



An incredible review of  
*Harry Potter*  
Can Harry Potter be  
described as gothic?



A wonderful debate of  
*Twilight*  
Is Twilight a piece of  
Gothicism?

# GOTHX

The most frightening magazine  
you will ever read. Mixing fantasy  
and fear, you will no longer be able  
to get out.



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*After reading this article you'll become a master of gothic style.*



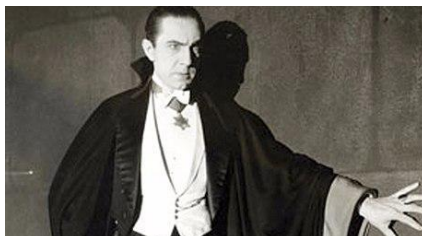
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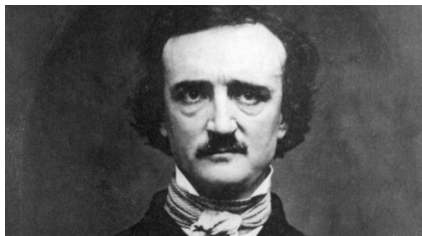
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## Information:

### *This is the gothic newspaper:*

#### *Horror?*

No it isn't. Some students wrote articles just for you to discover the gothic style.

#### *What can I find here?*

A lot of gothic elements such as some famous wizards and monsters, film reviews...

#### *Is it scary?*

The interest of this newspaper is not to be scary, but just to discover and explain the style.

## THE GOTHIC TERM

The term Gothic is a style of writing that is characterized by elements of fears , horror , death , dark as well as romantic elements. The gothic can include fear and suspense , generally the reader wants to know more about the rest of the story, the narrator knows how to make them curious.

## FIRST GOTHIC STORY

The first gothic story was published in the mid of 1770s with a story entitled *The Castle of Otranto* (in 1764), by Horace Walpole.

The story talks about a doomed family and is filled with death , desire and intrigue. This story is considered to be the first gothic fiction because we can find many of the characteristics of the genre.

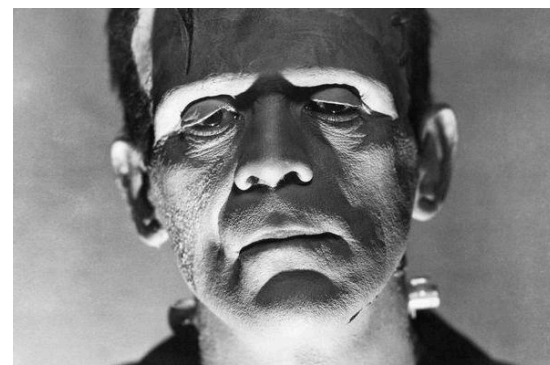


## GOTHIC ELEMENTS

- The gothic is famous for its settings : haunted houses, castles with secret passages, trapdoors and other mysterious architecture.

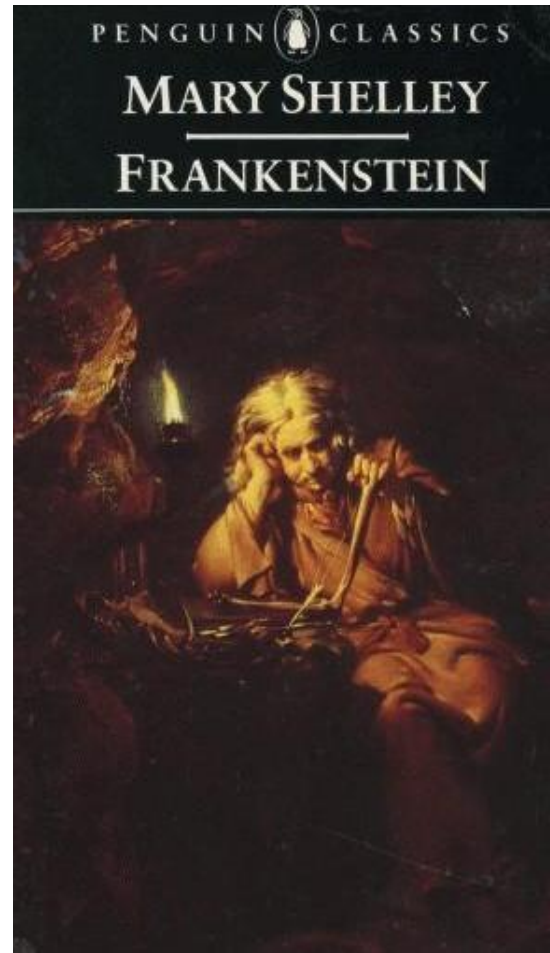
- Gothic stories can include monsters such as Frankenstein or Dracula , the term has a supernatural touch.

