



### Key Settings

- Castles
- Dungeons
- Haunted houses/buildings
- Extreme landscapes such as rugged mountains/thick forests

### Key Characters

- Damsels in distress/Maidens
- Tyrants
- Villains
- Characters with emotional conflict and a troubled past
- Supernatural forces e.g. vampires/ghosts

## Y7: Fantastic Terrors

### Part One – What is Gothic literature?

#### Social and Historical Context

Gothic literature first appeared in the late 18th century. It uses setting and dialogue to build suspense and create a sense of unease in the reader. It attempts to awaken strong emotions such as fear.

#### Genre Conventions

Common subject matter includes the supernatural, family curses, mystery, and 'madness'.

Many readers recognise a combination of horror and romance within Gothic literature.

#### Narrative Sequence

- Exposition
- Rising action
- Climax
- Falling action
- Resolution



### Vocabulary Check

**Foreshadowing** – when the reader is given hints about what might happen later in the story

**Hero** – can refer to the main protagonist or a character in role as 'hero'

**Macabre** – very disturbing and grisly events or scenes

**Omens** – signs/symbols that foretell doom

**Pathetic Fallacy** – when the weather creates a mood

**Supernatural** – something beyond the laws of nature

**Suspense** – a state of excitement or nervousness about what might happen

**Tension** – emotional strain or nerves

### Texts We'll Study

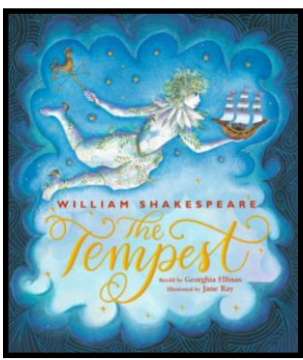
Frankenweenie/The Corpse Bride/Coraline directed by Tim Burton (all rated PG)

The Monkey's Paw by W.W. Jacobs

The Tell-Tale Heart/ The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe

The Red Room by H.G. Wells

Excerpts from: Dracula by Bram Stoker/Jekyll & Hyde by R.L. Stevenson /Frankenstein by Mary Shelley/Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde/ Twilight by Stephenie Meyer



## Y8: THE TEMPEST

### PLOT

*The Tempest* is a play about magic, betrayal, love, and forgiveness. It is set on an island somewhere near Italy where Prospero, the one-time Duke of Milan, and his beautiful daughter, Miranda, live with a sprite called Ariel and a grotesque creature called Caliban. Prospero is a powerful magician who creates a storm, or tempest, that sets the scene for the play.

### ABOUT THE PLAY

When the First Folio edition of Shakespeare's plays was published in 1623, *The Tempest* appeared under the genre category "comedy." Like all of Shakespeare's other comedies, the play resolves happily, with the promise of a wedding between Miranda and Ferdinand. However, many academics consider the play to be a romance.

Shakespeare wrote much of *The Tempest* in a dense, poetic language to reflect the noble status of the majority of its characters.

**Setting (Time):** The Renaissance

**Setting (Place):** An island off the coast of Italy

**Tone:** Dreamy, mysterious, and magical

**"This thing of darkness I Acknowledge mine."**

**"Hell is empty and all the devils are here."**

**"We are such stuff as dreams are made on..."**

### THEMES

Freedom and slavery  
Empathy and forgiveness  
Nature vs. nurture  
Justice  
Social status  
Supernatural



### DRAMATIC DEVICES

Dialogue – the exchange of spoken words between characters

Dramatic irony – when the audience knows something that the characters do not

Sets – gives us a sense of the location when we watch the play on the stage

Soliloquy – when a character speaks their thoughts aloud when alone

Stage directions – tell the actors which actions to perform and how to perform them

### KEY CHARACTERS

**Prospero** - The play's protagonist, and father of Miranda.

**Miranda** - The daughter of Prospero.

**Ariel** - Prospero's spirit helper.

**Caliban** - Another of Prospero's servants.

**Ferdinand** - Son and heir of Alonso.

**Alonso** - King of Naples and father of Ferdinand.

**Antonio** - Prospero's brother.

**Sebastian** - Alonso's brother.

**Gonzalo** - An old, honest lord.

**Trinculo & Stephano** - Trinculo, a jester, and Stephano, a drunken butler, are two minor members of the shipwrecked.