

LEARNING GENRES

HORROR

The horror genre is definitely not for everyone! This fiction sub-genre is imaginary, but all great horror stories seem very realistic. They usually feature a crazy/evil person on the loose or a *supernatural* event that causes harm or destruction. Some horror stories are graphic, meaning that there is a lot of blood and gore. Other horror stories are *psychological*, meaning that the scary part is what's going on in the minds of the characters. Don't read horror stories when it's dark out, you may not make it to sleep.

Supernatural: Something whose existence is outside the natural world; strange and unnatural

Psychological: Something that affects the mind and emotions



Ambrose Bierce: Bierce is a lesser-known writer today but is an important figure in American writing and horror fiction. He was a Civil War veteran and often used war as a topic. In his seventies he went to Mexico during its revolution and was never heard from again.

“And now he became conscious of a new disturbance. Striking through the thought of his dear ones was a sound which he could neither ignore nor understand, a sharp, distinct, metallic percussion like the stroke of a blacksmith's hammer upon the anvil; it had the same ringing quality. He wondered what it was, and whether immeasurably distant or near by—it seemed both. Its recurrence was regular, but as slow as the tolling of a death knell. He awaited each stroke with impatience and—he knew not why—apprehension. The intervals of silence grew progressively longer, the delays became maddening. With their greater infrequency the sounds increased in strength and sharpness. They hurt his ear like the thrust of a knife; he feared he would shriek. What he heard was the ticking of his watch.”

-An Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge (1807)



Name some of the words and elements of this quote that tell you it is horror fiction.

HORROR



Edgar Allan Poe: Poe helped advance many genres of fiction, but most famously horror. His stories often had a character suffering from madness and went into detail about the strange causes and effects of it.

“TRUE! - nervous - very, very dreadfully nervous I had been and am; but why will you say that I am mad? The disease had sharpened my senses - not destroyed - not dulled them. Above all was the sense of hearing acute. I heard all things in the heaven and in the earth. I heard many things in hell. How, then, am I mad? Hearken! and observe how healthily - how calmly I can tell you the whole story.”

-Tell Tale Heart (1844)



What element of horror fiction does this first paragraph of the *Tell Tale Heart* use?

H.P. Lovecraft: Lovecraft was an American suspense and horror writer in the early 20th century. He is considered one of the 20th centuries most important writers of horror fiction.

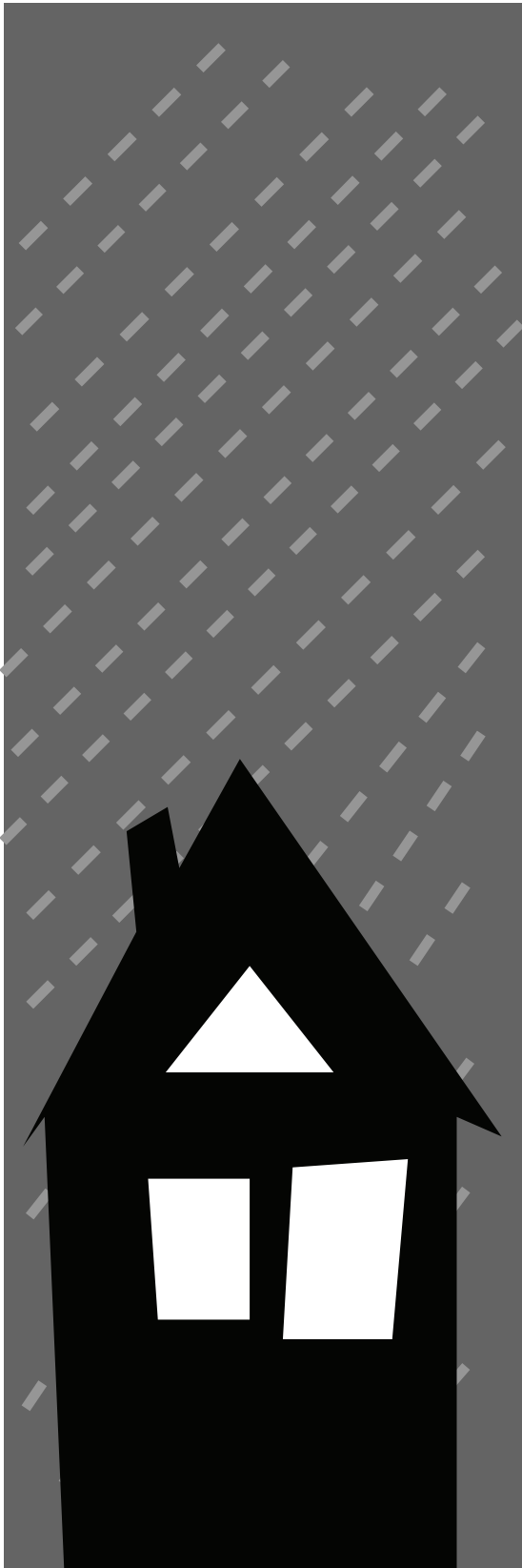
“Immediately upon beholding this amulet we knew that we must possess it; that this treasure alone was our logical pelf from the centuried grave. Even had its outlines been unfamiliar we would have desired it, but as we looked more closely we saw that it was not wholly unfamiliar. Alien it indeed was to all art and literature which sane and balanced readers know, but we recognised it as the thing hinted of in the forbidden Necronomicon of the mad Arab Abdul Alhazred; the ghastly soul-symbol of the corpse-eating cult of inaccessible Leng, in Central Asia..”

