

Gothic Recommended Reading List

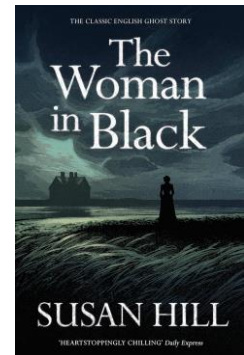
A selection of books available in the Anglo European Library to read around the Gothic and Horror Genre

The Woman in Black

Susan Hill

Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is summoned to attend the funeral of Mrs Alice Drablow, the sole inhabitant of Eel Marsh House.

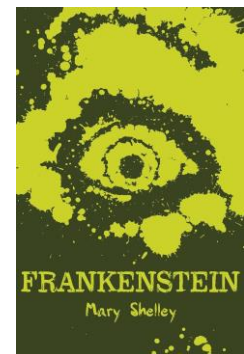
The house stands at the end of a causeway, wreathed in fog and mystery, but it is not until he glimpses a wasted young woman, dressed all in black, at the funeral, that a creeping sense of unease begins to take hold, a feeling deepened by the reluctance of the locals to talk of the woman in black - and her terrible purpose.



Frankenstein

Mary Shelly

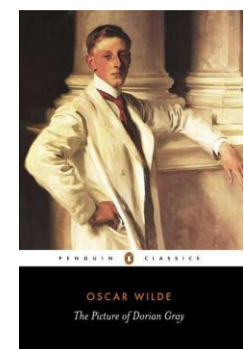
This timeless gothic novel presents the epic battle between man and monster. In trying to create life, the young student Victor Frankenstein unleashes forces beyond his control, setting into motion a long and tragic chain of events that brings Victor to the very brink of madness. How he tries to destroy his creation, as it destroys everything Victor loves, is a powerful story of love, friendship, scientific hubris, and horror.



The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

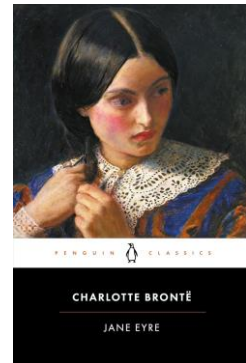
Oscar Wilde's alluring novel of decadence and sin follows Dorian Gray who, enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his depravity. This definitive edition includes a selection of contemporary reviews condemning the novel's immorality.



Jane Eyre

Charlotte Brontë

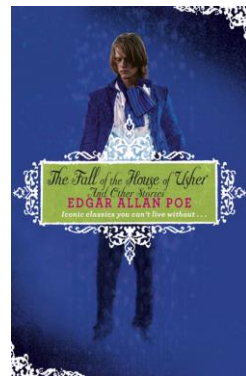
A novel of intense emotional power, heightened atmosphere and fierce intelligence, *Jane Eyre* dazzled and shocked readers with its passionate depiction of a woman's search for equality and freedom on her own terms. Its heroine Jane endures loneliness and cruelty in the home of her heartless aunt and the cold charity of Lowood School. Her natural independence and spirit prove necessary when she takes a position as governess at Thornfield Hall. But when she finds love with her sardonic employer, Rochester, the discovery of a shameful secret forces her to make a terrible choice. A gothic masterpiece of tempestuous passions and dark secrets.



The Fall of the House of Usher and Other Stories

Edgar Allan Poe

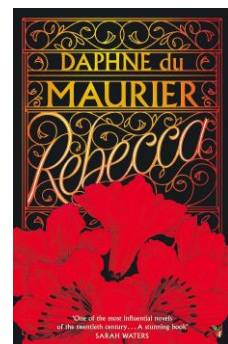
A collection that displays the full force of Edgar Allan Poe's mastery of both Gothic horror and the short story form. This selection of Poe's critical writings, short fiction and poetry demonstrates his intense interest in aesthetic issues, and the astonishing power and imagination with which he probed the darkest corners of the human mind. 'The Fall of the House of Usher' is a slow-burning Gothic horror, describing the final hours of a family tormented by tragedy and the legacy of the past. In 'The Tell-Tale Heart', a murderer's insane delusions threaten to betray him, while stories such as 'The Pit and the Pendulum' explore extreme states of decadence, fear and hate.



Rebecca

Daphne Du Maurier

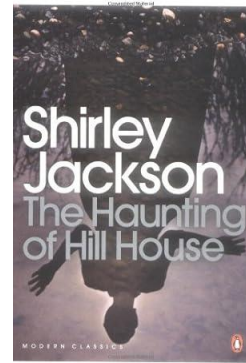
On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine of *Rebecca* falls in love and marries Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower. But as they arrive at her husband's home, Manderley, a change comes over Maxim, and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated mansion, she realises that she barely knows him. In every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, and the new Mrs de Winter walks in her shadow.



