CHARACTERISTICS
OF
GOTHIC
ROMANTIC LITERATURE

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!")

GOTHIC SETTINGS

THERE GOES THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
HOUSE
JULY 21

**SETTING is the single most important literary device
in Gothic Literature.**

Examples include:
❑ **Large castles or houses…haunted or not**

SETTINGS (CONT'D)

- ❑ **Wild, extreme landscapes, such as rugged mountains, thick forests, or icy wastes**

- ❑ **Extreme weather**

SETTINGS (CONT'D)

☐ Secret passages or hidden chambers, dark corridors, and winding staircases

SETTINGS (CONT'D)

❑ Spooky attic or basement

❑ Sinister, ruined buildings

THE BASEMENT
I'll give you a dollar if you go first.

SETTINGS (CONT'D)

❑ **Dungeons, cemeteries, crypts and catacombs.**

GOTHIC CHARACTERS

Passion-driven, willful <u>villain</u>

CHARACTERS (CONT'D)

Christina Ricci as Katrina Van Tassel in *Sleepy Hollow*

<u>Damsel in Distress</u> - Curious heroine with a tendency to faint and a need to be rescued–frequently

CHARACTERS (CONT'D)

Ralph Fiennes as Heathcliff in *Wuthering Heights*

Brandon Lee as *The Crow*

<u>Hero</u> 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

ELEMENTS (CONT'D)

Presence of Magic and the Supernatural

ELEMENTS (CONT'D)

Nicole Kidman in *The Others*

Presence of shadows or a single light source (moonbeam, flashlight, etc.)

ELEMENTS (CONT'D)

Horrifying (or terrifying) events or the threat of such happenings occurring

GOTHIC THEMES

1-Extremes of Emotion

THEMES (CONT'D)

The Picture of Dorian Gray

2-Journey of Self-Revelation

THEMES (CONT'D)

lolsotrue:#1345

Walking over to make sure that the door is locked while watching a scary movie at home.

lolsotrue.com

3-Individual Against the Unknown

THEMES (CONT'D)

Mia Wasikowska in *Jane Eyre*

4-Rebellion Against Authority

THEMES (CONT'D)

5-Sympathy with the Outcast or Misfit

GOTHIC FACTOID #1

DID YOU KNOW???

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 since, even into present day.
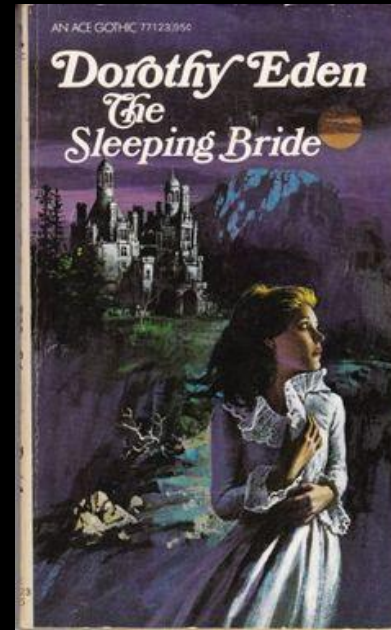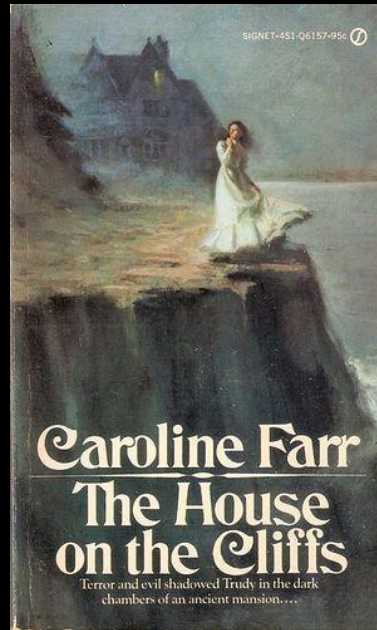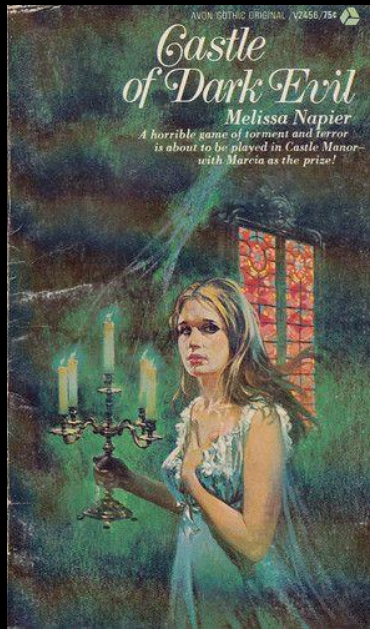
GOTHIC FACTOID #2

