

Form/structure	Definition	
<b>Climax</b>	The most intense point of either the development or resolution. It is the moment of maximum intensity or a major turning point in the plot.	
<b>Withholding information</b>	Where a writer conceals information in order to raise questions from the reader and therefore build both suspense and tension. This can be achieved by making the reader know <u>what</u> the character does, making the reader know <u>more</u> than the character does or making the <u>character</u> know <u>more</u> than the reader does.	
<b>Show not tell</b>	Allowing the reader to experience and infer what is happening in the story through the use of words, imagery and action, rather than explicitly being told.	
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	A clue, hint or warning about something which will happen in the future/ later in the text.	
<b>Tension</b>	The element in a novel that evokes emotions such as worry, anxiety, fear and stress on the part of both the reader and the characters in a novel.	
<b>Suspense</b>	Suspense is anxiously waiting for something to happen in comparison to tension, which is a feeling. Four factors are necessary for suspense: reader empathy, reader concern, impending danger and escalating tension.	
Sentence types	Definition	Example
Begin with a verb	A sentence that begins with the action.	<u>Regarding</u> the inside of the cave, they knew they had gone too far.
Begin with an adverb	A sentence that begins with the description of the action.	<u>Hastily</u> , she gripped the handle.
Begin with an emotion	A sentence that begins by describing the emotion of the subject.	<u>Desperate</u> , they contemplated leaving her behind.
Use a colon to introduce a list	A sentence that uses a list to describe a setting.	The beach was a hive of activity: parents wrestling with umbrellas, children squealing delightedly and crabs dodging the clatter of human feet.
List a series of actions	A sentence that incorporates several verbs (actions).	She immediately <u>stepped</u> into the wardrobe and <u>immersed</u> herself among the coats, <u>rubbing</u> her face against them, <u>breathing</u> in the musty scent and <u>believing</u> herself to be utterly safe.
Begin with a time connective	A sentence that begins by indicating the time that something will happen to the reader	<u>Now</u> , there was nothing to do but wait in terrified silence.  Other examples: meanwhile, finally, soon, afterwards, later, before, eventually, after, shortly, at last.

Language techniques	Definition	Example
<b>Simile</b>	A descriptive technique that compares one thing to another, usually using 'as' or 'like'.	<i>'The distorted adjoining houses looked as if they had twisted themselves to peep down at me through it.'</i>
<b>Metaphor</b>	A descriptive technique that names a person, thing or action as something else.	<i>'Heaven knows we need never be ashamed of our tears, or they are rain upon the blinding dust of earth, overlying our hard hearts.'</i>
<b>Personification</b>	Describing an inanimate object as having human feelings.	<i>'The skylight, eccentrically pitched like a broken head.'</i>
<b>Pathetic fallacy</b>	A device in which emotions are given to a setting, an object or the weather, usually to convey a particular mood.	<i>'It was a rimy morning, and very damp. I had seen the damp lying on the outside of my little window, as if some goblin had been crying there all night'</i>
<b>Imagery</b>	A technique in which the author appeals to the senses i.e. seeing, hearing, touching.	<i>'Shadows became substance as lights revealed solid shapes moving toward the jail door.'</i>
<b>Listing</b>	When the writer includes several words/ phrases/ ideas, one after the other.	<i>'I saw the steersman of the galley lay his hand on his prisoner's shoulder, and saw that both boats were swinging round with the force of the tide, and saw that all hands on board the steamer were running forward quite frantically.'</i>
<b>Semantic field</b>	A set of words that are related in meaning; where a writer uses a series of words that are very similar to help create a particular atmosphere, mood or feeling.	<i>'Patches of <u>tinder</u> yet <u>alight</u> were floating in the <u>smoky</u> air, which, a moment ago, had been her faded bridal dress...she had been in <u>flames</u>, or that the <u>flames</u> were out, until I saw the patches of tinder that had been her garments, no longer <u>alight</u> but falling around us.'</i>
<b>Oxymoron</b>	The use of two contrasting words placed next to each other.	<i>The <u>cruel kindness</u> of the boss made the employee's job a <u>living death</u>.</i>
<b>Characterisation</b>	The creation or construction of a fictional character, focusing on their personality, background and experiences.	<i>Carla Hood was an outsider; born on the outskirts of the village, she existed in grinding, bottomless poverty, and was raising Rachael, her daughter, to be as wild and isolated as she was.</i>
Gothic conventions		
<b>Setting</b>	Typical gothic settings may include: castles, graveyards, monasteries/churches, caves or dungeons. Or, the locations could be in remote, or uninhabited places such as derelict buildings, mountain ranges or wild forests.	
<b>Weather</b>	Pathetic fallacy is often used as an indication that something bad is going to happen. Storms, fog, lightning and clouds are typical examples.	
<b>Supernatural</b>	Unexplainable events often take place in gothic literature, centred around ghosts, vampires or paranormal activity.	
<b>Villains</b>	Usually complex male characters who are in positions of authority can often turn out to be monstrous/supernatural creatures.	
<b>Curses/nightmares</b>	Foreshadowing is often used in the form of nightmares or omens to indicate later, often harrowing events of a story.	
<b>Emotions</b>	Mystery, fear, distress, rage, power and madness are some examples of typical gothic emotions.	

