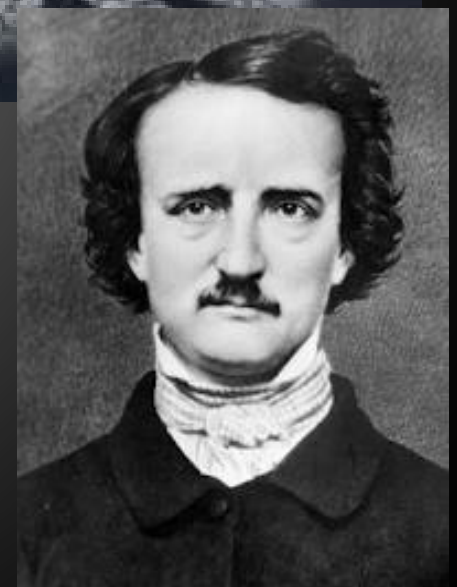


**CLASS CHECK-IN:
WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD GOTHIC,
WHAT IMAGES COME TO MIND?**



**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 GOTHS

- 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?



GO GOTHIC
ELEMENTS
SIMPLIFIED
FILL IN
YOUR NOTES





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 ...



ROMANTICISM??





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

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).

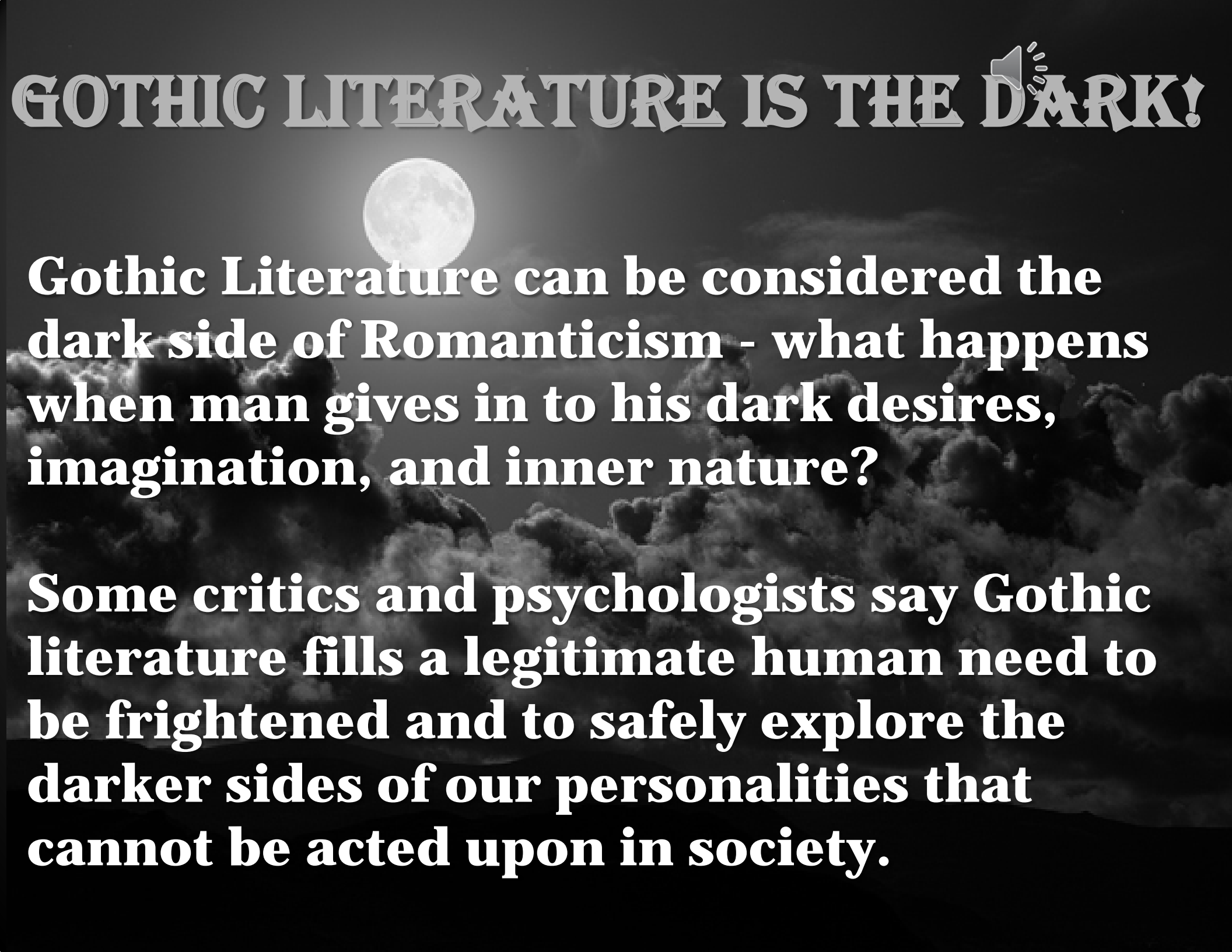


GOTHIC LITERATURE'S RELATIONSHIP TO ROMANTICISM



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 IS THE DARK!

A full moon is visible in the upper center of the image, set against a dark, cloudy sky. The clouds are dense and dark, creating a moody, atmospheric background for the text.

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.

DEFINITION: GOTHIC LITERATURE



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)

Gothic Literature – It Begins

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.

GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