- The Hound (1922)



What elements of this quote suggest it is horror fiction?

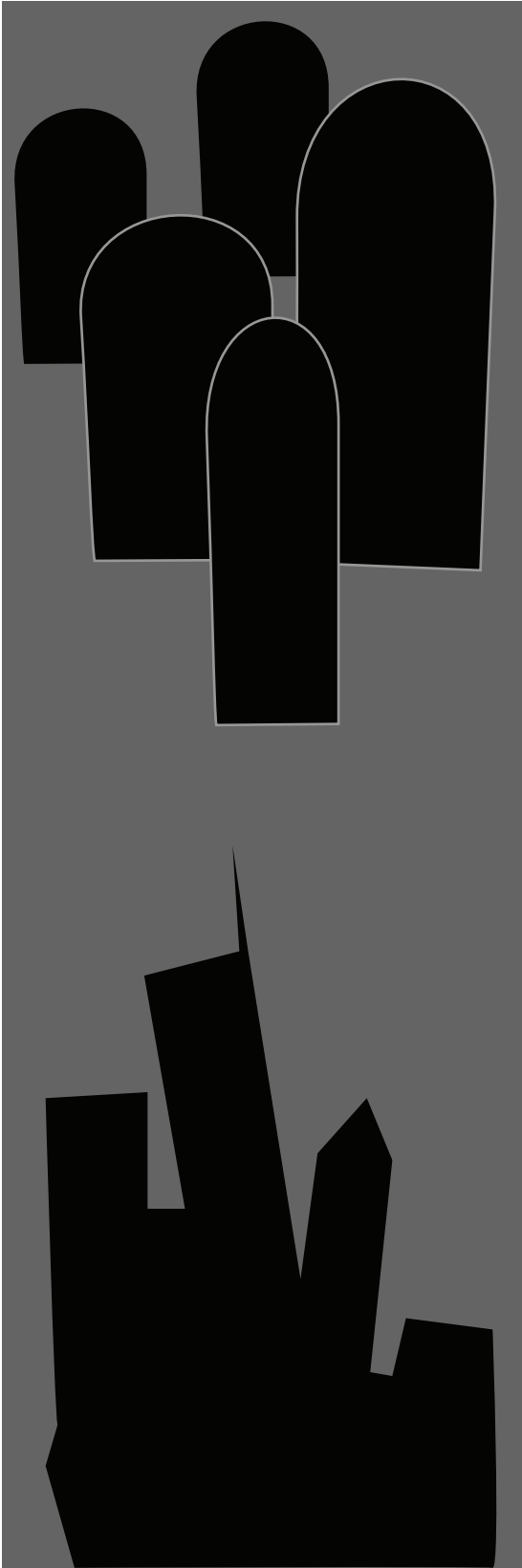
HORROR



You find yourself outside in the rain with just a flashlight. Then, you hear footsteps behind you. They're getting louder and louder! What happens next?!

You are home alone one night, and suddenly you hear a crashing noise at the other end of the house! What do you do?

HORROR



Your friends dared you to walk in the cemetery at night! Suddenly your flashlight goes out. What happens next?

You wake up in an abandoned hospital. When you go outside, the city is abandoned. What happened and how did you get there?
