

# Gothic Literature



Born in the mid-18th century, Gothic English Literature is based on recurring ingredients such as:

**-The Setting:** Dilapidated castles, crumbling abbeys, secret passages, and wild, untamed landscapes.

**-The Atmosphere:** A thick sense of dread, suspense, and gloom. Weather often reflects the mood—thick relentless rain, howling winds, and rolling fog.

**-The Supernatural:** Ghosts, ancestral curses, and omens.

**-High Emotion:** Characters often experience "the Sublime"—a mix of awe and terror when faced with something vast or powerful (like a mountain or a storm).



## Frankenstein (1818)

Author: Mary Shelley

**The Plot:** Victor Frankenstein, a brilliant but arrogant scientist, discovers the secret to bringing dead matter to life. He creates a sentient being, then abandons it in horror, leading to a tragic cycle of revenge.

**Why it Matters:** It bridged the gap between Romanticism and Science Fiction. It shifted the "source" of horror from old ghosts to modern science and the ethical consequences of playing God.

## The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (1886)

Author: Robert Louis Stevenson

**The Plot:** A respected doctor creates a potion that allows him to transform into an impulsive, violent alter-ego, eventually losing control over the switch.

**Why it Matters:** This novel popularized the "Gothic Double." It explores the duality of human nature—the battle between our civilized selves and our repressed, animalistic desires.





## *Dracula (1897)*

Author: Bram Stoker

The Plot: An ancient vampire from Transylvania attempts to move to London to find new blood and spread his undead curse, only to be hunted by a group of men and women led by Professor Van Helsing.

Why it Matters: It crystallized the figure of the vampire as a symbol of invasion, sexuality, and the fear of the "Other" during the decline of the British Empire.

### **DOMAINE 1:**

Comprendre, s'exprimer en utilisant une langue étrangère.

### **Compréhension de l'écrit**

Peut suivre l'intrigue de récits, de romans simples rédigés dans un langage très quotidien. B1



**Using the information about all the ingredients all Gothic literature, highlight in this extract from "Dracula" all the words corresponding with this type of novel.**

The coach travelled up into the mountains. Higher and higher it went, faster and faster. The sun was bright, but above the trees there was snow on the mountain tops. Then suddenly the sun went down behind the mountains and everywhere was dark. In the forest around us, the wolves were howling. It was a terrible sound.

Suddenly the coach stopped. A small carriage came down the narrow road on the right. Four black horses were pulling it, and the driver was dressed in black, with a black hat pulled down over his face.

'Where's the Englishman?' he called. 'I've come from Castle Dracula!'

He looked strange, standing there in the moonlight, and suddenly I was afraid. But it was too late. I could not go back now.

Soon we were on our way to Castle Dracula. The mountains were all around us and the moon was behind black clouds. I could see nothing – but I could still hear the wolves. The horses went faster and faster, and the driver laughed wildly.

Suddenly the carriage stopped. I opened the door and got out. At once the carriage drove away and I was alone in front of the dark, silent castle. I stood there, looking up at it, and slowly, the big wooden door opened. A tall man stood in front of me. His hair was white and he was dressed in black from head to foot.

'Come in, Mr Harker,' he said. 'I am Count Dracula.' He held out his hand and I took it. It was as cold as ice!

# JONATHAN'S ARRIVAL

1) Quelles transformations s'opèrent lorsque Jonathan se rapproche de Dracula ?

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2) Donne un maximum d'informations sur la calèche et son conducteur.

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3) Donne une description du château et du Comte Dracula.

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## **DOMAINE 1:**

Comprendre, s'exprimer en utilisant une langue étrangère.

## ***Production écrite***

Peut écrire la description d'un événement, d'un voyage récent, réel ou imaginé. B1

***Imagine and write the description of Count Dracula by giving as many details as you can (face, body, clothes) matching with the ingredients of Gothic novels.***



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