revealed by the end of the text. Also, usually an unrequited love, an illicit love affair or romance.
GOTHIC ELEMENTS

Dan Stevens as the Beast in *Beauty and the Beast*

Omens and Ancestral Curses
Presence of Magic and the Supernatural
Presence of shadows or a single light source (moonbeam, flashlight, etc.)
Horrifying (or terrifying) events or the threat of such happenings occurring
1-Extremes of Emotion
THEMES (CONT’D)

The Picture of Dorian Gray

2-Journey of Self-Revelation
Walking over to make sure that the door is locked while watching a scary movie at home.

3-Individual Against the Unknown
THEMES (CONT’D)

4-Rebellion Against Authority
5-Sympathy with the Outcast or Misfit
The gothic novel was invented almost single-handedly by Horace Walpole, whose *The Castle of Otranto* (1764) contains essentially all the elements that constitute the genre. Walpole's novel has influenced the novel, the short story, poetry, and even film making up to the present day.
DID YOU KNOW???

In a Gothic novel, story, or movie, characters’ behavior is more motivated by EXTERNAL CONDITIONS than by their own internal motivations. (For instance, the chick above wants to hide, but since something is chasing her, run she must!)
DID YOU KNOW??? Another important note is that during the time when the genre was being developed (1790s to 1840s), **MOST GOTHIC NOVELS WERE CONSIDERED TRASHY AND POORLY WRITTEN** by the literary establishment of the time, although they were usually instant bestsellers and wildly popular with the common people.
DID YOU KNOW??? Gothic writers are very fond of “double,” and most common form of doubling in literature is the doppelgänger, a German term meaning "double-goer." A literary doppelgänger often takes the form of an alternate identity of the main character. Sometimes this can be in the physical form of a biological twin; sometimes writers create a demonic character that functions as a representation of another character's dark side.
Stephen King novels

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE
Scooby Doo. ALL the Scooby Doo.
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Shutter Island
M.J.’s Iconic Classic “Thriller”
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Rocky Horror Picture Show
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

It was a dark and stormy night.

Snoopy
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Dracula- Any Version
MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Frankenstein - Any Version