

Characteristics of the Gothic short story :

- **Setting:** Gothic literature is often set in an old and decayed castles or mansions. These are always located in an isolated place in the countryside. The Gothic building often features mysterious passages, hidden rooms, dungeons, confinement, and secrets that are usually resolved by the end of the story.
- **The atmosphere:** the overall atmosphere that characterise a Gothic story involve dark moors, dark forests, stormy weather etc.
- **Protagonist:** the protagonist of Gothic stories is often presented as isolated or alienated characters either male or female. This isolation can be both physical and psychological. It can be physical in the way that the protagonist can be trapped in an isolated mansion or castle. This trope is a characteristic of female characters in Gothic stories. This isolation of the character can also be psychological, in that he/she is alienated from the outside world or society that they live in.
- **Mystery:** there are always ominous implications that precede events in Gothic literature.
- **Decay:** Gothic stories often depict a formerly great family, community, country that decline by losing their respected place in society. It also depicts an individual as they begin to decline by gradually losing their sanity and descending to madness.