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!!!**

GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



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.**

GOthic ELEMENTS!



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

GOthic ELEMENTS!



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

Atmosphere and MOOD . . .



*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!

GOTHIC Elements!



6. A creature that incites fear, pity, or dread. Examples: deformed beings, vampires, werewolves. 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 😊)

GOthic Elements!



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

GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



9. 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

GOthic ELEMENTS!



. 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
- Clanking chains
- Glass breaking
- Unexplained footsteps
- Murmurs, sighs; cries or distant voices; crazed laughter???
- Wolves howling/baying
- Doors creaking
- Doors slamming shut
- Rusty hinges

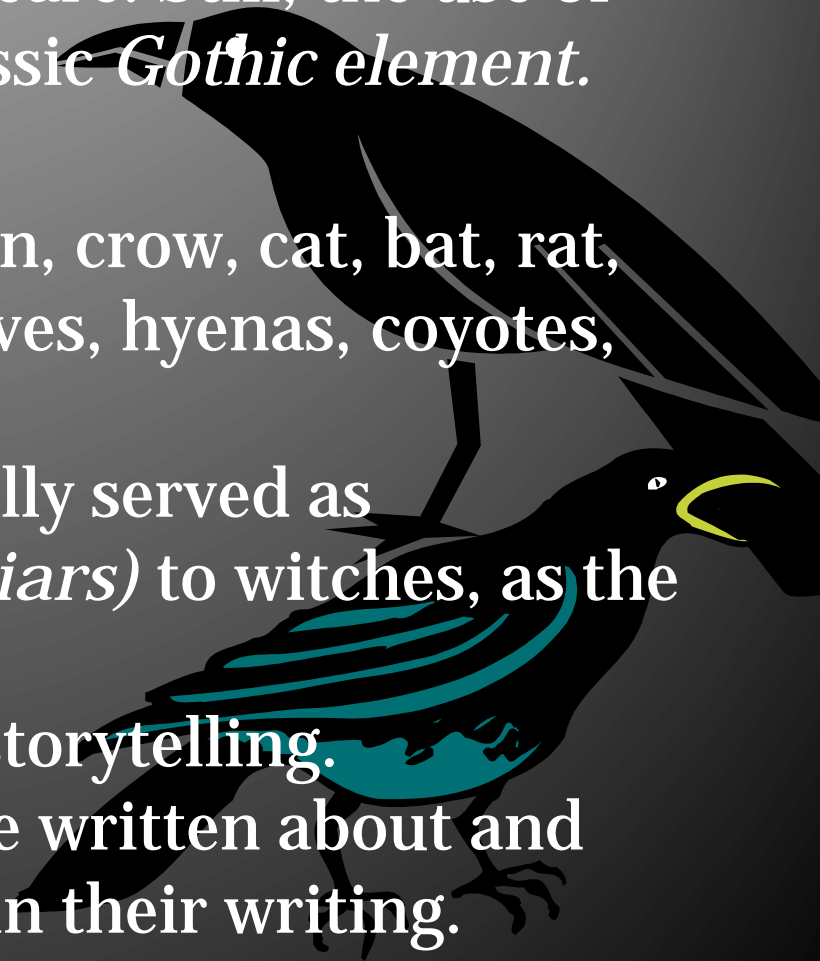
*11. GOTHIC ELEMENTS!