- The atmosphere is generally dark , the landscapes, characters and feelings set the tone.



*Frankenstein's monster as Boris Karloff.*





Mary SHELLEY

# Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus

It was on a dreary night of November that I beheld the accomplishment of my toils. With an anxiety that almost amounted to agony, I collected the instruments of life around me, that I might infuse a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one in the morning ; the rain pattered dismally against the panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open ; it breathed hard, and a convulsive motion agitated its limbs.

How can I describe my emotions at this catastrophe, or how delineate the wretch whom with such infinite pains and care I had endeavoured to form ? His limbs were in proportion, and I had selected his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin scarcely covered the work of muscles and arteries beneath ; his hair was of a lustrous black, and flowing ; his teeth of a pearly whiteness ; but these luxuriances only formed a more horrid contrast with his watery eyes, that seemed almost of the same colour as the dun-white sockets in which they were set, his shrivelled complexion and straight black lips.

The different accidents of life are not so changeable as the feelings of human nature. I had worked hard for nearly two years, for the sole purpose of infusing life into an inanimate body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it with an ardour that far exceeded moderation ; but now that I had finished, the beauty of the dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart.



# Mary Shelley **Frankenstein**

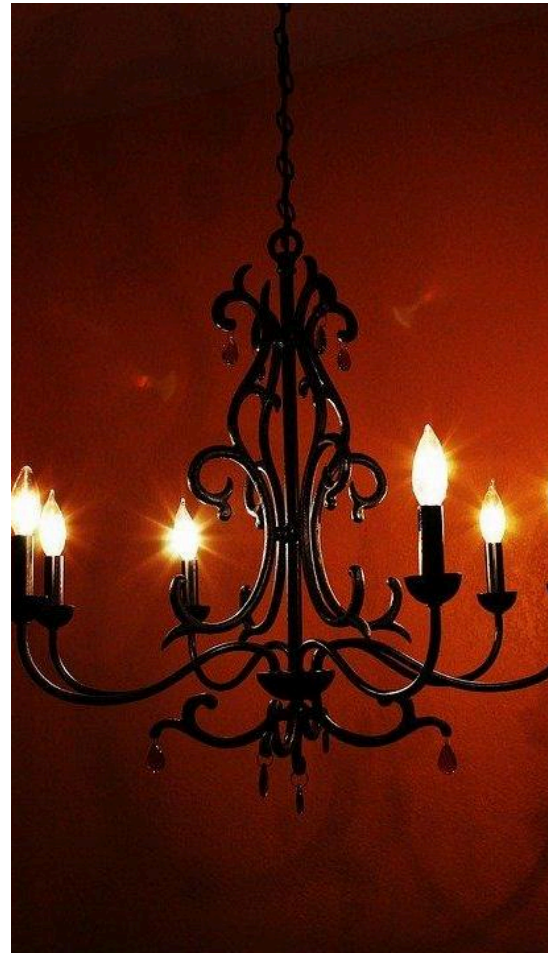
This is the story of a creature, but instead of seeing him from Dr. Victor Frankenstein's point of view, you will be in the monster's skin.