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!)

GOTHIC FACTOID #3

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.
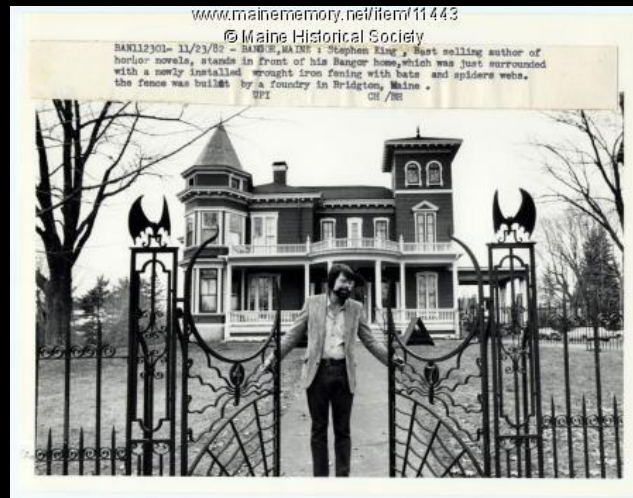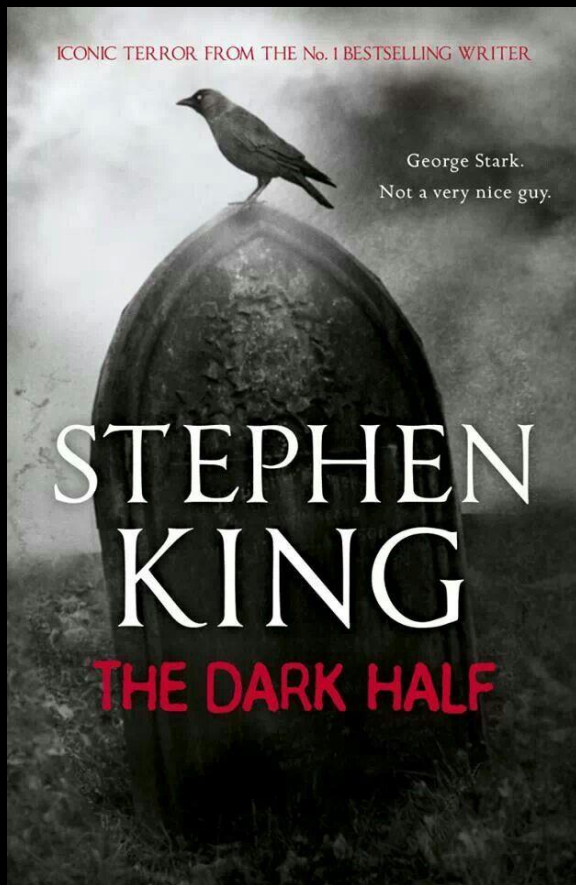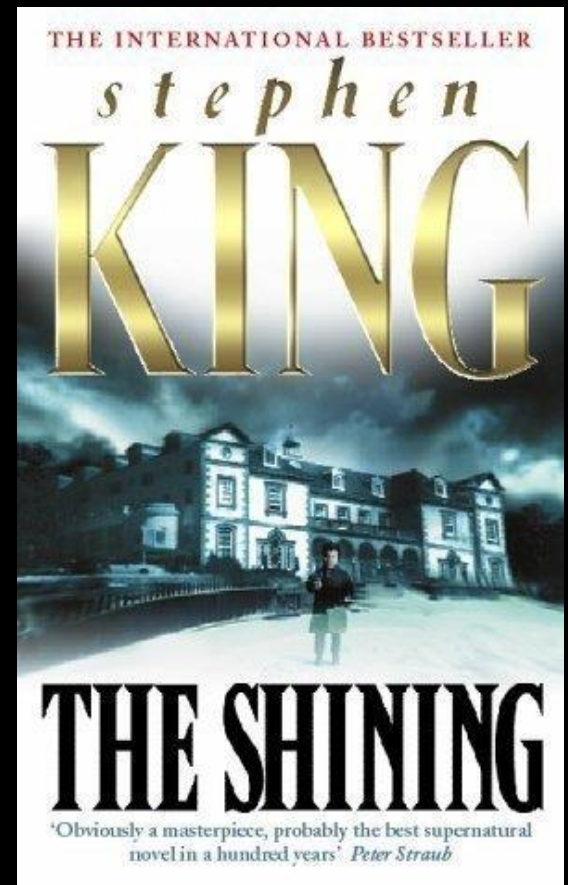
GOTHIC FACTOID #4

