

Key Vocabulary

Acrid – having an irritatingly strong and unpleasant taste or smell

Benevolent – well-meaning & kind

Desolate – having no people, being empty and bleak

Disparity – a great difference between two things

Eerie – strange and frightening

Futile – producing no result or effect

Inexplicable – something that can't be explained

Malevolent – showing a desire to act cruelly towards someone, or do them harm

Monstrous – having an ugly or frightening appearance of a monster

Obliterated – utterly destroyed

Oppressive – unjustly inflicting hardship and constraint on others, especially minority groups

Salvation – being away from harm, ruin, or loss

Unleash – release or let loose

Weird – strange in a supernatural way

Descriptive Writing – Dystopian & Sci-Fi Genre

Success Criteria for Descriptive Writing

- ✓ Capital letters and full stops used accurately
- ✓ A range of sentence openers
- ✓ A range of sentence structures
- ✓ A range of sentence lengths
- ✓ A range of punctuation accurately
- ✓ Paragraphs used accurately and effectively
- ✓ Interesting and ambitious vocabulary (adjectives, verbs, adverbs)
- ✓ A clear structure – use of paragraphs and connectives
- ✓ Narrative hook to engage the reader instantly
- ✓ Story curve used to build tension etc
- ✓ Focus in on key details and describe in depth
- ✓ Create effective settings and characters
- ✓ **Show**, don't tell!

Descriptive Devices

Adjective – describing word

5 senses – hear, see, feel, taste, smell

Alliteration – repetition of same consonant sounds at the beginning of subsequent or adjacent words

Simile – comparing one thing to another using 'like' or 'as'

Metaphor – saying a thing IS something else

Personification – giving non-human things human characteristics

Pathetic fallacy – use of the weather to suggest a mood/atmosphere

Imagery – creating a picture in the reader's head using words

Foreshadowing – when a writer suggests something will happen later on

Zoomorphism – giving animal qualities/characteristics to things that aren't animals

Crafting Sentences:

Verb. Verb. Verb. Watching. Listening. Waiting.

Start with an adverb. Ominously, the fog swirled around her ankles...

Start with a simile. Like a herd of charging horses, the waves thundered towards the shore.

Use short sentences, repetition, and 5 senses. The building was very large. It was very old. It smelled of damp. It smelled of decay. It smelled of death.

Use imagery. The large sow lay, a row of pink piglets fringed around her bloated belly.



Include a subordinate clause. A sort of premonitory tremor, a fear of he was not certain what, had passed through Winston as soon as he caught his first glimpse of the cage.

Include dynamic verbs. Paul's right hand shot out and down, gripping the deadly thing. It hummed and twisted in his hand, but his muscles were locked on it in desperation. With a violent turn and thrust, he slammed the thing's nose against the metal doorplate.



Year 9 Gothic Literature Essential Knowledge Sheet



 <u>Spellings</u>	<u>Key Themes</u>	 <u>Gothic Conventions</u>
<p>Origins of Gothic</p> <p>The term 'Gothic' was first coined in 1764 by English author Horace Walpole in his novel, <i>The Castle of Otranto</i>, a Gothic Story'. The novel was set in a haunted castle where the protagonist is plagued by supernatural occurrences.</p> <p>Walpole used the word 'Gothic' because it refers to medieval buildings like castles and churches, where a lot of Gothic fiction is set.</p> <p>Gothic Literature became immensely popular in England and Germany during the 18th and 19th century, with many other genres borrowing its conventions.</p> <p>Gothic fiction is all about creating terror in the reader and using fear to create suspense.</p>	<p><u>Stylistic Methods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pathetic Fallacy– weather reflects the tone/mood of the scene. • Adjective – Describes a noun. • Antagonist – The villain of t • Dramatic Monologue – A type of poem meant to be read out by a single speaker. • Epistolary Novel - a story told in a series of letters. • Motif – A dominant or recurring idea • Cryptid – A creature whose existence is disputed due to insubstantial evidence. • Abstract Noun – An idea or state rather than a solid object. • Interrogative sentence - sentence which asks a question. • Olfactory Imagery – Imagery to describe a smell. 	<p><u>Key Quotations</u></p> <p><i>The Woman in Black</i>: "The house felt like a ship at sea, battered by the gale that came roaring across the open marsh."</p> <p><i>The Raven</i>: "Take thy beak from out my heart, and take thy form from off my door!" Quoth the Raven, "Nevermore!"</p> <p><i>The Tell-Tale Heart</i>: "I heard many things in hell. How then am I mad?"</p> <p><i>Frankenstein</i>: "It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils"</p> <p><i>Dracula</i>: "The mouth, so far as I could see it under the heavy moustache, was fixed and rather cruel-looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth."</p>

Key Vocabulary

Abandoned – having been deserted or cast off

Alchemy – medieval forerunner of chemistry, relates to sorcery & witchcraft

Deathly – resembling or suggestive of death

Galvanism – electricity produced by a chemical action

Malevolent – having or showing a wish to do evil to others

Monstrous – having the ugly or frightening appearance of a monster

Mysterious – puzzling or strange thing or event

Nightmare – bad dream

Ominous – giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is about to happen

Supernatural – a manifestation or event attributed to some force beyond scientific understanding. Relates to ghostly events or apparitions

Suspense – a state or feeling excited or anxious uncertainty about what may happen

Vampirism – the action or practices of a vampire

Descriptive Writing – Gothic Genre

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Use short sentences, repetition, and 5 senses. *The building was very large. It was very old. It smelled of damp. It smelled of decay. It smelled of death.*

Use imagery. *With a careless motion, she flung to the ground, callous as a devil, the child that up to now she had clutched strenuously to her breast, growling over it as a dog growls over a bone.*

Include a subordinate clause. She was at the far end of the plot, *close to one of the few upright headstones*, and she wore the same clothing and bonnet.

Include dynamic verbs. Felix *darted* forward, and with supernatural force *tore* me from his father, to whose knees I *clung*, in a transport of fury, he *dashed* me to the ground and *struck* me violently with a stick. I could have *torn* him limb from limb, as the lion *rends* the antelope.