I couldn't feel anything, it was cold, really cold. I couldn't see anything or hear anyone. I tried moving but my legs and arms didn't obey me, they felt rotten. I couldn't remember my name, my age or my family... Did I have one? I said to my self. But then, I felt my heavy body starting to move, it felt painful and the pain lasted for several minutes

My body went up, very high ! I was aware of the danger but unable to move. Finally I felt like a huge shockwave traversing my entire body. I started breathing and could move my finger tips. After a few minutes I was able to open my eyes, so much that it burned my eyes. I then saw a man in a white dress, he seemed very joyful and yelled *"You are alive ! Alive !"*

**Dracula is a 1897 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker. It introduced the character of Count Dracula, and established many conventions of subsequent vampire fantasy.**

*The tale begins with Jonathan Harker, a newly qualified English solicitor, visiting Count Dracula at his castle in Transylvania, to provide legal support for a real estate transaction overseen by Harker's employer. At first enticed by Dracula's gracious manners, Harker soon realizes that he is Dracula's prisoner.*



I only slept a few hours when I went to bed, and feeling that I could not sleep any more, got up. I had hung my shaving glass by the window, and was just beginning to shave. Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder, and heard the Count's voice saying to me, « Good morning ». I started for it amazed me that I had not seen him, since the reflection of the glass covered the whole room behind me. In starting I had cut myself slightly, but I did not notice it at the moment. Having answered the Count's salutation, I turned to the glass again to see how I had been mistaken.

This time there could be no error, for the man was close to me, and I could see him over my shoulder. But there was no reflection of him in the mirror ! The whole room behind me was displayed, but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself. This was startling, and coming on the top of so many strange things, was beginning to increase that vague feeling of uneasiness which I always have been the count is near. But at the instant I saw that the cut had bled a little, and the blood was trickling over my chin.

I laid down the razor, turning as I did so half round to look for some sticking plaster. When the count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demonic fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat. I drew away and his hand touched the strings of beads which held the crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for the fury passes so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was there. « Take care » he said, « take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous than you think in this country ».



### Count Dracula's Diary

The text below is an adaptation of *Dracula*, which is an epistolary novel written by the British writer Bram Stoker, published in 1897. By reversing the points of view, this rewriting is thus Count Dracula's diary instead of Jonathan Harker's.

*Jonathan Harker, a young English solicitor, travels to Transylvania to conclude a business contract with a nobleman called Count Dracula. His arrival is announced to the Count who decides to ensure the decency of his host by meeting him in the guest room.*



8 May

It was early in the morning when I sneaked into my guest's restroom, and started staring at his reflection in the mirror. Jonathan Harker, that is. The way his face, that had not recovered from his apparent sleep debts, looked peaceful while shaving, sent shivers down my spine. For I could not leave without gazing nearer at his vivid flesh. Thus I put my hand on his shoulder,

then told him : "Good morning". His gleamy eyes grew up in a startled way, as if frightened by my apparition that he could not have foresighted since I don't have a reflection in mirrors. Dread, no doubt that his sight was fulfilled with dread. The dreadful glance of a prey which is going to be caught by its hunter. At his reply I could not offer my attention, for the blood

coming from the scar he made himself on the neck—he should be more cautious using that blade— attracted my all-being, and also my hand that i slipped, no, let free to grab his throat. From there I decided to give him some advice : "Take care, take care how you cut yourself. It is more dangerous than you think in this country". And that was my cue to leave.

