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# GENRE

“THE OLDEST EMOTION OF HUMANITY IS FEAR AND THE STRONGEST OF THEM IS FEAR.”

OF THE UNKNOWN – H.P. LOVECRAFT

- Since the 1960s, a new work of fiction with a morbid, gruesome, surreal or exceptionally suspenseful or frightening theme has come to be called “horror”.
- Horror fiction seeks to induce in its reader a particular emotional state in its reader –
- It is regarded more for what it *does* than what it *is* – emotions (fear, terror, physical revulsion etc...) are more central to the genre than the means the narrative uses to achieve them
- The interest in disrupting the reader’s emotional equilibrium likely contributes to its image as being ‘deviant’ (finding pleasure and entertainment in terror is often considered psychologically ‘abnormal’)
- Horror is often seen as symptomatic of some personal pathology on the part of its consumers
- Horror stories typically begin with the eruption of chaotic forces into a previously ordered existence, and conclude with restoration of that order
- Horror first invokes, and then resolves, the things that frighten us most

# ELEMENTS

# OF HORROR

- Explores the dark, malevolent side of humanity

- Lives depends on the success of the protagonist

- Mood is dark, foreboding, menacing, bleak and creates an immediate response by the reader

- Plot contains frightening and unexpected incidents

- The key ingredient in horror fiction is its ability to provoke fear or terror in readers, usually via something demonic.

- Highly improbable and unexpected sequences of events that usually begin in ordinary situations and involve supernatural elements

- Setting may be described in some detail if much of the story takes place in one location



# THE

- Death, Apocalypse

- Cosmic Horror, Dark Fantasy, Witchcraft

- Demonic Possession, Invasion

- Supernatural, Ghosts, Haunted Houses

- Vampires, Zombies, Monsters, Mummies

- Psychological Horror, Serial Killer, Mental Illness

- Physical and Emotional Violence

- Reliance on SUSPENSE in Plotting

- Ruined and Isolated Settings

- Atmosphere of Moral Gloom and Physical Decay

- Vision of the World Divided Between the Powers of Darkness and Light

- Eternal Youth, Forbidden/Utopian Love

# THEM

# ES



# READER



- Horror fiction typically appeals to youth aged 12-30 (more males) – a time of instability in personal identity

- Teenagers are caught between childhood and adulthood
- Horror's popularity is partly due to its ability to address this population's specific emotional needs - teens see distorted reflections of themselves in misunderstood monsters

- Teens can relate to the social stratifications illustrated by non-human beings
- There is something sordid about horror as a genre, interest in horror is somehow abnormal 'not healthy'
- Horror's lowly status in adult culture gives it an additional attraction

- Hollywood appeal (significant number of movie adaptations)

OR

Sometimes it's fun to open your imagination and get scared!

# SAMPLE

# CHILDREN'S

## **Goosebumps Series**

A series of children's horror fiction novels created and authored by R. L. Stine.

## **Fear Street Series**

A series of teen horror books by R. L. Stine which take place in Shadyside, a fictional city located somewhere on the East Coast, and feature average teenagers.

## **Ghostville Elementary Series**

A 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class at Sleepy Hollow Elementary solve spooky mysteries, overcome fears and learn important lessons.

## **Creepers Series**

A sequence of young-adult horror novels written by Australian horror writer Rob Hood, with Bill Condon. From 1996-97, Hood (in collaboration with Bill Condon) published the nine-volume series, a line of fantastic children's horror novels.



# CLASSIC TITLES

- **Frankenstein** (1818) by Mary Shelley
- **Dracula** (1897) by Bram Stoker
- **The Exorcist** (1971) by William Blatty
- **Rosemary's Baby** (1967) by Ira Levin
- **I Am Legend** (1954) by Richard Matheson
- **Pet Cemetery, IT, The Shining** (1970s – 1980s) by Stephen King
- **Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde** (1886) by Robert Louis Stevenson
- **Ghost Story** (1979) by Peter Straub
- **At the Mountain of Madness** (1920s – 1930s) by H.P. Lovecraft
- **The Lottery** (1948) by Shirley Jackson



# WELL KNOWN

**R. L. Stine** (1943) “The Stephen King of children's literature” American author of dozens of horror fiction novellas, including the books in the *Goosebumps* and *Fear Street* series.

**Stephen King** (1947) American best selling author of contemporary horror fiction, science fiction, and fantasy literature. Many of his stories have been adapted for film, television and other media (i.e. *Misery*, *Carrie*, *Firestarter*, *Cujo*, *Thinner*, *Christine*). He has written a number of books using the pen name Richard Bachman.

**H.P. Lovecraft** (1890 –1937) American author of horror, fantasy, and science fiction, known at the time as ‘weird fiction’. Lovecraft's major inspiration and invention was cosmic horror; the idea that life is incomprehensible to human minds and that the universe is fundamentally alien.

