



Gothic Landscapes

Landscapes of the mind?

Conventions of gothic horror:

- Supernatural/ the unknown
- Death
- Decay/gloom
- Haunted homes/mansions/castles
- Family curses/betrayal/mystery
- Madness
- Ghosts/vampires/werewolves/the tormented/demons/devils/ monsters
- Romance/seduction/lust
- Fear/horror/nightmare
- Good/evil/light/dark






Nosferatu


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‘These haunted landscapes are the canvases on which a Gothic story plays out; but they are also places that themselves seem possessed of the very terrors that lie at the heart of the age.’

(Gothic The Dark Heart of Film)

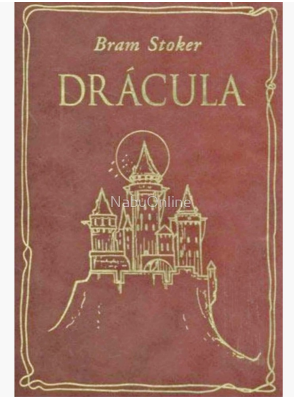
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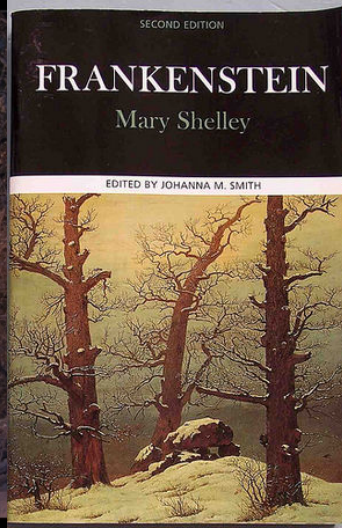












Brief look at Frankenstein

- Gothic was a rejection against 18th century enlightenment view of the world as possible to be organized and defined by reason/logic.

- Landscapes/settings assume meanings and reflect or reveal the dark elements of deep psychological processes, cultural understandings, social attitudes, fears, desires that haunt humanity etc.

How these landscapes have changed?

American cultural often shifts the traditional European idea of gothic castles, mansions, abbeys, crypts and projects these onto the wilderness.



(In the Tall Grass 2019)



(Sleepy Hollow 1999)



(The Blair Witch Project 1999)





Haunted houses





Moors/ wilderness





Crypts/Abbeys

What landscape of the mind do we exist in today?

- Postmodern society- In Western philosophy, a late 20th century movement characterized by broad **skepticism**, **subjectivity,** or **relativism**; a general suspicion of reason; and an acute sensitivity to the role of **ideology** in asserting and maintaining political and economic power.

- Postmodern gothic highlights fears of the lost of self, commercialism, terrorism and technology

Research Task

Harker - **“unless my senses deceive me, the old centuries had, and have, powers of their own which mere ‘modernity’ cannot kill”** *Dracula by Bram Stoker 1897*

- What would postmodern gothic look like?
- What anxieties, change in social attitudes, ideologies, fears or desires haunt humanity currently?
- Research areas – *‘post truth age’, ‘nihilism’, ‘hedonism’. Write paragraph on each.*
- Based on your own understanding and opinions of current culture what settings would be an interesting reinvention of gothic conventions? Create a mood board

