

# Gothic Writing

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

Typical genre features:	Typical characters:	Typical settings:
1. Death and darkness	1. Mysterious characters with high social status e.g. Princes, Counts	1. Wild landscapes
2. Supernatural (magic, ghosts, vampires, curses)	2. Female or feminine characters that are threatened by powerful men	2. Medieval style castles, churches or abbeys
3. Curses or prophecies	3. Threatening women who are monsters or vampires	3. Gloomy, decayed and ruined environments
4. Madness and intense emotions/paranoia	4. Powerful, tyrannical male figures	4. Remote, uninhabited places (older gothic) or monsters intermingling in every day life (newer gothic)
5. Mystery, terror and suspense	5. Villains, vampires, ghosts, werewolves, giants	5. Volatile and threatening weather (symbolism)

Methods used by writers	
Narrative voice	Semantic field
Pathetic fallacy	simile
Contrast	Figurative
Imagery	metaphor
Verb	Personification
Adjective	Symbolism

Useful vocabulary		
Afflicted	Dilapidated	Lifeless
Alienate	Discomforted	Mournfully
Anguish	Disfigured	Obscured
Annihilate	Enigma	Sinister
Apprehensions	Entrapment	Torturous
Beguile	Forbidding	Unleashed
Claustrophobia	Grotesque	Vengeful
Decomposing	Hopeless	Withered
Despair	Lamentable	Wretched

**Sentence Structure**  
**Simple Sentence** – One main verb and idea/clause.  
*'It was raining.'* or *'Jack sang loudly.'*  
**Compound** – Two simple sentences (clauses) joined by a connective. Both clauses can stand alone.  
*'It was raining so we stayed indoors.'*  
**Complex** – Communicates more than one idea. It is made up of one main clause (can stand alone) and one subordinate clause (doesn't make sense alone).  
*'As it was raining, we all decided to stay indoors.'*  
 We can take away the second part, but then we are left with:  
*As it was raining.*  
 Now this is not a simple sentence as it doesn't stand on its own - it needs something else to make sense.

