HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL | 2025-2026

Continuity Curriculum

An online shadow curriculum for students temporarily out of lessons to ensure continuity of learning

Year 7 English

Week Beginning	Lesson Title	Lesson Objective	Online Lesson Link	Any additional instructions?
8 th September	Introduction to The Gothic	Curses Vampires The supernatural Secrets Enigmatic heroes A battle between good and evil Melodrama Storms An atmosphere of mystery and suspense Women as 'damsels in distress.'	Make notes following this link: Gothic fiction - Students Britannica Kids Homework Help	Look up the word 'tropes' and 'melodrama' and 'enigmatic' in the dictionary and write down the definitions

		The genre became popular in the late 18th century with the publication of Horace Walpole's novel 'The Castle of Otranto' in 1764		
Writ	ting a Gothic	Look up key Gothic words	Read the opening of 'Great	
<u>oper</u>	_	below and write definitions:	Expectations'	
		Vocabulary bank: Enigmatic, melodrama, ominous, crepuscular, tenebrous, obsidian, baying, malevolent, enveloping, desolate. Write out model sentences and add 5 of your own:	Great Expectations by Charles Dickens: Chapter 1 Watch opening of 'Great Expectations.' Great Expectations Opening - YouTube	
		Model sentences: Two figures stood in the opalescent light of the moon	What Gothic tropes can you identify in this opening?	

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	phosphorescent green light		
	eemed to hypnotise the bats		
V	hich circled the turrets of the		
C	astle		
	looked up at the gargoyles		
r	oping their apotropaic magic		
V	ould afford me protection		
	he gnarled branches of the		
t	rees looked onyx black		
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t	ne pathway ahead		
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i	n cimmerian darkness		
	he gnarled branches of the		

Plan Gothic opening	Read exemplar below and look	
using exemplar	up all words you don't know in the dictionary and write the definition.	Watch the opening of Dracula Thomas Meets the Terrifying
	Now write your own.	Count Orlok Nosferatu - YouTube Read the opening of Dracula
	Exemplar model: The last light of day ebbed away, leaving only a crepuscular glow that seemed to breathe menace into the trees. Their branches formed a tenebrous lattice, enveloping the path so that the traveller felt as though he were stepping into the throat of some waiting beast. The silence was deceptive; in the shadows, something enigmatic stirred. From beyond the marsh, the baying of wolves rose, swelling into a chorus of	The Project Gutenberg eBook of Dracula, by Bram Stoker Make a list of Gothic tropes found in both the clip and opening chapter

	malevolent voices that tore at	
	the stillness. The world was at	
	once vast and claustrophobic:	
	an obsidian sky above, a	
	desolate plain at his feet, and	
	no safe refuge in either.	
	Then the house revealed itself,	
	half-veiled in mist, its	
	silhouette hunched like a	
	conspirator. The traveller,	
	seized by a sudden	
	melodrama of imagination,	
	believed the windows	
	watched him as a jury might.	
	He hesitated on the threshold,	
	aware that Gothic fate permits	
	neither escape nor certainty.	
Build on Gothic	Read exemplar below and look	
opening written	up all key words:	
<u>yesterday</u>		
	Out of the mist appeared	
	obsidian eyes as nocturnal	
	animals, emboldened by the	
	difficulty the	

crepuscular light, emerged from their lairs and burrows.

Beyond the desolate graveyard stood the silhouette of a castle and in the distance the baying and howling of wolves could be heard as if they were colluding with the darkness which was enveloping the graveyard.

An owl with malevolent eyes which burned hadean red looked menacingly down at the scene for prey. It was unlikely that I would reach the castle before darkness fell but the prospect of spending the night in such a hostile place did not appeal. The

crepuscular light was now	
casting corpse like shadows	
across the gravestones which	
looked alive as the branches	
of the trees moved in the	
wind.	
And then I saw ita tenebrous	
horror emerging from the	
twilight	
Pick out three adjectives	
Pick out the example of	
personification	
Pick out the adverb	
Pick out the example of	
ellipses	
Define the following words:	
colluding, obsidian and	
tenebrous.	

	Write your own three paragraphs continuing on from this opening description		
Read Chapter 8 of 'Great Expectations'	Read Chapter 8 and answer the following comprehension questions: Great Expectations, Ch.8 — First view of Satis House: "The first thing I noticed was, that the passages were all dark and that she had left a candle burning." • How does Dickens present decay? • How does the house embody Miss Havisham? • Which Gothic tropes operate? Create a vocabulary bank of phrases and words from this	Great Expectations Project Gutenberg Watch the moment Pip first meets Miss Havisham Great Expectations (1946) - Miss Havisham - YouTube	

		extract you'd like to practise using in your own work Write your own description of a spooky house	
	Write a description of	Look up these words and define them:	
15 th September	a Gothic setting	Crepuscular, tenebrous, stygian, caliginous, forlorn, labyrinth, umbra/umbrous, gloaming, encroached, insidious, latticed. Read exemplar below and add to your vocabulary bank:	
		Exemplar description of a place/setting: The garden had become a forlorn labyrinth, every hedge twisted by neglect. Roots had encroached across the stone steps like skeletal fingers, each	

an insidious reminder that
nature was claiming what man
once ordered. In the gloaming,
saints' statues wore grotesque
expressions, their marble eyes
smeared by ivy's grasp.

A stygian moat circled the

A stygian moat circled the house, its water black and depthless. From one turret a single flame flickered - a lone, latticed eye straining against the caliginous dark. The house seemed to breathe shadows.

Night descended with an umbra so complete it stifled sound. To cross the threshold was to surrender to this tenebrous dominion, to accept the house as will, demanding submission.

