

## What is Gothic Literature?

- Dark
- Black
- Churches
- Black makeup
- Depressed
- Ominous
- Sad and scary
- Cynical
- Loud wild music in a dark room
- Skulls and clip on hair
- Cemetery
- Rebellious

## Historic Context

- The words Goth and Gothic describe the Germanic tribes (e.g. Goths, Visigoths, Ostogoths) which sacked Rome and also ravaged the rest of Europe in the third fourth and fifth centuries
- It was a period that was chaotic, unlighted and superstitious.

## A few more gothic conventions

- Damsel in distress (frequently faints in horror)
- Secret corridors, passageways, or rooms
- Ancestral curses
- Ruined castles with graveyards nearby
- Priests and monks
- Sleep dream, death like states

## Gothic architecture - 12th-16th century

- Pointed arches
- Vaults
- Flying buttresses
- Stained glass windows
- Intricate traceries

## Metonymy of gloom and terror

- Metonymy is a subtype of metaphor
- Rain at funeral- rain= sorrow
- Suggest mystery, danger, supernatural
- Wind, rain, doors on old hinges

## Settings

- Evokes horror and dread
- Portrays the deterioration of its world
- There was a point where there was a thriving world, but now its dreadful

### Characters

- Protagonist- Gothic hero
- Antagonist- Villain, a perfect example of evil

### Plot

- Tends to take place at night
- Usually in dungeons, caves, chambers...

Damsel- girl needs help, hero saves her

Doppelganger- evil twin of something

### Shirley Jackson- The Lottery (1948)

- The lottery (1948) sent work to New Yorker magazine. When it was published people canceled their subscriptions because they wanted to shut out how the world is evil (no one liked it, they lived in their own little bubble)
- They asked her how she felt that people didn't like her story and she said she set a brutal tradition in the present and she showed that there is a lot of pointless violence in this world.
- The people were ignorant- they didn't know what was going on
- Genre- horror, realism

Message- people are inhumane and there's so much pointless violence

- Places the story in a pretty little town but it has real evil within (the end is shocking)
- Seemingly harmless details take on gruesome dimensions
- Wanted to finish the murder in time for lunch
- Callousness- hard, thick skin, not sensitive
- The boys in the beginning were collecting stones, and then they go and stone people
- Sinister- evil

Symbolic act of stoning-

- Crowd- generated death (everyone can participate)
- First human tools were made of stone (going back to our core-nature)- very primitive concept
- Christianity, Jews and Islam has it in their religion (community punishments)

Importance of setting- evokes the atmosphere of horror

Message- some traditions are not good and we don't understand but we do it anyway

Lottery analysis-

- Traditions and widespread forgetfulness (don't forget where traditions came from- as everything you do)
- Patriarch- follow the fatherly figure, the father draws for the family and he has the power and control
- Matriarch- follow the motherly figure

- WWII and the society breeding violence (like lord of the flies- Shirley Jackson is worried about the little kids that grow up in such violence)
- Paper not wood chips- symbolic change, in the lottery they used wood chips. Paper= money (form of exchange for them) this has evolved into how much we can get
- What was the point of stoning?
  1. It was a way to solve over population
  2. Fields will grow better (give sacrifices)

### Edgar Allan Poe

- Born: 1809
- Died: 1849
- At age 15 he swam 6 miles
- Dropped out of University of Virginia because he was broke gambling
- In 1810 his parents divorced
- Death is still a mystery, raven on his grave
- Army- lied about name and age
- Adopted but not officially
- Raven 9.00\$
- Buried in unmarked grave
- Became a poem
- Parents died in 1811

### Tell Tale Heart

Setting- Old mans room

Narrator- Unreliable- cant trust- bias towards his side of the story

Characters- Relations to another

Title- Tell Tale Heart

Theme- Horror

Literary devices- Repetition

- In Media Res- When a story starts in the middle
- The story talks about the narrators heart. At the end of the story, his heart is beating- guilt, its his tell tale heart
- He uses repetition to build suspense and the evil eye- Jews- hand prevents evil eye

### The Cask of the Amontillado- Edgar Allen Poe

- Cask- a place to store wine
- Revenge, first person, vengeful (wanting revenge) because he was insulted
- "The straw that broke the camels back" –idiom
- Talking to the reader/ says we know the nature of his soul (we know him) so we can trust him and be on his side
- Punity- punish
- Redress- correct
- Immolation- destruction
- Tell Tale Heart didn't give the guy a reason to suspect he was guilty Cask of Amontillado also didn't give him a reason to suspect him
- Both En Media Rez, both people were mentally unstable, unreliable narrators

- Setting- carnival
- Dramatic irony (tragic irony)- audience knows more than the characters (we know that Montresor is planning Fortunados death but Fortunado had no clue)
- Situational irony- when the opposite of what you expected happened
- Verbal irony- (sarcasm) if someone says something and the other characters misunderstand it
- Fortunado- clown outfit (jester) situational irony because he dies
- Amontillado with Fortunado (verbal irony)
- "In pace requiescat"- may he rest in peace (verbal irony) because he murdered him

#### Irony/ symbolism-

- Fortunado- man of good fortune, opposite because he is being lead to his death
- Carnival- supposed to be a time of happiness, but it's a time of death
- Jester costume- suggests he will be a fool, that's exactly what Montersor makes him seem as
- Black mask and cloak- representing death, executioner

#### Coat of arms-

- Metaphor: serpent (snake)= Fortunado (bite the insult)
- "Nemo me impune lacessit"- no one can injure me with impunity (bad punishment)
- Chasing the cask- "casket" verbal irony- death
- Montresor- judge, jury and executioner, no law to be found in the story- makes narrator unreliable (bias)
- Happened 50 years ago, less reliable (1/2 century)

#### Metaphors-

- Two men descent into the catacomb is like their walking into the underworld (hell)
- Mason- (builder) Fortunado is referring to a group of well respected men, underground brotherhood (masonic order)

Theme- revenge