



GOTHIC CONVENTIONS

ANALYZING THE
“LETTERS” OF
FRANKENSTEIN!

READ ALOUD/DISCUSS

Take a character that we encountered in a Gothic text and place her/him in a dystopian setting. Describe how this proverbial fish out of water responds to being in a new time and place.

[OR]

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GOTHIC CONVENTIONS

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GOthic CONVENTIONS

- Supernatural/Unnatural Forms
- Space/Structures
- The Past
- Psychological Distress
- Social Dilemmas



SUPERNATURAL/UNNATURAL FORMS

- Otherworldly elements:

- Ghosts!
- Monsters!
- Creatures/Abominations!



- “Unexplained” vs. “Inexplicable”

- “What am I seeing?!”



SPACE/STRUCTURES

FOREIGN LANDS

- Mysterious!
- Exotic!
- Superstitious!
- Remote/Desolate!
 - EX: Transylvania!



BUILDINGS

- Gothic Castles/Haunted Houses
- Entrapped/Claustrophobic
- Antiquated/Decaying
- Passageways/Subterranean
- Towers/Attics
- Difficult to navigate



THE PAST

- Consequences of past impact the present!
 - Family history!
 - Ancestry!
 - Repression of past events!



PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

TERROR

Suspense/Anticipation!
Threats to life/safety!
The suggestion of danger!

UNCERTAIN REALITY

“How could this happen?”
“What is real!?”

HORROR

Moment of brutal/grim realization!
Shocking departure from everyday norms!
Extreme violence!
Revulsion!



SOCIAL DILEMMAS

- Class issues!
- Religious power/abuse!
- What is “proper” behavior?
- Xenophobia!

