### Year 7 Gothic Literature

**Assessment:**
A description of a Gothic setting and monster.

#### Context:
Romanticism was a general movement in the arts (novels, poetry, paintings, music, etc) which occurred in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The Romantics were concerned with:
- The power of nature
- Wild and rugged landscapes in faraway lands
- Intense feelings
- The isolated Romantic hero
- Social responsibility and justice

Gothic fiction can be seen as the ‘dark’ side of the Romantic movement and would, a century later, become the backbone of Hollywood horror films. Gothic stories and film usually include these key features:
- Dark and gloomy settings
- A mysterious atmosphere full of suspense
- Family curses and dark secrets
- Supernatural powers
- Mysterious and frightening creatures, people or ghosts
- Females in danger
- Extreme emotions (nightmare, madness and mental torment)
- Science used for evil or disastrous purposes
- Worrying and unusual natural events (storms and full moons)

#### Gothic Setting:
Gothic novels are characterised by an atmosphere of mystery and suspense. The mood is pervaded by a threatening feeling, a fear enhanced by the unknown. The locations are usually in wild, remote and uninhabited places such as mountain ranges, wild forests, heaths or cliff tops.

A typical gothic story setting would be:
- Old, ruined, isolated castles and mansions, often with secret passages and mysterious towers
- A graveyard or tomb
- A cave
- A convent, monastery, church, cathedral or chapel
- A dungeon

#### Elements to Enhance the Gothic Mood:
Architectural features: towers, trapdoors, gargoyles, mysterious corridors, rusty hinges, tunnels, burial vaults, suits of armour and animated portraits.

Weather: howling wind, thunder and lightning and driving rain.

Eerie sounds: creaking doors, approaching footsteps, clanking chains, doors slamming shut, distant baying or howling, crazed laughter, tolling bells and fluttering bats.

Dark or dim spaces: lights going on and off, flickering candles, dark corners and dimmed lamps.

Supernatural: ghosts, hidden manuscripts, curses and prophecies, evil potions and spells.

#### Examples of Gothic Literature:
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
- *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux
- *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins
- *The Monk* by Matthew Lewis
- *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- *The Castle of Otranto* by Horace Walpole
- *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill

#### Descriptive Techniques:

### Focus on the Five Senses:
1. Sight
2. Sound
3. Smell
4. Touch
5. Taste

#### The Photograph Method:
Imagine you are looking at a photograph. Start off your description with a ‘wide angle shot’ and describe the picture as a whole. Then choose two key parts of the image that you would like to zoom in on; these will each be a close-up picture that will be described in detail.

### Adjectives
Words that describe a noun.

### Adverbs
Words that describe a verb.

### Alliteration
Repetition of connected words beginning with the same letter.

### Connotations
An idea or feeling that a word invokes for a person as well as its literal meaning. Connotations evoke reactions in the reader based on their experience of certain words.

### Hyperbole
Extreme exaggeration.

### Metaphors
A technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.

### Onomatopoeia
Use of words which echo their meaning in sound.

### Oxymoron
A phrase combining two or more contradictory terms.

### Pathetic fallacy
Where the weather and nature in the story mirrors the emotion of the scene or the people in it.

### Personification
Presenting things which are not human as if they were.

### Repetition
Repeating a word, phrase or idea.

### Sibilance
Repetition of the ‘s’ sound.

### Simile
Compares one thing with another, usually using “like” or “as”.

### SSS
Short, snappy sentence.

### SSP
Single, sentence placement.

### Symbolism
When a word, phrase or image stands for or evokes a complex set of ideas.

### Triadic Structure
Repetition of a word, a phrase or an idea three times.