**TERMINOLOGY**

**Protagonist – the main character**

**Antagonist – the villain**

**Dramatic monologue – a character speaking aloud**

**Epistolary – story told in letters**

**Pathetic fallacy – the weather reflects the atmosphere**

**GOTHIC CONVENTIONS**

* Abandoned houses, supposedly uninhabited
* Isolated, bleak settings
* Majority of the story takes place at night/in darkness
* Supernatural entity that wants revenge
* Death of a character or those close to a character
* Frequent use of the colour black
* Rational protagonist who doesn’t believe in the supernatural
* Presence of evil/religious imagery
* Inhuman or monstrous antagonist
* Use of tension and suspense to create fear

**KEY THEMES**

### The supernatural

* The unknown
* Mystery
* Isolation
* Monsters
* Evil
* Death/Murder
* Remote settings
* Darkness
* Psychological breakdown

YEAR 9 TERM 2 **(HALF TERM 1)** KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: The Gothic



HOW DOES THE WRITER USE LANGUAGE, AND OTHER DEVICES, TO CREATE SUSPENSE?

HOW + LANGUAGE = analysis of individual words or techniques:

**Sentence Types**

Short – for impact or to show fear or horror

Long sent4ences to emphasis the situation and how the character feels

Interrogative sentence – character asks himself questions to show confusion or cover fear

Exclamatory sentence – expression of surprise or fear – indicates being startled

**Word Choice**

Strong adjectives

Strong verbs

Strong adverbs

**Literary techniques**

Pathetic fallacy

Personification

Simile

Metaphors

Repetition

**Punctuation**

Commas used in lists to indicate the extent of event being described

Dashes to suggest stammering, confusion or thought

Ellipsis to suggest the speaker can say no more





**DEFINITIONS**

**Tension** is that element in a novel that evokes emotions such as worry, anxiety, fear and stress on the part of both the reader and the characters in a novel.

**Suspense** is the intense feeling that an audience goes through while waiting for the outcome of certain events. It basically leaves the reader holding their breath and wanting more information. The amount of intensity in a **suspenseful** moment is why it is hard to put a book down.

**CONTEXT**

The term ‘Gothic’ was first coined in 1764 by English author Horace Walpole in his novel, *The Castle of Otranto.*  The novel was set in a haunted castle where the protagonist is plagued by supernatural occurrences.

Walpole used the word ‘Gothic’ because it refers to medieval buildings like castles and churches, where a lot of Gothic fiction is set.

Gothic Literature became immensely popular in England and Germany during the 18th and 19th century, with many other genres borrowing its conventions.

Gothic fiction is all about creating terror in the reader and using fear to create suspense.