**Gothicism/Dark Romanticism —Quiz on Wednesday 11/9**

**Basic Elements**

* Time period—**1820’s-1860’s**
* Haunting, isolated atmospheres & characters
* Dark, sinister or melancholy moods and atmosphere
* Unreliable narrators
* Strange, mysterious events
* Live burials/ premature death/ loss
* Horrifying tortures
* Dark, irrational depths of the human mind
* Psychological torment
* Resurrection of corpses
* Writing style is that of long, descriptive sentences and heavy use of figurative language
* Long, detailed and highly descriptive expositions—lengthy descriptions of setting and characters

**Dark Romantic Texts covered:**

Poe

* “The Haunted Palace”
* “The Fall of the House of Usher”
* “Annabelle Lee”
* “The Raven”

Washington Irving

* “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

* “The Minister’s Black Veil”

**\*\*There will be a text on the exam which we have not read or discussed together. You will be applying the skills learned in this unit (annotation) to work through an unfamiliar text**.

**Concepts for study:**

1. “Annabelle Lee,” “the Raven” and “The Haunted Palace” are \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ poems by Edgar Allan Poe, which means they “tell a story.” **narrative**
2. What happens to Annabel Lee acc. To the speaker? **She is killed/taken from him by angels jealous of their deep love** How does the speaker in Annabelle Lee show his undying devotion every night? **He goes to her tomb and lies down by her side**
3. What is the story of the “Haunted Palace”? **a beautiful, golden kingdom is ruled over by a kind and beloved king—the kingdom is attacked and all are killed—the palace is now haunted with restless spirits**
4. How does the “Haunted Palace” connect to “The House of Usher”? **both show the downfall and decay of a once powerful and talented family; both show how depression, sadness and despair are all-consuming**
5. Describe the mood of Poe’s works. **Dark, melancholy, paranoid, agitated, fearful, suspenseful**
6. How is setting particularly important to gothic writing? **The setting establishes the mood and builds suspense; in dark romantic lit, the setting operates as almost another character—it is a force that is able to affect the minds of the other characters as well as the reader**
7. Describe the settings of each of the following:
   1. “The House of Usher” **moss-covered, ancient mansion, eye-like windows, surrounded by a black tarn, decaying trees—house has a large fissure running through it**
   2. “The Raven” – **“once upon a midnight dreary”—middle of night in a bleak December—the inner chamber of the narrator**
   3. “Minster’s Black Veil—**a warm, sunny Sunday afternoon that is immediately “darkened” by the presence of Minister Hooper and his black veil**
   4. “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”—**an isolated, magical valley in upstate NY along the Hudson River**
8. What is an unreliable narrator and what evidence is there to suggest that the narrators of the following stories are unreliable? **An unreliable narrator is a technique used by Dark Romantic writers; the speaker or voice of the text is often that of a disturbed or troubled individual and therefore their account of the events is questionable**
   1. “The Fall of the House of Usher” **the narrator refers to the landscape and the events as a dream or hallucination; as he stays in the house, he becomes increasingly afraid and haunted by the house and its inhabitants; fear takes over his mind**
   2. “The Raven’ **the poem begins with the narrator napping; he is also consumed by grief and despair over the lost Lenore that he is not thinking clearly**
   3. “Annabelle Lee’ **the narrator is consumed by guilt and grief; he is paranoid and accusatory throughout; he sleeps by a corpse**
9. Describe, both physically and mentally, the following gothic characters:
   1. Speaker of the Raven—**melancholy, depressed, grieving man—alone and in despair over his lost Lenore; he is increasingly agitated and enraged at the Raven’s presence and refusal to answer his questions about Lenore**
   2. Narrator of House of Usher – **an old friend of Roderick Usher—seemingly calm and rational at the start, but as the story unfolds, so does his metal state and reason**
   3. Roderick Usher—**sickly thin and pale; wild eyes; spider web-like hair—like a cadaver; he is paranoid and terrified about the house and death**
   4. Madeline Usher—**Roderick’s twin; possible schizophrenic—mentally and physically near death—has periods of catalepsy**
   5. Ichabod Crane—**tall, exceedingly “lank”, snipe nose; he is a school master and very educated and cultured which makes him appealing to women, despite his unusual appearance**
   6. Parson Hooper—**a young man of about 30—kind and benevolent preacher, well-liked; turned into a monster and outcast of society because of the black veil**
10. Explain the following symbols:
    1. The fissure (crack) in the House of Usher**—the mental breakdown of Roderick and/or the narrator; the end of the Usher family**
    2. The raven—**the guilt or grief of the narrator; death/loss of Lenore**
    3. The black veil—**secret sin; society’s judgment and hypocrisy**
11. Most gothic stories have a strong moral or theme attached to them. A story that tells a moral lesson is called a \_\_**parable**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
12. Decide a moral lesson or theme for each of the following stories:
    1. “The Raven”—**a person’s love and devotion do not end with death; grief is profound and permanent**
    2. “The Fall of the House of Usher”—**a troubled mind can lead to physical illness; secrets can be destructive**
    3. “The Minister’s Black Veil”—**seek to understand the truth before you judge**
    4. “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow”—**the power of imagination and superstition**

**\*\* theme common to all gothic texts: man is corrupt; mankind is basically vulnerable to evil\*\***

**Poetic/Literary Terms**

**Stanza**

**Internal and external rhyme**

**Allusion**

**Metaphor**

**Simile**

**Alliteration**

**Assonance**

**Tone vs mood**