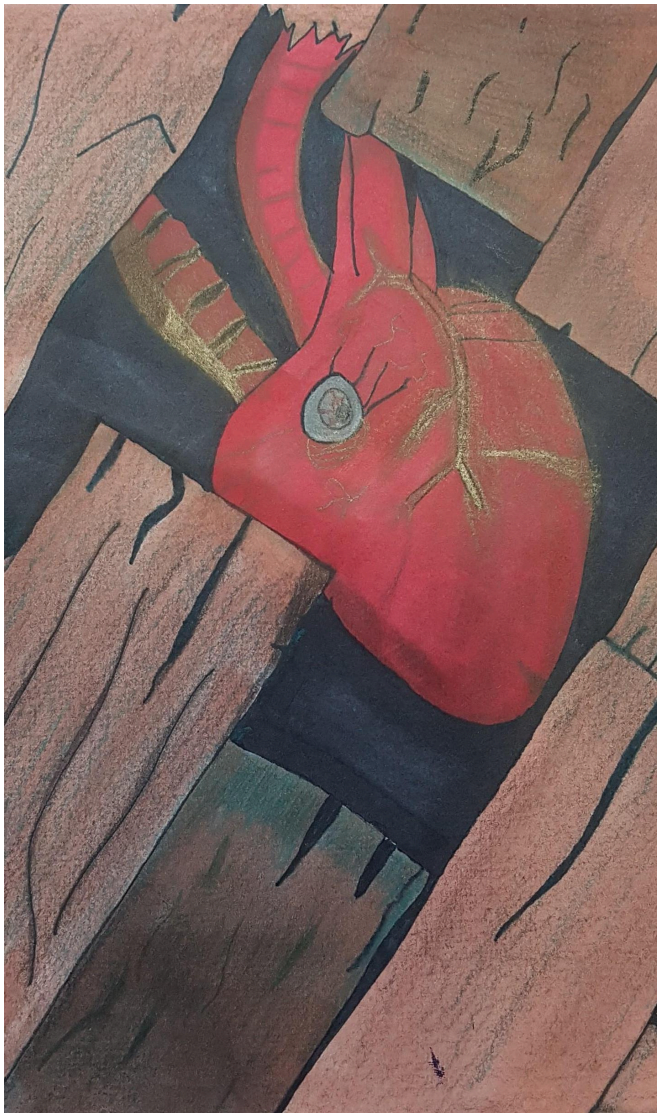
## Tell Tale Heart analysis.

We think that "The Tell-Tale Heart" fits very well in the gothic style.

Why ? Because, most Poe narrators are first person narrators. This doesn't necessarily mean they don't show up when they say they will, but rather that they either can't or won't tell us what really happened.

The narrator violates the bedroom etiquette, by spying on the old man who is sleeping. The narrator uses the bed as "a" weapon to get rid of "the" man. It's pretty creepy ugh ! The narrator kills the old man with his own bed and then cuts up the body and hides it under the bedroom floor.

The police arrive. The narrator, driven mad by the idea that they are mocking his agony, starts to hear a heart beating noise which gets louder and louder, the narrator cannot stand it anymore and confesses his crime.



## Personal opinion of the Tell Tale Heart.

This story might not seem sad at the beginning because we might not take seriously what the narrator is saying, so it can be seen as a joke.

In our opinion, the Tell Tale Heart is a very interesting story, we can find sadness and nervousness in every line we read.

Our first impression of the narrator is that he is crazy and out of control.

We also wondered many times what would have happened if the narrator had never confessed his crime ?

We recommend The Tell Tale Heart to the people who like thrillers with suspense !

by Nassera LAMNOUAR and Malo DAUMAIL  
drawings by Malo DAUMAIL and Anaïs HECKETSWEILER



# The tell-tale heart





## Representing an extract from "The Fall Of The House Of Usher" with a painting

In class, we studied six extracts from a short story by Edgar Allan Poe entitled *The Fall of the House of Usher*. An unnamed narrator is invited to stay in the house of a childhood friend he barely knows. The latter called Roderick Usher, lives in a decayed house with his twin sister Madeline. They are both affected by a peculiar illness.

Edvard Munch painted it after the death of his favorite sister. She died from a disease, like Roderick's sister lady Madeline. This painting had 13 different versions, I chose this one, because Edward Munch wanted to show us his pain and his mental state by using dark shades of paint which can also refers to Roderick's state of mind in the extract. Furthermore Roderick is also having a mental illness like Edward after the death of his beloved sister. He admitted having anxiety troubles and depression, but he used it as a weapon to make his masterpieces. In the same way, Roderick also uses his mental state to create his own conceptions. This is a proper ending for a painting that has made us delve into the mind of an intriguing artist, in his portrayals of anxiety, fear, and loneliness.