“**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!



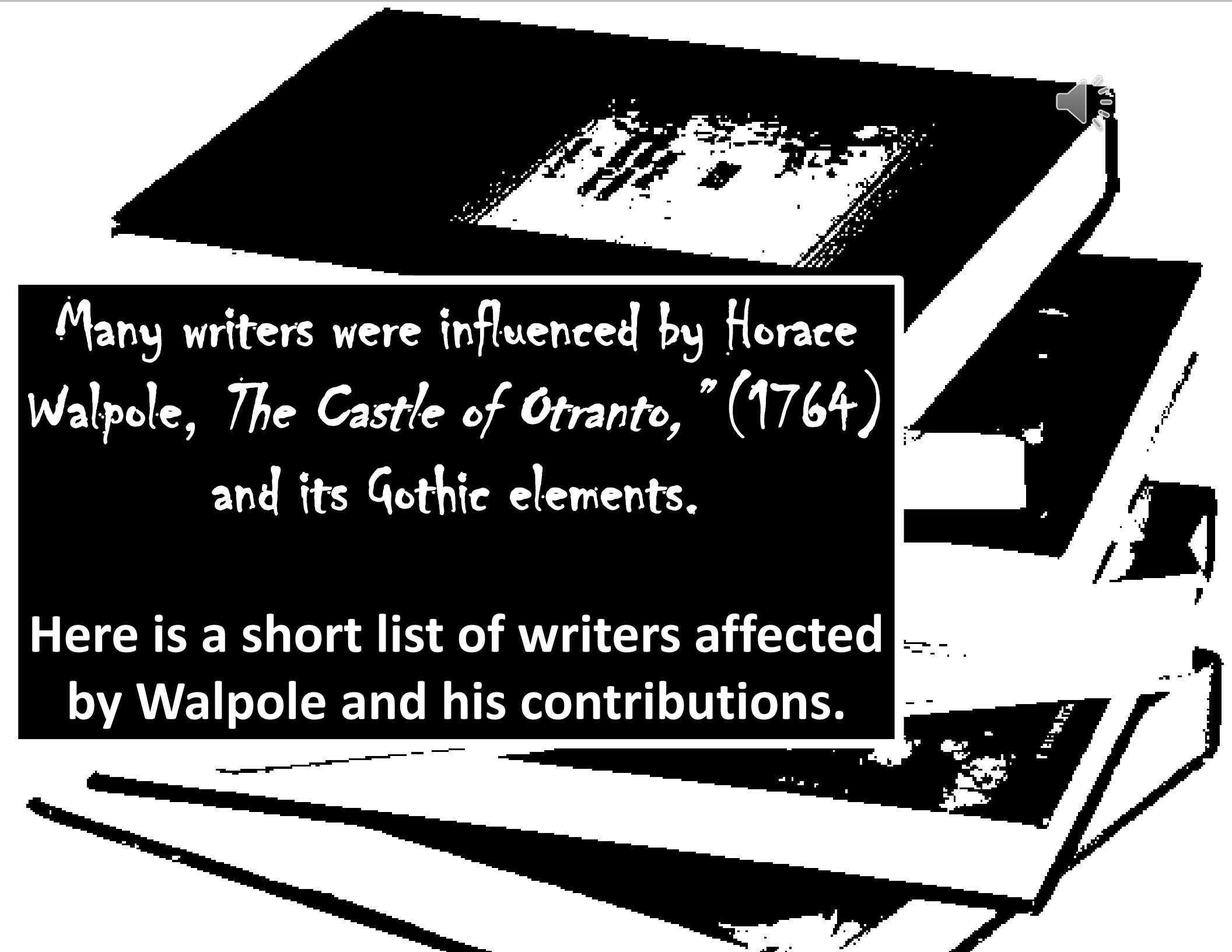
Motifs Include: heavy use of darkness, shadows, cold, isolation, gloom, dread, decay or ruin. These contribute to setting and atmosphere.





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!**

A stack of four books is shown, with the top book slightly offset to the left. A small speaker icon is located in the top right corner of the image. A black rectangular box with white text is overlaid on the left side of the books.

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.

