

Year 7 – Woman in Black – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- This horror novel written in the style of a Gothic novel which concerns a mysterious spectre which haunts a fictional English town. Students study Hill's creative craft and take inspiration from the writer for their own writing whilst learning features of traditional Gothic.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Ominous
- Macabre
- Grotesque
- Virulent
- Pallid
- Tempest
- Morose

Key terminology taught:

- Gothic
- Connotation
- Pathetic fallacy
- Foreshadowing
- Sensory imagery
- Onomatopoeia
- Tension
- ATEASE paragraphing
- 5 Ws
- Writer's hook

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- One way to improve creative writing is through vocabulary. Make a list of other, more sophisticated words (synonyms) which you could use instead of the following:
 - Ghost
 - Dark
 - Spooky
 - Dangerous
- Practice using some of the key techniques (look at the key terminology list to the left). You can find examples of these on the MEGA MAP which we use in lessons.
- The vocabulary in this novel is quite challenging - encourage your child to write down some of the words they do not know and look them up.
- You could watch the film version or the play version (which is the second longest running play after The Mouse Trap) to better your child's understanding of the plot.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- How do writers create tension and are there different ways to do this?
- What is the difference between 'Gothic' and 'Horror'?
- Can you name any famous Gothic literature classics?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Research Gothic features and whilst reading one of the suggested novels below see if you can spot any.
- Write a letter to Arthur Kipps explaining how he should have seen all of the warning signs that Eel Marsh house was going to be dangerous.
- Create your own Gothic novel plot and write the opening section.

Suggested further reading:

- Carnegie winner **Patrick Ness' A Monster Calls** - about a young boy who struggles to cope with the consequences of his mother's illness.
- **The Ghost Drum - Susan Price** - Another Carnegie Children's Literature Winner. A fairy tale with use of Russian History and Folklore, like many traditional tales it is full of cruelty, violence and sudden death.
- **The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman** about a boy who is adopted by supernatural occupants of a graveyard.