Therefore the "Love and Pain" painting is also called "Vampire". Why? Because of two different points of view. The first one is



that the painter represented himself as a man with a pale face looking like he is crying over his sister, we can add that how Edward is represented kinda looks like Roderick's description in extract two. The second point of view is that we can think that the lady is sinking her teeth into the man's neck like a vampire.

*"Love and Pain" (also called "Vampire") by Edvard Munch*

# Original text

The disease of the lady Madeline had long baffled the skill of her physicians. A settled apathy, a gradual wasting away of the person, and frequent although transient affections of a partially cataleptical character were the unusual diagnosis. Hitherto she had steadily borne up against the pressure of her malady, and had not betaken herself finally to bed; but on the closing in of the evening of my arrival at the house, she succumbed (as her brother told me at night with inexpressible agitation) to the prostrating power of the destroyer; and I learned that the glimpse I had obtained of her person would thus probably be the last I should obtain—that the lady, at least while living, would be seen by me no more. For several days ensuing, her name was unmentioned by either Usher or myself; and during this period I was busied in earnest endeavors to alleviate the melancholy of my friend. We painted and read together, or I listened, as if in a dream, to the wild improvisations of his speaking guitar. And thus, as a closer and still closer intimacy admitted me more unreservedly into the recesses of his spirit, the more bitterly did I perceive the futility of all attempt at cheering a mind from which darkness, as if an inherent positive quality, poured forth upon all objects of the moral and physical universe in one unceasing radiation of gloom.

I shall ever bear about me a memory of the many solemn hours I thus spent alone with the master of the House of Usher. Yet I should fail in any attempt to convey an idea of the exact character of the studies, or of the occupations, in which he involved me, or led me the way. An excited and highly distempered ideality threw a sulphureous lustre over all. His long improvised dirges will ring forever in my ears. Among other things, I hold painfully in mind a certain singular perversion and amplification of the



wild air of the last waltz of Von Weber. From the paintings over which his elaborate fancy brooded, and which grew, touch by touch, into vagueness at which I shuddered the more thrillingly, because I shuddered knowing not why—from these paintings (vivid as their images now are before me) I would in vain endeavor to educe more than a small portion which should lie within the compass of merely written words. By the utter simplicity, by the nakedness of his designs, he arrested and overawed attention. If ever mortal painted an idea, that mortal was Roderick Usher. For me at least, in the circumstances then surrounding me, there arose out of the pure abstractions which the hypochondriac contrived to throw upon his canvas, an intensity of intolerable awe, no shadow of which felt I ever yet in the contemplation of the certainly glowing yet too concrete reveries of Fuseli.

One of the phantasmagoric conceptions of my friend, partaking not so rigidly of the spirit of abstraction, may be shadowed forth, although feebly, in words. A small picture presented the interior of an immensely long and rectangular vault or tunnel, with low walls, smooth, white, and without interruption or device. Certain accessory points of the design served well to convey the idea that this excavation lay at an

exceeding depth below the surface of the earth. No outlet was observed in any portion of its vast extent, and no torch or other artificial source of light was discernible; yet a flood of intense rays rolled throughout, and bathed the whole in a ghastly and inappropriate splendor.

I have just spoken of that morbid condition of the auditory nerve which rendered all music intolerable to the sufferer, with the exception of certain effects of stringed instruments. It was, perhaps, the narrow limits to which he thus confined himself upon the guitar which gave birth, in great measure, to the fantastic character of his performances. But the fervid facility of his impromptus could not be so accounted for. They must have been, and were, in the notes, as well as in the words of his wild fantasias (for he not unfrequently accompanied himself with rhymed verbal improvisations), the result of that intense mental collectedness and concentration to which I have previously alluded as observable only in particular moments of the highest artificial excitement.



