CLASS CHECK-IN:

WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD GOTHIC, WHAT IMAGES COME TO MIND?

IS THIS WHAT YOU THINK OF?
DO ANY OF YOU THINK OF THIS?
OR... WHAT ABOUT THIS?

When you think of the word “gothic,” you should think “different.”

Gothic literature and architecture earned its name by being different from what was considered “the norm” of the time period in which it emerged.
HISTORY OF THE GOTH S

• The Goths, one of the many Germanic tribes, fought numerous battles with the Roman Empire for centuries.

• They split into two groups: the Visigoths (the West Goths) and the Ostrogoths (the East Goths).

Inference Detector:
So we can infer that “visi” means __________, and “ostro” means __________.

• They reached the height of their power around 5th century A.D., when they sacked Rome and captured Spain.

Vocabulary Expander:
Sacked – Looting or pillaging a captured city.
A.D. – Anno Domini (commonly believed to mean “After Death”)
CONNECTIONS TO THE GOTHIC NOVEL

• During the Renaissance, Europeans rediscovered Greco-Roman culture and began to regard a particular type of architecture, mainly those built during the Middle Ages, as “gothic.”

• These buildings were referred to as “gothic” because they were not in the Classical style that was so admired during the time.

• The word “gothic” eventually was used to describe novels that took place in Gothic-style architecture – mainly castles, mansions, and abbeys.

Vocabulary Expander:
Greco-Roman – of or pertaining to Greek and Roman cultures.
Abbey – a Catholic monastery or convent.
Examples of Gothic Architecture

Quick Trivia: What was the original purpose of a gargoyle?

Notice the extreme angles and pitches in the architecture. Also, pay attention to the detail (see gargoyle). These characteristics are what make this type of architecture different.
ELEMENTS OF GOTHIC LITERATURE:

Gothic literature may include any of the following conventions:

- Setting in a castle – The action takes place in and around an old castle, sometimes seemingly abandoned and sometimes occupied.

- An atmosphere of mystery and suspense – The work has a threatening feeling, a fear enhanced by the unknown.

  **How many of you were afraid of the dark growing up?**

- An ancient prophecy – Often connected with the castle or its inhabitants

  **Class check-in: How many of these elements are in Beauty and the Beast?**

- Omens, portents, visions – A character may have a disturbing dream vision or some phenomenon may be seen as a sign of coming events.

- Supernatural or inexplicable events – Dramatic, amazing events occur such as ghosts or inanimate objects coming to life.

  **Vocabulary Enhancer:**

  **Portent** – a sign or warning that something is going to happen.
ELEMENTS OF GOTHIC LITERATURE CONTINUED...

• High emotions – The narration may be highly sentimental, and the characters are often overcome by anger, sorrow, surprise, and especially, terror.  

  Class check in: How many of these elements are in Beauty and the Beast?

• Women in distress – Female characters often face events that leave them fainting, terrified, screaming, and/or sobbing.

• Women threatened by a powerful male – A male character has the power to demand that a female character does something intolerable.

• Symbols of “Doom and Gloom” – Howling or blowing wind, characters trapped in a room, ruined buildings, thunder and lightning, crazed laughter, doors slamming shut

  How many of these symbols have you seen in recent scary movies?

• Gothic Vocabulary – haunted, secret, frightened, tears, alarm, wonder, anxious, sudden, anger, fury, vast, enormous

  What do these vocabulary words have in common with each other?
Does this scene look familiar?

That’s because most

- Suspense
- Thriller
- Ghost/horror stories
- And detective fiction

have roots in Gothic literature and

use the elements that first made gothic literature such a success.
Gothic Literature, the Evil Sibling of ...
Gothic Literature is related to Romanticism.

The Romanticism is not “romance” as you think, rather it was an intellectual, artistic and philosophical movement that included Art/painting, Music, and Literature!
The Romantic Movement

Begins and enjoys popularity in Europe and America 1770-1860. The Romantic Movement:

A reaction to and against the Industrial Revolution, Age of Enlightenment, and the new scientific approach towards nature.

Valued: extreme emotions, intuition, nature, imagination, and expression (over rational logic sought by the Enlightenment).
Romantic literature valued the tenets of Romanticism. Additionally, it allowed for improbable events and fanciful ideas that realistic fiction didn’t allow. (A knight on a quest, fairies, dragons, magicians, and magic swords are part of the Romantic tradition).
Gothic literature’s relationship to Romanticism

1. Their time periods overlap (Romanticism 1770s-mid-1800s, and Gothic roughly 1764-1898).

2. Gothic is a subset and natural offshoot of the Romantic movement.

3. Romantic and Gothic literature **BOTH** honor emotions, imagination, and nature, and allow for supernatural events.

4. If Romanticism is the *LIGHT*...
Gothic Literature can be considered the dark side of Romanticism - what happens when man gives in to his dark desires, imagination, and inner nature?

Some critics and psychologists say Gothic literature fills a legitimate human need to be frightened and to safely explore the darker sides of our personalities that cannot be acted upon in society.
A fiction genre from 1764-1898 that combined Romanticism and horror. It relied heavily on setting, mood or atmosphere (and, like Romantic literature) extreme emotions, intuition, nature, imagination, expression, and improbable or supernatural events. Gothic literature is typified by particular elements. (more later)
**First Gothic Novel:** *The Castle of Otranto*, 1764
written by Horace Walpole, (under a pseudonym).