Out of the mist appeared obsidian eyes as nocturnal animals, emboldened by the

crepuscular light, emerged from their lairs and burrows. Beyond the desolate graveyard stood the silhouette of a castle and in the distance the baying and howling of wolves could be heard as if they were colluding with the darkness which was enveloping the graveyard.

An owl with malevolent eyes which burned hadean red looked menacingly down at the scene for prey. It was unlikely that I would reach the castle before darkness fell but the prospect of spending the night in such a hostile place did not appeal. The crepuscular light was now casting corpse like shadows across the gravestones which looked alive as the branches of the trees moved in the wind.

And then I saw it...a tenebrous horror emerging from the twilight...

Two figures stood in the opalescent light cast by the moon. A phosphorescent green light seemed to hypnotise the bats which circled the turrets of the castle as if colluding with the gargoyles whose apotropaic magic warded off evil.

The gnarled branches of the trees, onyx black, looked like skeleton claws and whether I imagined it or not I cannot say but they appeared to grow before my eyes as they insidiously encroached upon the pathway.

Erebus had cast his obsidian cloak of darkness but he could not obscure the moon which shone bright in defiance. Somehow I was not afraid and, despite the dense fog that shrouded me in cimmerian darkness, I could see clearly the apotropaic marks carved into the castle walls and I knew that evil would not find me here. In the darkness it was difficult to see what monstrous beings might be lurking in the caliginous underwater caves which lay just below the surface of the water... Suddenly a figure emerged from the tenebrific shadows. As the moonlight caught his eyes they burned vermillion red.... Write your own Gothic description using these words/phrases

22 nd September	Introducing a Gothic character using Miss Havisham as an example	Look up and define the definitions of: Gothic villain Damsel in distress Antagonist Byronic Hero Protagonist Titular character Eponymous hero Look up the words: Decay and subvert and write out their definitions	Re-read Chapter 8 of 'Great Expectations.' Great Expectations Project Gutenberg Great Expectations, Ch.8 — Miss Havisham in bridal dress: "She was dressed in rich materials Her shoes were white." • How is she preserved and decayed at once? • What mixed emotions does she evoke? • How does she subvert Gothic types?	
29 th September	Introduce a Gothic character to your description	Read exemplar below and create a vocabulary bank of words/phrases you want to use in your own description of a Gothic character: Exemplar model:	Great Expectations (1946) - Miss Havisham - YouTube	

The figure slumped in a chair, her veil yellowed with dust. Beneath it a waxen pallor, veins mapping a macabre tracery. Her lips parted as though to speak, but only a sigh of rot emerged. Hands withered and gnarled clutched her gown. Nails long and calloused curled like talons. In candlelight her eyes took on a lurid gleam - not life, but fevered resolve. Even shadows recoiled. A mirror, veined with fractures, multiplied her into a chorus of haunted selves. She smiled - a thin malevolent crescent - delighting in the horror she inspired. An artic wind started to blow and with it it brought a granite sky and a mizzling rain. The pallor of the Winter evening

seemed to have closed upon the hills cloaking them in mist. A menacing figure emerged from the gloaming with lurid, haunted eyes which glowed Hadean red in the crepuscular light. Even his cloak which was hooded and cast much of his face in tenebrous shadow could not mask his macabre corpse like features. His eyes were sunken and, as he glided towards me, even the nocturnal animals retreated in fear and the owl with the menacing eyes took flight as if it sought safety in a higher branch. Raising its hooded sleeve in the air it beckoned to me as if motioning me to follow. The withered hand which emerged from the cloak was gnarled

		and calloused and its nails were dagger sharp.		
6 th October	Ghosts in Gothic literature	Read Stave one of 'A Christmas Carol.' The Project Gutenberg eBook of A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens Answer the following questions: -What does Marley tell Scrooge? -What does Marley regret about his life? -How do you know he is a ghost? -How is Scrooge respond to him? -What does Marley's chain symbolise do you think? Look up the following famous ghosts in literature and write a paragraph on each summarising their significance in each text.	Watch Marley appear to Scrooge: A Christmas Carol (1984): Marley's Ghost - YouTube Watch Banquo's ghost appear to Macbeth: The ghost of Banquo haunts Macbeth (Goold adaptation) - YouTube	

		Hamlet, William Shakespeare (Hamlet's father) Beloved, Toni Morrison (the spectral daughter of Sethe) The Turn of the Screw, Henry James Macbeth, William Shakespeare (Banquo) The Shining, Stephen King (the overlook Hotel's guests) The ghosts of Hogwarts (Harry Potter)		
13 th October	Write a ghostly encounter	Read exemplar below and look up words and create vocabulary bank: Exemplar model: The corridor stretched unnaturally long, doors multiplying with each step. An uncanny sensation seized him; the familiar had soured. Portraits breathed with stealthy precision, eyes tracking like wardens.	Link to documentary on ghosts: Hauntings - BBC iPlayer Evaluate for/against the following statement: 'Ghosts are nothing but frightening and fearful.'	

		Outside, branches encroached upon the panes like claws. The sky was caliginous, stygian, pressing its weight upon the rafters. An umbra pooled on the floor; within it a shadow moved that wasn't his. He found a chapel where candles burned with a seraphic glow - angelic, malign. He stood aghast, knowing devotion had curdled to blasphemy - and once seen, could not be unseen. Write your own ghostly encounter. Use your new words and phrases	
20 th October	Write Gothic short story entitled 'A Haunted house.'	Use exemplar to help you by creating a vocabulary and Gothic phrase list from it: Make sure you look up all words you don't know.	

This is the assessed
piece of extended
writing that will be
marked and signals
the end of the Gothic
unit.

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