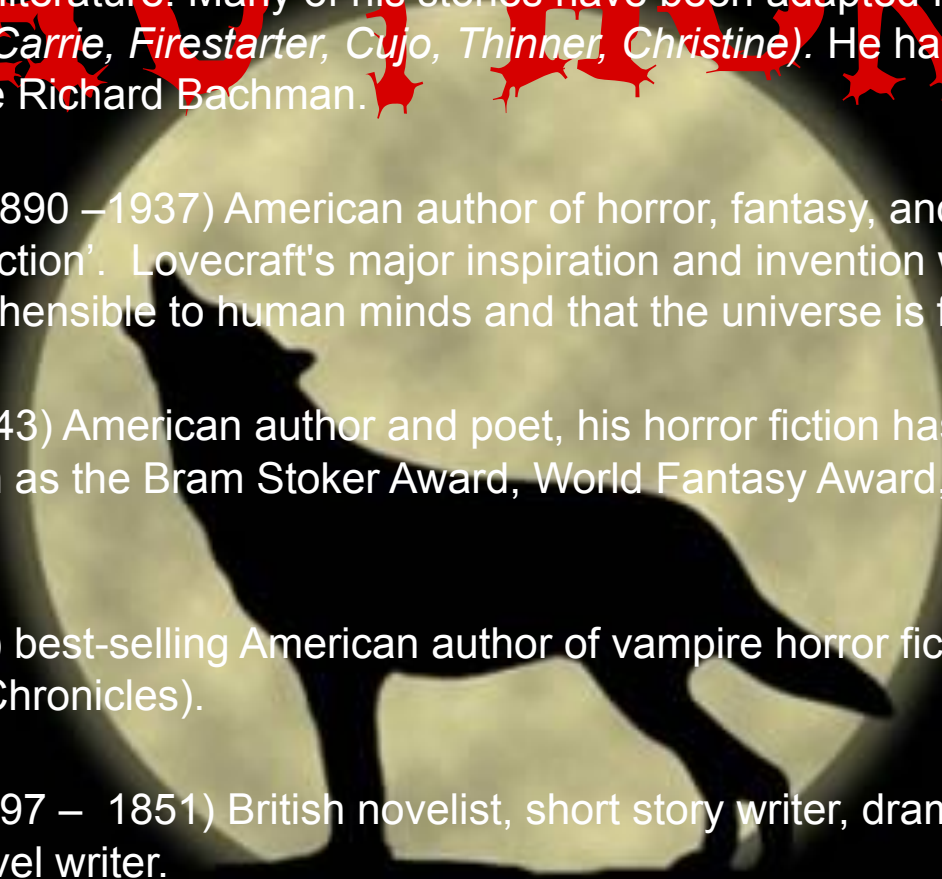
**Peter Straub** (1943) American author and poet, his horror fiction has received numerous literary honors such as the Bram Stoker Award, World Fantasy Award, and International Horror Guild Award.

**Anne Rice** (1941) best-selling American author of vampire horror fiction (i.e. *Interview with a Vampire*, *Vampire Chronicles*).

**Mary Shelley** (1797 – 1851) British novelist, short story writer, dramatist, essayist, biographer, and travel writer.

**Bram Stoker** (1847–1912) Irish novelist and short story writer.

# AUTHORS





# STEPH

- Born in Portland, Maine in 1947
- He made his first professional short story sale in 1967 to Startling Mystery Stories
- He graduated from the University of Maine in 1970 with a B.A. in English and qualified to teach on the high school level
- In the fall of 1973, he began teaching high school English classes at a public school in Maine (Hampden Academy)
- Writing in the evenings and on the weekends, he continued to produce short stories and to work on novels
- In the spring of 1973, Doubleday & Co., accepted the novel Carrie for publication, providing him the means to leave teaching and write full-time (his wife rescued an early draft he had thrown in the garbage)
- Around this time King's mother passed away and he developed a drinking problem
- In 1987 King sought help for substance abuse problems and has been sober since
- June 1999 King was struck by a car while walking on the side of the road – after numerous operations, in 2002 King announced he would quit writing due to pain while sitting. He still writes but at a much slower pace
- He has published over 40 books and has become one of the world's most successful writers



- He has written a number of books using the pen name Richard Bachman
- 2003 recipient of The National Book Foundation Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters (*other winners include: Ray Bradbury, Judy Blume, John Updike*)

*“Stephen King’s writing is securely rooted in the great American tradition that glorifies spirit-of-place and the abiding power of narrative. He crafts stylish, mind-bending page-turners that contain profound moral truths—some beautiful, some harrowing—about our inner lives. This Award commemorates Mr. King’s well-earned place of distinction in the wide world of readers and book lovers of all ages.”*

### **Collaborations**

- King has written two novels with acclaimed horror novelist Peter Straub (*The Talisman* & sequel, *Black House*)
- In 1996 King collaborated with Michael Jackson to create *Ghosts*, a long and expensive musical video

- King played guitar for the rock band Rock-Bottom Remainers, several of whose members are authors (other members include Amy Tan & Matt Groening)

- Many of King's novels and short stories have been made into major motion pictures or TV movies and miniseries - his favourite book-to-film adaptations are *Stand By Me* & *Shawshank Redemption*

- He currently lives in Maine & Florida with his wife



2006

# PET

Pet Sematary is a 1983 horror novel by Stephen King, nominated for a World Fantasy Award for Best Novel in 1984,[1] and adapted into a 1989 film of the same name. In November 2013, PS Publishing released Pet Sematary in a limited 30th Anniversary Edition.

# SEM

# ATARY