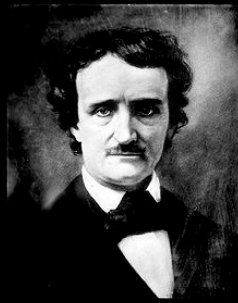
WRITERS INSPIRED OR INFLUENCED BY WALPOLE



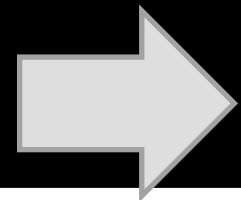
Mary Shelley:
Frankenstein, 1818

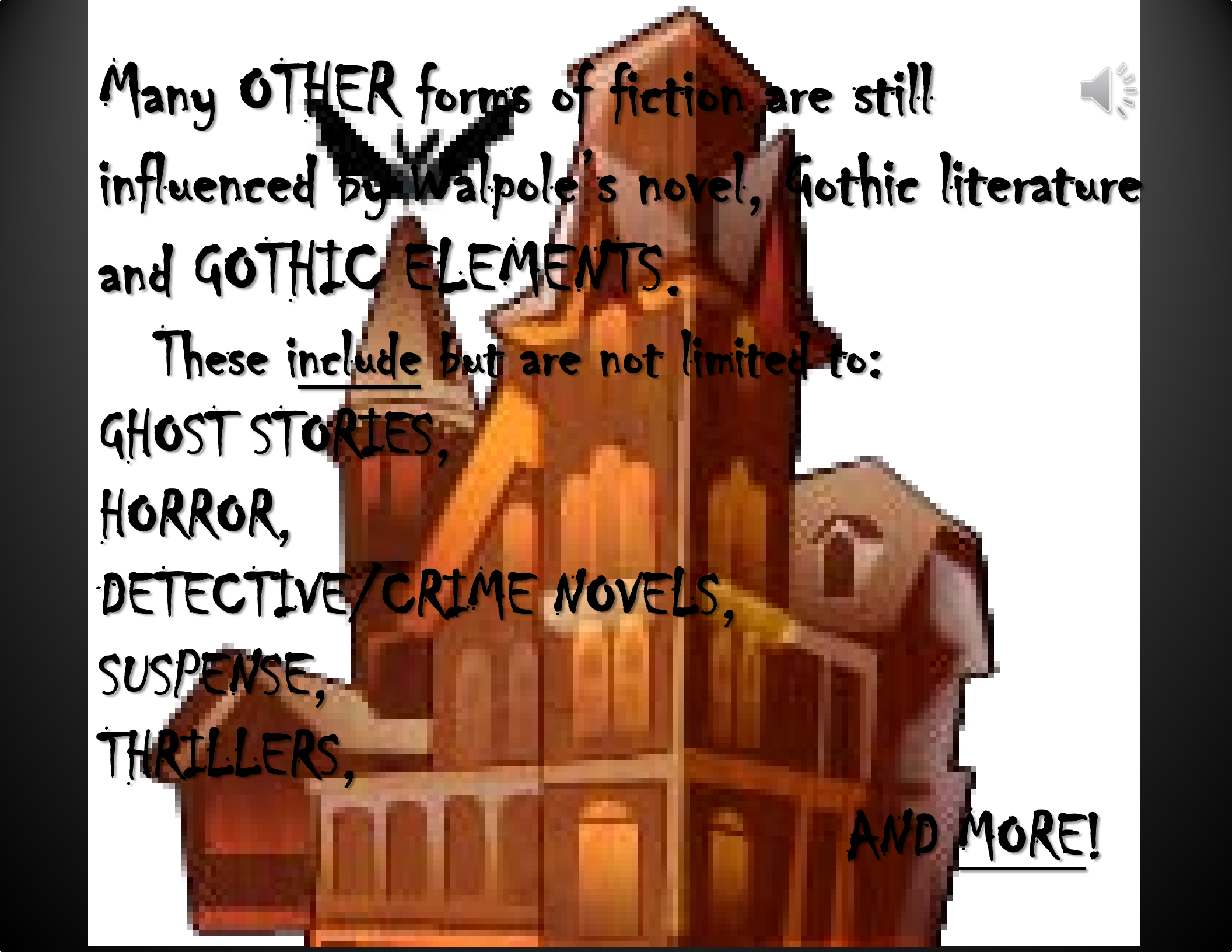


Edgar Allan Poe:
The-Tell Tale Heart
Numerous other works



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. 😊 😊**

GOthic

HORROR!!!

