Creative Writing: A Gothic Setting Year 9

January
Lesson Objectives

• To explore Gothic settings
• To explore effective techniques to describe a setting
• To vary our sentence structures for effect
Recap of Literary Devices: Define the following and provide an example for each.

- Metaphor
- Simile
- Personification
- Rhetorical Question
- Sensory Imagery
- Alliteration
- Juxtaposition
- Repetition
‘It was cold outside’

How can you use your five senses to show your reader that it was hot outside?

Write a three descriptive sentences using all of your senses.

What can you see?

What can you smell?

What can you hear?

What can you touch?

What can you taste?
Sentence types Re-Cap

• Appositives: An **appositive noun** or noun phrase follows another noun or noun phrase in *apposition* to it; that is, it provides information that further identifies or defines it. Such “bonus facts” are typically framed by **commas**.

  • E.g. Mr Howell, a **Mathematics teacher**, liked to eat KitKats.
  • Or : Little Mix, the girl band, decided to tour Australia.
  • Top Tip: the appositive will always begin with either the definite or indefinite article (**A** or **The**)

**TASK:** Write four of your own.
Minor Sentences: Sentences aren't always full. Minor sentences, also known as fragments, are a kind of sentence that is often missing a main verb or a subject. They often help to:

- create a conversational effect
- emphasise a point
- create drama
- show surprise

E.g. 'She looked as carefully as she could, but found nothing. Absolutely nothing.'

'I needed help. Fast!'

'Imagine this. You're trapped. Cold. Lonely.'

'No pain, no gain.'

'The more the merrier.'

'First come, first served.'

'Like father, like son.'

Stop!

TASK: Write four of your own

CHALLENGE: Write four short paragraphs and include a minor sentence in each one for effect.
Gothic Literature

• Gothic literature is a genre of novel that was popular in the late 18th and 19th century and is ‘characterized by an atmosphere of mystery and horror, and with a pseudo-medieval setting.’ (Oxford Encyclopaedic Dictionary)

• Some of the features of gothic literature are:
  • settings: wild, bleak and remote, with old castles or Gothic mansions, dungeons, caves, cemeteries,
  • churchyards, monasteries, forbidden chambers, secret passageways, gloomy forests,
  • the supernatural: ghosts, monsters, dreams, nightmares, superstition, omens, danger and death
  • atmosphere: claustrophobic and sinister, with turbulent or gloomy weather, often dusk or night or foggy or misty, mysterious, full of suspense
  • mood: fear of imprisonment, strong emotions, psychological torment
  • plot: mystery, uncertainty, ancient curses/prophecies, romance, uncertainty of love, tension between true love & maiden’s father, separation of lovers, illicit love/lust & revenge.
  • characters: maidens in distress, heroes, tyrant, villains, villain-heroes, doppelgangers, unreliable narrators, older foolish woman, stupid servants, incompetent or evil priests/monks.
Gothic Settings

• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rB7EneEI3io

• Watch the clip above.
• TASK 1: Create a Mind-Map of typical features of Gothic Settings.
• TASK 2: Choose 3 features and explain the effects of each.
In descriptions, you frequently need to include colour imagery in order to help readers imagine the visual location.

Consider how the Colour Scheme of your writing will effect the reader. Colours have connotations that help express a certain mood/tone to your writing.

• E.g. Red – Associations of Blood, Revenge, Desire, Passion, Pain, Love.

• TASK: Answer in a paragraph: What sort of colours will you use to create imagery of your Gothic Location and why?
Description Practice

• Create a mind-map and write down descriptive phrases that link to the images on this slide.

• Ensure you use the previous devices we have touched upon. E.g. Metaphors, Sensory Imagery etc.

• The tempestuous wind shook the deep sapphire sky until the clouds clung to the silhouette of Hauntington Manor.
Read and annotate the extract for Gothic features/literary devices and answer the following:

• 20 minutes – **Use Quotations:**

• 1. Find an example of Pathetic Fallacy. Explain why this example is effective.

• 2. How does the setting contribute to characterisation? (How does the setting link to the characters that live there?)

• 3. How is the sitting-room described? Use quotations and analyse the language used to present this place.

• 4. How is Mr Heathcliff presented? Analyse the language used to describe him.

• 5. Overall, how is Wuthering Heights presented and how does it fit into the genre of Gothic?
Setting

• Setting is the backdrop against which the characters act out the events.
• In order to make it as atmospheric as you can, you need to make it **multi-dimensional**, by understanding that a story’s setting extends beyond houses and streets and trees.
• There are a number of different elements that you can use to create an effective setting…
1. The central location

In most cases, this will be the city or town or village in which the story takes place…

• If the location is large, like London, you’ll probably want to focus on a district within it – Notting Hill, for example.
• If the location is a small town, it will be the perfect size to act as the primary focus of a novel.

Stories don’t have to be set in traditional “communities.” In a seafaring novel, for example, the central location will be the ship. In others, it might be a hospital, an airplane or a space station. You can still make these Gothic.
2. The wider geography

You then have to think about what’s beyond your central location. It can make a huge difference to the story. For example…

• A small town surrounded by lakes and forests will have a very different atmosphere to one surrounded by heavy industry.
• A story set aboard a ship in the North Atlantic will be entirely different to one set in the South Pacific

The characters will travel to it, too, or be affected by it in some way. So you need to make the wider geography “fit” the story you want to tell.
3. Particular buildings etc.

Some locations within the overall setting will be more important than others, such as…

- the leading character’s home
- the building where she works.
- the mysterious churchyard she visits.

Needless to say, you need to think predominantly about these key locations, because they’ll be where most of your story’s scenes are set.
Extended Writing

• Using your introduction, develop your description to mention all three elements:
  • The Central Location
  • The Wider Geography
  • Particular Buildings (Just one or two)
Beginning your Gothic Setting

1. Include an appositive phrase in the first sentence.
2. Use a semi colon in your second sentence.
3. Your third sentence must be 13 words long.
4. Your fourth sentence must start with a subordinate clause beginning with the word: ‘If’.
5. Your fifth sentence must be 3 words long.
6. Include an appositive phrase in your sixth sentence.
7. Embed a present participle phrase into your seventh sentence.
8. Include the adjective ‘effervescent’ in your last sentence.
9. Start the ninth sentence with an adverb.
10. Your last sentence should be five words long.
Proofreading code – ‘STAR’

- **Substitute** words with more suitable replacements.
- **Take things out** and remove unnecessary details.
- **Add things in** or go into more detail.
- **Rearrange** the order of ideas and structure of the writing.

Highlight a sentence that could be improved and rewrite it underneath your work focusing on making it more descriptive.