### HT3 Gothic writing – Vocabulary List

Word	Definition	In a sentence	Synonyms
1. <b>Fragmented</b>	Broken/ shattered into pieces.	The ocean <b>fragmented</b> into a series of lakes.	
2. <b>Dwelling</b>	A house, flat or other place of residence. Or Focusing/lingering one's attention on a particular object of space.	The proposed dwelling was not approved by the local council.  He spent so long <b>dwelling</b> on the past, he missed so many important things in his life.	
3. <b>Estuary</b>	The mouth of a river, where the tide meets the stream.	The great port stands in the mouth of the <b>estuary</b> .	
4. <b>Untraceable</b>	Unable to be found, discovered or traced.	Those who use false addresses are often <b>untraceable</b> .	
5. <b>Gaunt</b>	Lean/thin, grim or desolate in appearance, usually through hunger or age.	The daughter was worried about her mother's <b>gaunt</b> appearance.	
6. <b>Dilapidated</b>	Ruined or run down.	The street was lined with abandoned, <b>dilapidated</b> houses.	
7. <b>Palpable</b>	A feeling/ atmosphere/ sight that is so intense it seems untrue.	The win left a <b>palpable</b> sense of success.	
8. <b>Formidable</b>	Being impressively large, powerful or intense.	The team were a group of <b>formidable</b> opponents for the boys.	
9. <b>Melancholy</b>	A feeling of sadness, maybe without cause.	An air of <b>melancholy</b> surrounded him.	
10. <b>Precarious</b>	When something is dangerous, uncertain or unstable.	He was in a <b>precarious</b> position at the top of the unstable ladder.	
11. <b>Desolate</b>	Empty, deserted and unwelcoming.	She walked across the barren, <b>desolate</b> countryside.	
12. <b>Tenebrous</b>	Dark, shadowy or hidden.	The house had long <b>tenebrous</b> passageways and dark corners.	
13. <b>Harrowing</b>	Extremely upsetting and distressing.	The train crash was a <b>harrowing</b> experience for everyone involved.	

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<b>14. Macabre</b>	Something unpleasant, disturbing and connected to death.	<i>The police were horrified at the <b>macabre</b> nature of the killings.</i>	
<b>15. Eldritch</b>	Weird, sinister and ghostly.	<i>They heard an <b>eldritch</b> screech as they explored the graveyard.</i>	
<b>16. Callous</b>	Someone who is unkind, cruel and doesn't show sympathy.	<i>The man who stole from the poor was a <b>callous</b> thief.</i>	
<b>17. Countenance</b>	A person's face or facial expression.	<i>His suspicious <b>countenance</b> was a giveaway to the policeman.</i>	
<b>18. Dishevelled</b>	When someone looks untidy, scruffy and disordered.	<i>The woman had long, <b>dishevelled</b> hair.</i>	
<b>19. Repugnant</b>	Horrible and disgusting.	<i>The cellar gave off a <b>repugnant</b> smell.</i>	
<b>20. Duplicity</b>	Deceiving others; deliberately hiding or concealing your true intentions.	<i>The politician was accused of <b>duplicity</b> in his manifesto.</i>	
<b>21. Apprehensive</b>	Anxious or fearful that something bad is going to happen.	<i>They felt <b>apprehensive</b> as they entered the exam hall.</i>	
<b>22. Trepidation</b>	A feeling of fear about something that may happen.	<i>She set off on her journey with fear and <b>trepidation</b>.</i>	
<b>23. Perturbation</b>	Anxiety and mental uneasiness.	<i>They sensed their friend's <b>perturbation</b>.</i>	
<b>24. Perilous</b>	When something is extremely dangerous or risky.	<i>The track grew even narrower and more <b>perilous</b>.</i>	
<b>25. Decibels</b>	A unit used to measure sound/ the strength of sound.	<i>His voice escalated several <b>decibels</b>.</i>	