# Book Review



*BOOK REVIEW: ALLAN POE*

## THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF USHER

Finding what makes a work of literature a "masterpiece" is tricky because everyone has a different opinion. However, some of the reasons Poe's story "The Fall of the House of Usher" is considered an effective short story is because of the way Poe creates suspense, and the techniques Poe uses to ensure that all of the story makes sense. Poe is a master at setting a mood, and as many of his stories are Gothic, that mood tends to be threatening, gloomy or spooky. "The Fall of the House of Usher" is a great example of that, and Poe begins building that mood from the start.

In the beginning of the story the scene is worrying. The day itself is "Dark" with "clouds oppressively low." This environment then presses down upon the narrator himself as he feels "a sense of insufferable gloom" as he views the house. This is only the beginning, so Poe will continue to build onto this creepy feeling as the narrator enters the house. We are learning along the way the house seems more like a character because of the physical discription and the disturbing noises.

The story works well as a Gothic tale because of the mood and the suspense. The story works as a short story because it is so well constructed, and everything gives to the overall effect. It is also very entertaining to read, and we keep coming back to it over a century after its publication for all of these reasons.

Harry Potter, known to be this huge saga of eight books written by J.K. Rowling with the recent "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" and eight movies, tells the story of an orphan boy, Harry, who discovered that there is a magic world that is going to change his life forever.

Today we are going to ask ourselves if this masterpiece can be described as "gothic". To be more specific, we decided to pick the movie "Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban". Anyway, the word "gothic" is attached to darkness, creatures, a gloomy atmosphere, night, fear and many other things. In fact, a long part of the movie happens at night, with sometimes fog and the full moon, huge features of Gothicism. To complete this dreadful atmosphere, a lot of scenes are set in the forest. This place is big, it looks similar everywhere you go, you can easily lose yourself. It's the perfect place to feel afraid and insecure, so at night it's even worse. Speaking of the night, at the beginning of the movie Harry is alone in the street at night when a swing and a turnstile start to move. This is very famous in the horror movies, so that works for the Gothicism too. To continue with this atmosphere comparable to a land of unicorns, the train arrives at Hogwarts, in other words "a big black castle surrounded by trees that might accidentally kill you". The castle is a place much used in gothic works, for example, the castle of Dracula in Transylvania.

But the creatures are also a representation of Gothicism. The third movie of the saga has got a lot of those. We have the dementors, this sort of "ghost" who can absorb your soul with their terrible "kiss".

They are the guardians of the most horrible prison for troubled magicians, Azkaban. This kind of invented characters very dark and scary are typical of this genre. The more "basic" creatures as werewolves, black dogs and crows present in the film get into the genre too for the same reasons.

Gothic also suggests creepy human characters. Voldemort, the most evil person of all times, could even scare Dracula. For the other characters we have: the "Death Eaters" who are the supporters of Voldemort, professor Snape, the weird teacher with smooth black hair and an executioner. But the principal new character was Sirius Black (his own name is a mark of Gothicism), supposed to be a murderer. His status of killer is gothic because a killer is supposed to be scary and surrounded by the darkness but he's actually just the godfather of Harry and not a killer at all.

Those elements can obviously confirm that "Harry Potter and the prisoner of Azkaban" is a gothic work that also keeps a magical and dreamy side.

***We've all got both light and dark inside us. What matters is the part we choose to act on. That's who we really are.***

***-J.K Rowling***



*The official poster of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"*

**"Shot in spooky gradations of silver and shadow, The Prisoner of Azkaban is the first movie in the series with fear and wonder in its bones, and genuine fun, too."**

**-Entertainment**

### A psychological frightening movie

**The Others** is a movie from the Spanish Alejandro Amenábar, produced by Fernando Bovaira, José Luis Cuerda and Sunmin Park as well as the companies "Las Producciones del Escorpion, SL" and "Sociedad General De Cine, S.A" and released in 2001.

# *The Others*, an outstanding gothic movie !



This is a fantastic and gothic film set in Jersey in 1945. While her husband went to war, Grace raises two children Nicolas and Anne alone. They live in a large house in the middle of a park. Nicolas and Anne are allergic to light and must live in the darkness that can only bear the glow of candles.

