Gothic

1. Adjective _____
2. Noun - Plural _____
3. Noun _____
4. Verb - 3Rd Person Singular Present _____
5. Verb - Present Tense _____
6. Preposition Or Subordinating Conjunction _____
7. Noun _____
8. Noun _____
9. Verb - Non 3Rd Person Singular Present _____
10. Noun _____
11. Adjective _____
12. Adjective _____
13. Adjective _____
14. Noun _____
15. Adjective _____
16. Adjective _____
17. Noun _____
18. Adjective _____
19. Noun _____
20. Noun _____

Gothic

Gothic elements include the following:

1. Setting in a castle. The action takes place in and around an old castle, sometimes seemingly abandoned, sometimes occupied. The castle often contains secret passages, trap doors, secret rooms,trick panels with hidden levers, dark or hidden staircases, and possibly ruined sections.

The castle may be near or connected to caves, which lend their own haunting flavor with their darkness, uneven floors, branchings, claustrophobia, and mystery. And in horror-gothic, caves are often seem home to terrifying creatures such as monsters, or _____Adjective_____ forms of humans: vampires, zombies, wolfmen.

Translated into the modern novel or filmmaking, the setting might be in an old house or mansion--or even a new house--where _____Noun - Plural_____ camera angles, sustained close ups during movement, and darkness or shadows create the same sense of _____Noun_____ and entrapment. The house might be already dark, perhaps because it was abandoned, or it might at first seem light and airy, but either night comes and people turn off the lights to go to bed, or at some dramatic point the lights will fail (often because of a raging storm).

The goal of the dark and _____Verb - 3rd Person Singular Present_____ setting is to create a sense of unease and _____Verb - Present Tense_____, contributing toward the _____Preposition or subordinating conjunction_____ element of fear and dread
.

_____Noun_____ also allows those sudden and frightening appearance of people, animals, or monsters.

2. An atmosphere of mystery and ____Noun____.The work is pervaded by a threatening feeling, a fear enhanced by the unknown. This atmosphere is sometimes advanced when characters see only a glimpse of something--was that a person rushing out the window or only the wind blowing a curtain? Is that creaking sound coming from someone's step on the squeaky floor, or only the normal sounds of the night? Often the plot itself is built around a mystery, such as unknown parentage, a disappearance, or some other inexplicable event. People disappear or show up dead inexplicably. Elements 3, 4, and 5 below contribute to this atmosphere.

In modern novels and filmmaking, the ____Verb - Non 3rd Person Singular Present____ events are often murders. The bodies are sometimes mutilated in ways that defy explanation--"What kind of monster could do this?" or "Here's the body, but there's no blood." When the corpses start to mount, suspense is raised as to who will get killed next. (In filmmaking, the atmosphere can be created largely by the music. Anyone who has watched a horror movie with the sound off or very low knows this.)

3. An ancient prophecy is connected with the castle or its inhabitants (either former or present). The prophecy is usually obscure, partial, or confusing. "What could it mean?" In more watered down modern examples, this may amount to merely a legend: "It's said that the ghost of old man Krebs still wanders these halls."

4. Omens, portents, visions. A character may have a disturbing dream vision, or some ____Noun____ may be seen as a portent of coming events. For example, if the statue of the lord of the manor falls over, it may portend his

death. In modern fiction, a character might see something (a shadowy figure stabbing another shadowy figure) and think that it was a dream. This might be thought of as an "imitation vision." Sometimes an omen will be used for foreshadowing, while other writers will tweak the reader by denying expectation--what we thought was foreshadowinig wasn't.

5. Supernatural or otherwise inexplicable events. Dramatic, amazing events occur, such as ghosts or giants walking, or _____Adjective_____ objects (such as a suit of armor or painting) coming to life. In some works, the events are ultimately given a natural explanation, while in others the events are truly supernatural. As you might imagine, Hollywood uses special effects to a large degree to provide fire, earthquakes, moving statues, and so forth, often blurring the line between human-produced, natural, and supernatural events.

6. High, even _____Adjective_____ emotion. The narration may be highly sentimental, and the characters are often overcome by anger, sorrow, surprise, and especially, terror. Characters suffer from raw nerves and a feeling of _____Adjective_____ doom. Crying and emotional speeches are frequent. Breathlessness and panic are common. In the filmed gothic, screaming is common.

7. Women in distress. As an appeal to the _____Noun_____ and sympathy of the reader, the female characters often face events that leave them fainting, terrified, screaming, and/or sobbing. A lonely, _____Adjective_____, and oppressed heroine is often the central figure of the novel, so her sufferings are even more pronounced and the focus of attention. The women suffer all the more because they are often abandoned, left alone (either on purpose or by accident), and have no protector at times. (In horror-gothic films, when the guy tells the girl, "Stay here;

I'll be right back," you pretty much know that one of them will soon be dead.)

8. Women threatened by a powerful, impulsive, tyrannical male. One or more male characters has the power, as king, lord of the manor, father, or guardian, to demand that one or more of the female characters do something intolerable. The woman may be commanded to marry someone she does not love (it may even be the powerful male himself), or commit a crime. In modern gothic novels and films, there is frequently the threat of physical violation.

9. The metonymy of gloom and horror. Metonymy is a subtype of metaphor, in which something (like rain) is used to stand for something else (like sorrow). For example, the film industry likes to use metonymy as a quick shorthand, so we often notice that it is raining in funeral scenes. (This explains why they never oil the hinges on the doors in gothic novels.) Note that the following metonymies for "doom and gloom" all suggest some element of mystery, danger, or the supernatural.

10. The vocabulary of the gothic. The constant use of the appropriate vocabulary set creates an sustains the atmosphere of the gothic. Using the right words maintains the dark-and-stimulated feel that defines the gothic. Here as an example are some of the words (in several categories) that help make up the vocabulary of the gothic in The Castle of Otranto

Mystery

diabolical, enchantment, ghost, goblins, haunted, infernal, magic, magician, miracle, necromancer, omens, ominous, portent, preternatural, prodigy, prophecy, secret, sorcerer, spectre, spirits, strangeness, talisman, vision

Fear, Terror, or Sorrow

afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive, commiseration, concern, despair, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow, sympathy, tears, terrible, terrified, terror, unhappy, wretched

Surprise

alarm, amazement, astonished, astonishment, shocking, staring, surprise, surprised, thunderstruck, wonder

Haste

anxious, breathless, flight, frantic, hastened, hastily, impatience, impatient, impatiently, impetuosity, precipitately, running, sudden, suddenly

Anger

anger, angrily, choler, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully

Largeness

enormous, gigantic, giant, large, tremendous, vast

Darkness

dark,

darkness, dismal, shaded, black, night

Elements of Romance

In addition to the standard gothic machinery above, many gothic novels contain elements of romance as well.

Elements of romance include these:

1. _____Adjective_____ love. Heart stirring, often sudden, emotions create a life or death commitment. Many times

this love is the first the character has felt with this overwhelming power.

2. Uncertainty of _____Noun_____. What is the beloved thinking? Is the lover's love returned or not?

3. _____Adjective_____ love. Someone loves in vain (at least temporarily). Later, the love may be returned.

4. _____Noun_____ between true love and father's control, disapproval, or choice. Most often, the father of the

woman disapproves of the man she loves.

5. Lovers parted. Some _____Noun_____ arises and separates the lovers, geographically or in some other way.