

Terror and Wonder: 10 key elements of Gothic literature

Set in a haunted castle or house

The main location, usually an old castle, is a vital element in Gothic fiction.

A damsel in distress

The female lead often face events that leave them terrified, screaming and fainting.

An atmosphere of mystery and suspense

Objects which help create the Gothic atmosphere are burial vaults, suits of armour, flickering candles, cracked mirrors, portraits and evil potions. The concept of alchemy and experimenting with living organisms began life as an element of the gothic.

There is a ghost or a monster

Main characters have included supernatural or grotesque creatures, ranging from vampires, devils, ghosts, monsters, demons, zombies to evil spirits, the "possessed," and werewolves.

The weather is always awful

Flashes of lightning accompany revelation and thunder and downpours usually prefigure the appearance of a character or the beginning of a significant event.

Shortened version: <https://blog.bridgemanimages.com/blog/terror-and-wonder-10-key-elements-of-gothic-literature>

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