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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 3rd 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.

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