

The Gothic Horror genre is a genre that involves fear, the fantastic and the supernatural, but it also has many other aspects. In *Dracula* by Bram Stoker (1897) as well as in *The Raven* (1845) and *The Tell-Tale Heart* (1843) by Edgar Allan Poe, parts of the story do not fit within these boundaries. There are settings, characters and themes that vary out of these guidelines, including themes such as money and settings like bedrooms.

The setting of a horror genre book or movie impacts our view of the story. If a story is set in a grey stone castle looming over the edge of a cliff, the reader would consider this a horror genre story. An example of this stereotypical castle is in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. 'I stood close to a great door, old and studded with large iron nails, and set in a projecting doorway of massive stone. I could see even in the dim light that the stone was massively carved, but that the carving had been much worn by time and weather.' (Chapter 2, Page 23). A technique that is very well represented in this quote is imagery. The description of the iron nails on the doors suggest hostility and the grey stone doorway gives a very strong image of the castle in the reader's mind. This is a classic example of horror settings, but not all stories from the horror genre have to be like this. Think about some other stories. A man seated in his bedroom, however, is not typically part of the horror genre. "'Tis some visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door — Some late visitor entreating entrance at my chamber door; — This it is and nothing more.'" Edgar Allan Poe's *The Raven* (stanza 3). A language technique that has been used in this passage is repetition. Repetition shows the importance of the phrase and shows the character reassuring himself. This enhances the mood, as it makes the reader feel cautious, but also intrigued. This is one reason why the Gothic Horror genre is not primarily about stories of horror, the fantastic and darker supernatural forces, as it creates the mood and emotion for readers.

If you were to picture a character from the Gothic Horror genre, you would probably think of a vampire, or a creepy clown or a monster from straight out of a nightmare. These are very typical characters to see in something from the Gothic Horror genre. "I can see the characteristics of the vampire coming in her face. It is now but very, very slight. But it is to be seen if we have eyes to notice without prejudice. Her teeth are sharper, and at times her eyes are more hard. But these are not all, there is to her the silence now often, as so it was with Miss Lucy. She did not speak, even when she wrote that which she wished to be known later". Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (page 521). Language techniques used in this passage include the list of three. The list of three is the three things that are changing about the woman. Her teeth, her eyes and the fact that she has become silent. This is a strong technique that Bram Stoker has used, as we can see that she has changed. Not all characters from the Gothic Horror genre are like this stereotype, though. In *The Tell-Tale Heart*, Edgar Allan Poe gives us a madman as the main character. 'But why do you say that I am mad? Can you not see that I have complete control over my mind? Is it not clear that I am not mad.' A language technique that has been used in this passage is repetition. The narrator repeats that he is not mad, which leads us to believe that he is. He also repeats that he is not mad as if to reassure himself that he is not mad. The Gothic Horror genre is not devoted purely to stories of horror, the fantastic and darker supernatural forces. It also involves many other characters like talking animals

Power, confinement, isolation, mystery, fear, omens and curses are just some of the themes of the Gothic Horror genre. In *Dracula*, as well as in many other Gothic Horror stories, foreshadowing is used as a theme. Omens are a type of foreshadowing through symbols. For example, 'Hitherto I had noticed the backs of his hands as they lay on his knees in the

firelight, and they had seemed rather white and fine. But seeing them now close to me, I could not but notice that they were rather coarse, broad, with squat fingers. Strange to say, there were hairs in the centre of the palm. The nails were long and fine, and cut to a sharp point. As the Count leaned over me and his hands touched me, I could not repress a shudder. It may have been that his breath was rank, but a horrible feeling of nausea came over me, which, do what I would, I could not conceal.' Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Chapter 2). This quote has many language techniques, but the main one to point out is the adjectives. The description of Dracula is spooky and this image puts chills down your spine. This also represents foreshadowing for the fact that Count Dracula is a vampire later in the novel. However, other themes of *Dracula* are not stereotypically associated with the Gothic Horror genre. Money is another theme of this novel, with Count Dracula being a formidable enemy, not only because he is a vampire, but also because he has a very large sum of money. 'And, too, it made me think of the wonderful power of money! What can it not do when basely used. I felt so thankful that Lord Godalming is rich, and both he and Mr. Morris, who also has plenty of money, are willing to spend it so freely.' (*Dracula* Chapter 26). A language technique that has been used in this passage is personification. Money has been described as powerful, which is personification as money can't have power. The Gothic Horror genre is dedicated to horror, the fantastic, and the darker supernatural forces.

To conclude, stories of horror, the fantastic and the darker supernatural forces are all part of the Gothic Horror genre, but there are also other elements to the genre that are seen less often, but still occur. Some of these elements include themes, settings and characters, making them unique. So while most, if not all, Gothic Horror stories have stories of horror, the fantastic and supernatural forces, there are also characters, themes and settings that vary.