**De Aston**

**English Department**



**Year 9: Gothic Class Reader**

**Challenge Tasks**

**Name:**

**Week Six:**

Now that you have developed a really good understanding of what makes a gothic story, it’s time to come up with your own! Remember a story needs an introduction, a complication, a climax and a resolution.

**Hard** – Plan your own gothic story in detail. Plan your main character and your villain, as well as the content of your story.

**Harder** – Plan the overall structure of your story, then write the opening 2-3 paragraphs. Focus on building the tension and creating a chilling atmosphere.

**Hardest** – Write your own gothic short story. Focus on building to a shocking climax!

**Week Five:**

A great gothic novel needs a truly terrifying gothic villain!

**Hard** – Make a list of gothic villains (e.g. mummy, ghost, vampire). Rank your list from most to least terrifying, explaining your choices.

**Harder** - Research villains from gothic novels. Choose your top five and explain your choices.

**Hardest** – Create your own gothic villain. Write one paragraph describing them and one paragraph explaining their back story. You could draw and label them too if you wish.

**Week Four:**

Use gothic imagery to create a vivid description. Choose a challenge!

**Hard** – you’ve been digging – describe what you find…perhaps it’s something surprising and unpleasant;

**Harder** – you break into the abandoned house on the edge of town, only to be confronted by a hideous monster! Write a diary entry describing the monster.

**Hardest** – you’ve seen a murder with a supernatural twist! Write a police report telling the story of what you saw.

**Week Three:**

You should be several chapters in to your class reader by now. How well do you know your main character? Choose or two key events from the novel so far. Write a diary entry explaining what happened and your thoughts and feelings on it.

**Week Two:**

Setting is often key in creating atmosphere in a gothic novel.

**Hard** – Make a list of as many gothic settings as you can. Try to come up with some less obvious ones – but explain these choices!

**Harder** – Choose one gothic setting and write a detailed description of it. Focus on creating a tense atmosphere.

**Hardest** – This one is challenging! Choose a setting that isn’t obviously gothic and focus on making it seem gothic in the way you describe it.

**Week One:**

This week, you will have learnt about different gothic conventions. Choose one of the tasks below to demonstrate your understanding of the gothic genre.

* A rap or poem about the gothic;
* A top 10 of gothic songs with a sentence explaining what makes each one gothic;
* Pick ten key words that fit in the gothic genre and define them!

**Additional challenge tasks:**

Make sure you understand what each of these words means and show your understanding by trying to use them in your classwork. Then learn how to spell them – be ready for a spelling test in the last week of term.

**Hard:**

1. Motif 2. Connotation 3. Narrative hook 4. Atmosphere 5. Pathetic fallacy

**Harder:**

1. Unheimlich 2. Sinister 3. Foreshadowing 4. Suspense 5. Superstition

**Hardest:**

1. Penchant 2. Emaciated 3. Quaint 4. Obsequious 5. Taciturn

**Final challenge:**

Finally, challenge yourself to read one of the classic Gothic texts, such as Frankenstein by Mary Shelley or Dracula by Bram Stoker. In your exercise book, tell your teacher what you read and what you thought about it.

**Bonus week:**

Read the extract below and complete the ‘all’ question and one more of the questions below:

**All:** list four things you learn about Mr Utterson’s ‘dreams’.

**Hard:** what genre is the text and how do you know?

**Harder:** how does the writer use language to interest the reader?

**Hardest:** to what extent does the text meet the expectations of the gothic genre?



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For more resources, including literacy support, visit www.deastonenglish.com