



English III

American Literature

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Gothic Overview

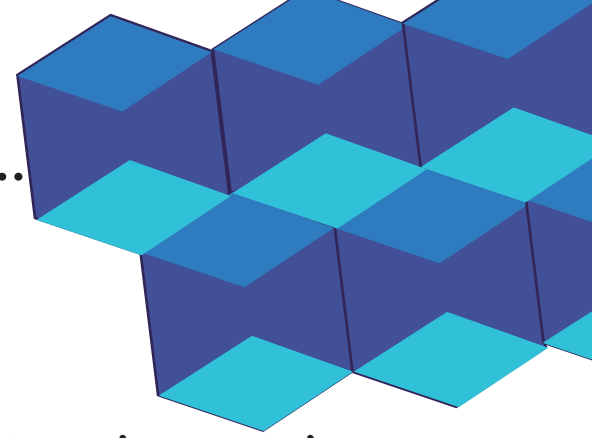
Gothic themes include sub-genres:

- Gothic Romance
- Gothic Horror
- Gothic Horror Romance
- American Gothic genre
- American Southern Gothic
- Female Gothic
- Modern Gothic



For all of these categories, certain requirements must be met:

- melodramatic tones
- sense of heightened drama
- psychological extremes
- use of extreme dominant/submissive personalities
- situations of murder, violence, physical confrontations



Gothic Overview

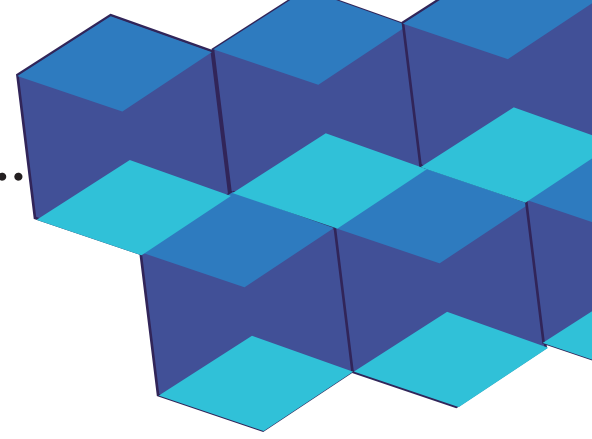
Gothic Landscapes

Gothic settings are crucial to the development of:

- mood of story
- atmosphere, tone, and plot-lines
- characterizations of key figures
- the protagonist's desires
- the protagonist's psychological condition

This multi-functional image even symbolizes the inevitable decay of:

- society as a whole or of a community's traditions and values
- society's infrastructures and historical progressions



Gothic Overview

Typical Gothic Characters

arch villains, tyrants, bandits, pirates, mercenaries

rapists, murderers

maniacs, madwomen, madmen

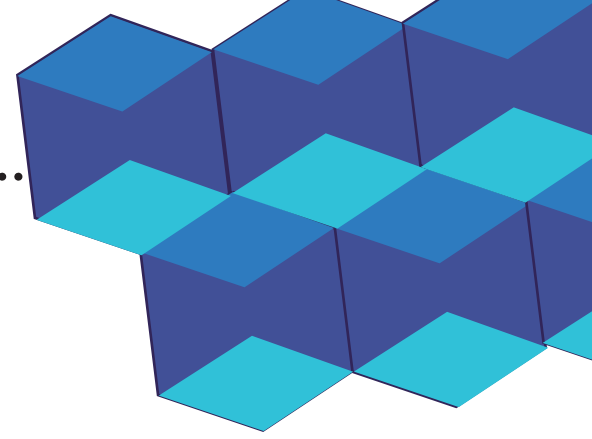
magicians, sorcerers, witches, warlocks

vampires, werewolves, banshees, mummies

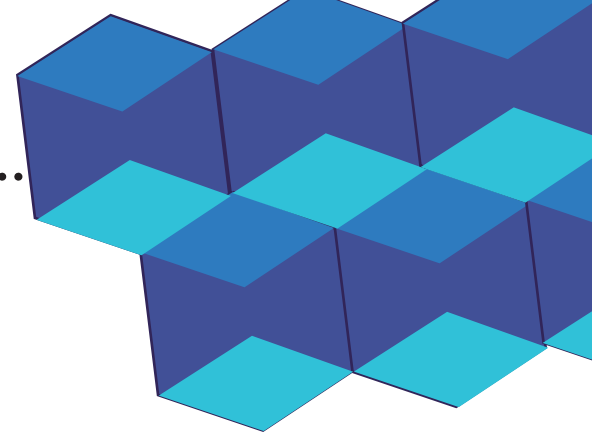
monsters, demons, ghosts

persecuted maidens

moody, obsessive heros with family curses, family secrets



Gothic Overview



Gothic Romance

happy closure



Gothic Horror

tragic closure

Gothic Overview