Three people show up for servant jobs. Grace hires them because the previous domestics left suddenly and for no apparent reason. Everything takes place in this huge, gloomy house.

The Others won a lot of prizes like the Best Actress for Nicole Kidman in the Goya Awards, the London Film Critics and the Online Film Critics or the Best Director and the Best Original Screenplay for Alejandro Amenábar in the Goya Awards.

To my mind, The Others is a very good film, it needs not a lot to be frightened and people can easily get in. The acting is really good, and Nicole Kidman helps us really to be immersed in the film. The character of the actress is confronted to a lot of supernatural things, but she always tries to be rational.

That's creating an uncomfortable atmosphere which is making us more and more anxious. During the whole film, I was stressed, and every single noise was a choc. The plot is very well handled, the tension becomes brighter and brighter. It never becomes boring.

I recommend this film to everybody who wants to be frightened. If you watch it with a group who is very receptive to fantastic and horror films, it will be more frightened still.



# Debate

## The Twilight Saga : Gothic Story or not?



*Twilight, Chapter 1: Twilight*



*Twilight, Chapter 2: New Moon*



*Twilight, Chapter 4: Breaking Dawn, part 2*

### CONCLUSION

Finally, we cannot say that Twilight is a Gothic story or not. You have to make your own opinion about these masterpieces. So, you can react with this hashtag on Twitter :  
#TheLoveStoryOfAPaleVampireWhoFallsInLoveWithASuicidalGirl

On the one hand Twilight, is Gothic by its atmosphere because there is a dark effect on the first film which introduces us to a grim story. It's raining all the time and it looks cold. The characters don't inspire the joy of life, they look like sad and not very expressive, especially Bella who is always about to commit suicide. But let's not forget, that is a vampires story with werewolves. Vampires are bleak, because they bite people for blood, they are allergic in the sun, and Werewolves are hybrid strong creatures.

On the other hand, Twilight is not a Gothic story! There is a love story. This is the main plot of Twilight : a love story between an adolescent girl named Bella, and a handsome vampire named Edward. That's too beautiful, and in addition, SPOILER ALERT, they end up together for eternity and have a baby (it's an happy end like in a Disney movie). Moreover, this is not a scary story. There are many fights, action, but not that scary and that's not the aim. Indeed, there's no age restriction on the movies, so a child can watch it.

# The Haunted House: a popular attraction

Haunted Houses are very different in the world. Haunted Houses are not forced to be a House they can be other buildings like a landscape or a Manor. The aim of the Haunted Houses is to make fun for the people and to make them afraid. There is a lot of different way to frighten people.

Haunted Houses are scary because of the decor and the atmosphere, we can find some ghosts, evil spirits, zombies, vampires,... In amusement parks the actors who are dressed up in monsters are hidden and when the public comes next to him they go out of their hiding place and scream to make the people affraid.



## Description

In ghostlore, a haunted house or ghost house is a house or other building often perceived as being inhabited by disembodied spirits of the deceased who may have been former residents or were familiar with the property. Today haunted houses are very popular in amusement parks. People want to have fun and have scary sensations with adrenaline. In every big amusement park there is a Haunted House, there are also amusement parks dedicated to Haunted Houses with a lot of spooky buildings and attractions.

## An idea of a scary Haunted House

To begin the public arrives in a gloomy room, a red balloon appears and the clown Pennywise comes and follows the public and screams. While they are running, they fall into a trapdoor and arrive in an other room. The room is totally black and Annabelle the evil doll appears behind the public, affraid, they run in the next door. When the public opens the door, they fall in a big gap and land on a mattress. Now they are in the abbey of the nun. They walk in the corridor,

they hear a voice behind them who says : *"Please, help me"*. The public sees the nun in the corridors but she arrives on the right, screams and pushes the public on a wall and the wall turns to the last room. There is a television in the middle of the dark room. There is a tape near the television, on which is written: *Watch me !* The public must put the tape in the TV. A video begins and a scary woman gets out of the TV and crawls after the public. The public runs and gets out of the attraction.



*The Nun (Horror movie, 2018)*