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.

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Stephen King novels

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Scooby Doo. ALL the Scooby Doo.

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE
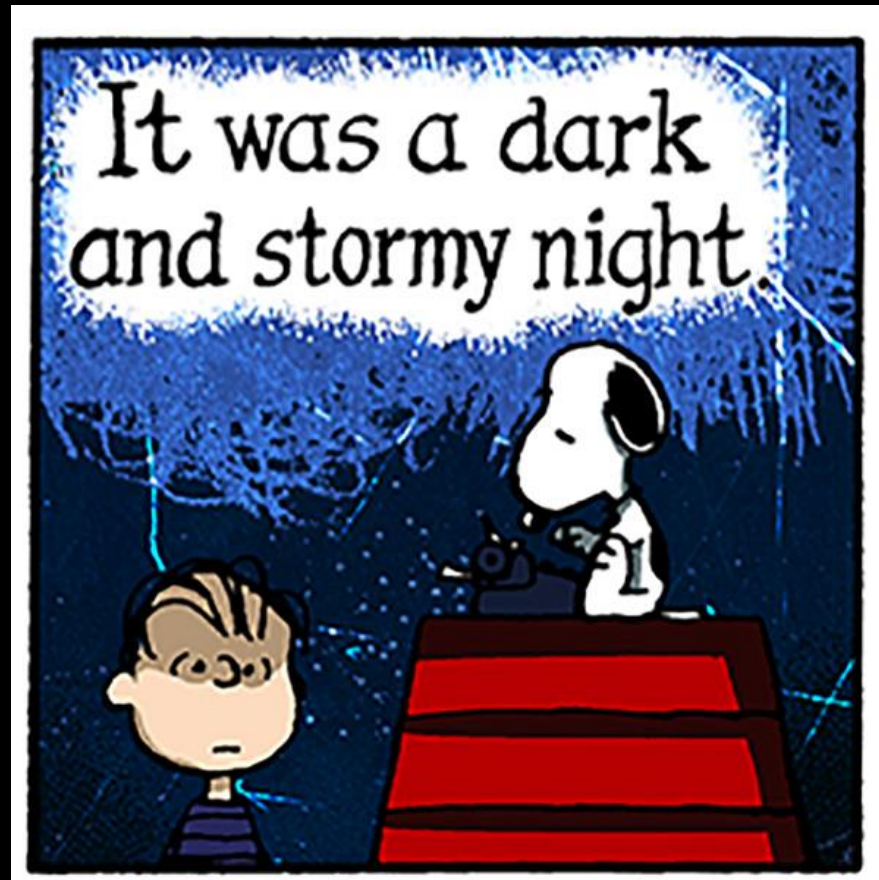

Shutter Island

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

M.J.'s Iconic Classic "Thriller"

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Rocky Horror Picture Show

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Snoopy

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Sleeping Beauty- Any Version

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Dracula- Any Version

MODERN GOTHIC LITERATURE

Frankenstein- Any Version