A short novel; set forth as a “translation of an Italian story;” features a castle, a mysterious and violent death and ill-fated marriage during the Crusades.
1. Gothic architecture – castles, monasteries, abbeys, wine cellars, grottos, dungeons, catacombs/graves, ruins, and secret: panels; doors; tunnels or passages.

Actual features - stained glass, narrow, long pointed windows, vaulted ceilings, pointed arches, turrets, the gargoyle (the mascot of Gothic literature), spires, flying buttresses, and in general a strong sense of “vertical” building or structure, and more.

* NOTE: not all elements will be found in all texts!!!
2. Rugged terrain – the story may also feature cliffs, rocky shores, caves, underground tunnels, caverns, lonely moors, or uninhabited mountains, desolate forests or other rugged locales.

*The **terrain** works *with the **architecture** to build a complete setting.*
3. Weather: Cold, gloom, harsh winter, winds, rain, fog, storms all are likely in the Gothic novel or story. Weather contributes to
- Setting
- Imagery and visual impact
- The atmosphere/mood that is so important to this genre

NOTE: Weather is part of nature, and can be used to affect the characters and the plot. SEE NEXT
4. The power of nature to transform or affect emotion: weather, natural settings, isolated and unforgiving climates and locales affect the novels’ characters, and often turn the plot towards new, darker directions (modern ex.: Stephen King, *The Shining*)

As you might expect, the transformative power of nature in Gothic literature is usually dark and destructive, driving a character towards madness or evil actions
*is extremely important to Gothic writing! Elements #s 1-4 already mentioned –
- architecture, rugged isolated terrain, weather, and the transformative power of nature - come together to create the essence of Gothic literature, namely, visual emotional writing full of atmosphere and mood. Add to this #5, another important element – the importance of specific setting.

**#5 Setting:** traditionally in the 1800s, in isolated exotic European locales. Gothic literature is still written today, and has been set in the deep American south, New England, and other unexpected places!
6. A creature that incites fear, pity, or dread. Examples: deformed beings, vampires, were-wolves. Specific examples: Hop Frog, Quasi Modo, Frankenstein’s creature, and more.

7. Features high/intense emotion: dread, terror, anguish, horror, hysteria, mania, or torment.

(*As a result, Gothic can tend toward melodrama, and even parody or self-parody. While some Gothic literature is terrifying, at least some has a sense of humor 😊)
8. Darkness of the human soul made manifest in the world. The ugliness within (in the heart, soul, or mind) escapes out into the world. Examples may include:
   - Madness and the slow descent into insanity
   - Murder, violence, torture
   - Unnatural acts against man/family/ or God
Focus on the Mysterious or Supernatural. Examples:

- The occult/rituals/ceremonies
- Dark/unholy family secrets
- The sins of the previous generation returning to punish the next.
- Hauntings/spirits
- Curses
- The otherworldly/undead
- Doppelgangers (untrustworthy double)
- A prophecy or vision
- Inexplicable death/disappearance
### The Use of Foreshadowing

- Lights going off or on
- Wind blowing out candles or moving curtains
- The man who shows up and **warns** the main characters
- Doors suddenly lock
- Rain/wind picks up in intensity
- Sudden thunder and lightning/gusts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gothic Elements!</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clanking chains</td>
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<td>Glass breaking</td>
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<td>Unexplained footsteps</td>
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| Murmurs, sighs; cries or distant voices; crazed laughter???
| Wolves howling/baying |
| Doors creaking    |
| Doors slamming shut |
| Rusty hinges      |
“ANIMALS as evil” goes back to Biblical times, and can be found in Shakespeare. Still, the use of animals has come to be a classic Gothic element.

- These include: raven, crow, cat, bat, rat, owl, toad, frog, wolves, hyenas, coyotes, snakes, etc.
  They have historically served as companions (familiars) to witches, as the “devil in disguise,” or as evil omens in storytelling.
- Poe and others have written about and used such animals in their writing.
GOTHIC MOTIFS!

Motifs Include: heavy use of darkness, shadows, cold, isolation, gloom, dread, decay or ruin. These contribute to setting and atmosphere.
In a GOTHIC STORY, You May Meet . . .

- A disfigured man/woman hidden away
- Non- or near human creatures
- An overreaching mad scientist
- A raging and cruel tyrant
- Women abandoned or in distress
- A circus performer
- A cannibal
- The suicidal lover
- The devil himself!
- Vampires, monsters, werewolves, demons, hellhounds, wolves, witches!
Many writers were influenced by Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto, *(1764) and its Gothic elements.

Here is a short list of writers affected by Walpole and his contributions.
Writers inspired or influenced by Walpole

Mary Shelley: 
*Frankenstein*, 1818

Edgar Allan Poe: 
*The-Tell Tale Heart*
Numerous other works

Bram Stoker: 
*Dracula*, 1897
Many OTHER forms of fiction are still influenced by Walpole’s novel, Gothic literature and GOTHIC ELEMENTS.

These include but are not limited to: GHOST STORIES, HORROR, DETECTIVE/Crime Novels, SUSPENSE, THRILLERS, AND MORE!
GOTHIC LITERATURE

3-2-1

IDENTIFY THREE (3) FACTS THAT YOU LEARNED TODAY.

LIST TWO (2) WORDS THAT YOU ADDED TO YOUR VOCABULARY TODAY.

ASK ONE (1) QUESTION BASED ON THE INFORMATION IN THIS PRESENTATION.

WHEN YOU FINISH, TURN IN 3-2-1 TO YOUR CLASS’S BOX. 😊 😊
What genre do you think this picture represents?

GOTHIC

HORROR!!