The Haunting of Hill House

Shirley Jackson

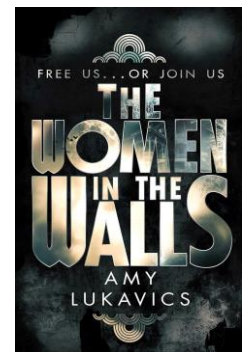
Four seekers have arrived at the rambling old pile known as Hill House: Dr Montague, an occult scholar looking for evidence of psychic phenomena; Theodora, his assistant; Luke, the heir to the estate; and Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman with a past. As they begin to deal with horrifying occurrences beyond their control, they do not know what lies ahead, for Hill House is gathering its powers and soon it will choose one of them to make its own.



The Women in the Walls

Amy Lukavics

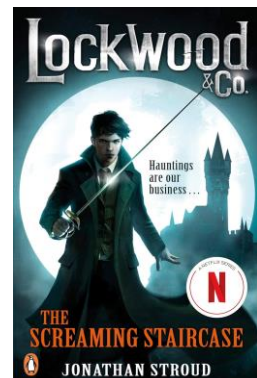
Lucy Acosta's mother died when she was three. Growing up in a Victorian mansion in the middle of the woods with her cold, distant father, she and her best friend and cousin, Margaret, know the ancient hallways inside out. Or so they think . . . When her beloved Aunt Penelope disappears while walking in the surrounding woods, Lucy finds herself devastated and alone. Margaret, meanwhile, has been spending a LOT of time in the attic. She claims she can hear her mother's voice whispering from the walls. Shut out by her father, Lucy watches helplessly as her cousin's sanity slowly and completely unravels. And then she begins hearing voices herself . . .



The Screaming Staircase

Jonathan Stroud

When the dead come back to haunt the living, Lockwood & Co. step in . . . For more than fifty years, the country has been affected by a horrifying epidemic of ghosts. Several Psychic Investigations Agencies have sprung up to destroy the dangerous apparitions. Lucy Carlyle finds herself joining the smallest most ramshackle agency in the city, run by the charismatic Anthony Lockwood. When one of their cases goes horribly wrong, Lockwood & Co. have one last chance of redemption. Unfortunately, this involves spending the night in one of the most haunted houses in England and trying to escape alive. Set in a city stalked by spectres, The Screaming Staircase is the first in a chilling new series full of suspense, humour, and truly terrifying ghosts. Your nights will never be the same again . . .

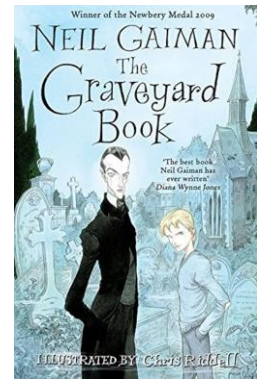


The Graveyard Book

Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a normal boy. He would be completely normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, raised and educated by ghosts. There, living among the dead, Bod discovers that he possesses remarkable magical powers: he can avoid people's notice, scare them, and even invade their dreams.

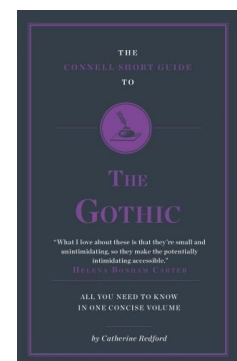
There are dangers and adventures for Bod in the graveyard. But it is in the land of the living that the real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives - and he has sinister plans for Bod.



The Connell Short Guide to The Gothic

Catherine Redford

Where did Gothic originate? What is the concept of the 'other' so important? Is a sense of terror central to Gothic literature? How have 20th century writers subverted the genre? All you need to know in one concise volume.

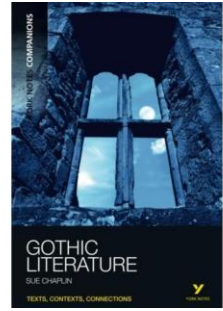


Gothic Literature

Sue Chaplin

The York Notes Companion to Gothic Literature explores the genre from its origins, through Romantic and Victorian Gothic to modern and postmodernist re-imaginings of the form, analysing key debates such as

Female Gothic and the Gothic narrator. Essential reading for any student of Gothic literature.



Please be aware that some of the books are classed as 14+, please speak to the Librarian for alternative choices if you are underage or do not have permission to read this age group.

For further suggestions, please pop into the Library and speak to the Librarian, alternatively search for your favourite author or genre on Oliver.