

GOTHICISM

What is Gothicism?

How did it Develop?

What are its General Characteristics?

What Caused American Gothicism to
develop Differently?

What are the Characteristics of American
Gothicism?

GOTHICISM

THE ROOT WORD REFERS TO

GOTHS

GOTHICISM



GOTHICISM

This sub-form of Romanticism is a referral to the Latin words for things Gothic and later for things Germanic:

‘Gothicus’

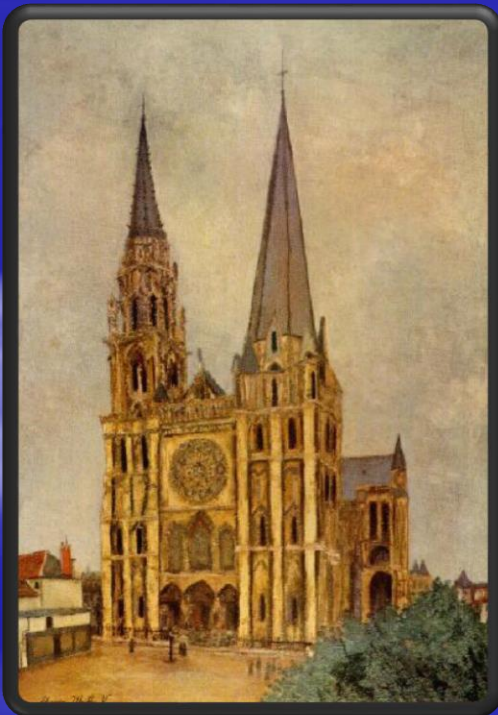
‘Res Germania’



Alaric's Triumph in Athens

GOTHICISM

The term quickly came to represent things relating to Medieval Times.

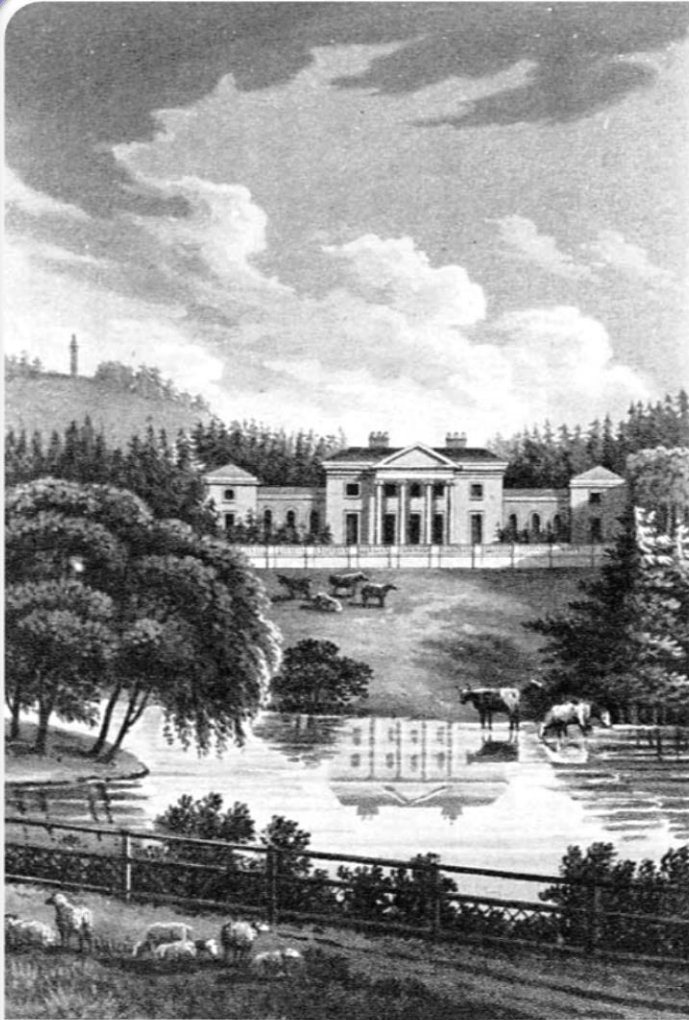


GOTHICISM

It can be compared to a deep understanding the universe through (dark) emotional rather than rational terms. The trademark emotions are *terror* and *fear*!

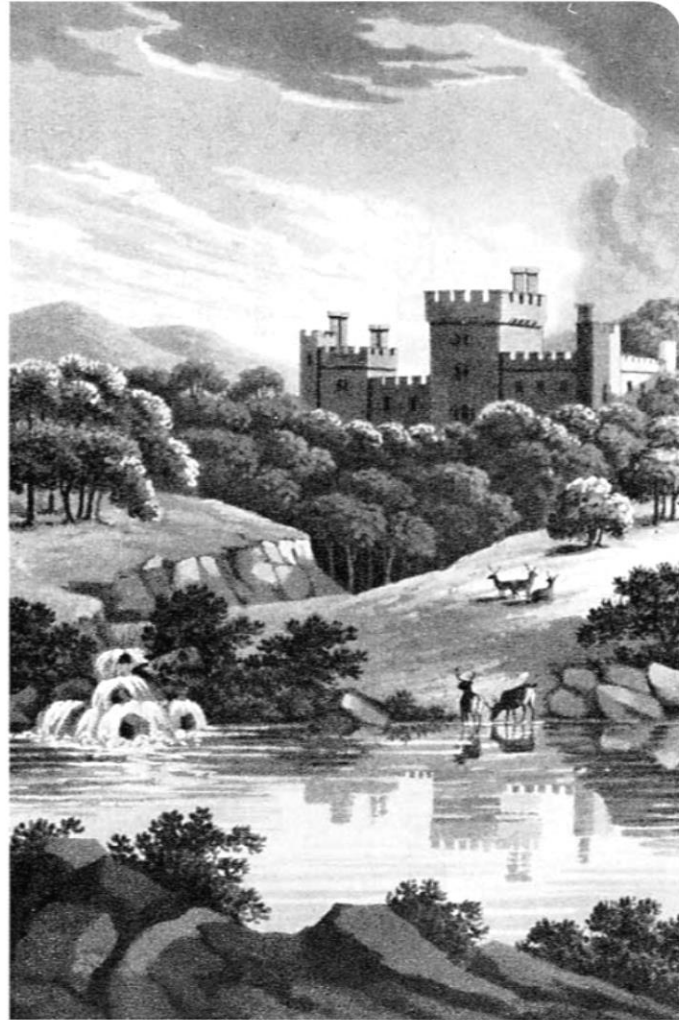
Teutonic influences are those such as the “Twilight of the Gods.”

GOETHICISM



GRECIAN

London Published by J. Taylor, Feb. 1. 1820



GOthic

London Published by J. Taylor, Feb. 1. 1820

GOthic

LITERARY GOTHICISM

In Literary terms, Gothicism came to represent the 'Darker Side' of Romanticism.



LITERARY GOTHICISM

there ARE NIGHTMARES!



LITERARY GOTHICISM

There are Creatures that *Haunt* the Night!

LITERARY GOTHICISM



Creatures of the Night

LITERARY GOTHICISM

There are Creatures, from outside the community, that *Haunt* the Night!

Evil Creatures

LITERARY GOTHICISM

Grendel from *Beowulf*



LITERARY GOTHICISM

A Series of Setting and Characters are typical to this type of Literary Gothicism.

LITERARY GOTHICISM

Haunted Castles



LITERARY GOTHICISM

Haunted Castles

Ghosts



LITERARY GOTHICISM

Haunted Castles

Ghosts

Human Monsters

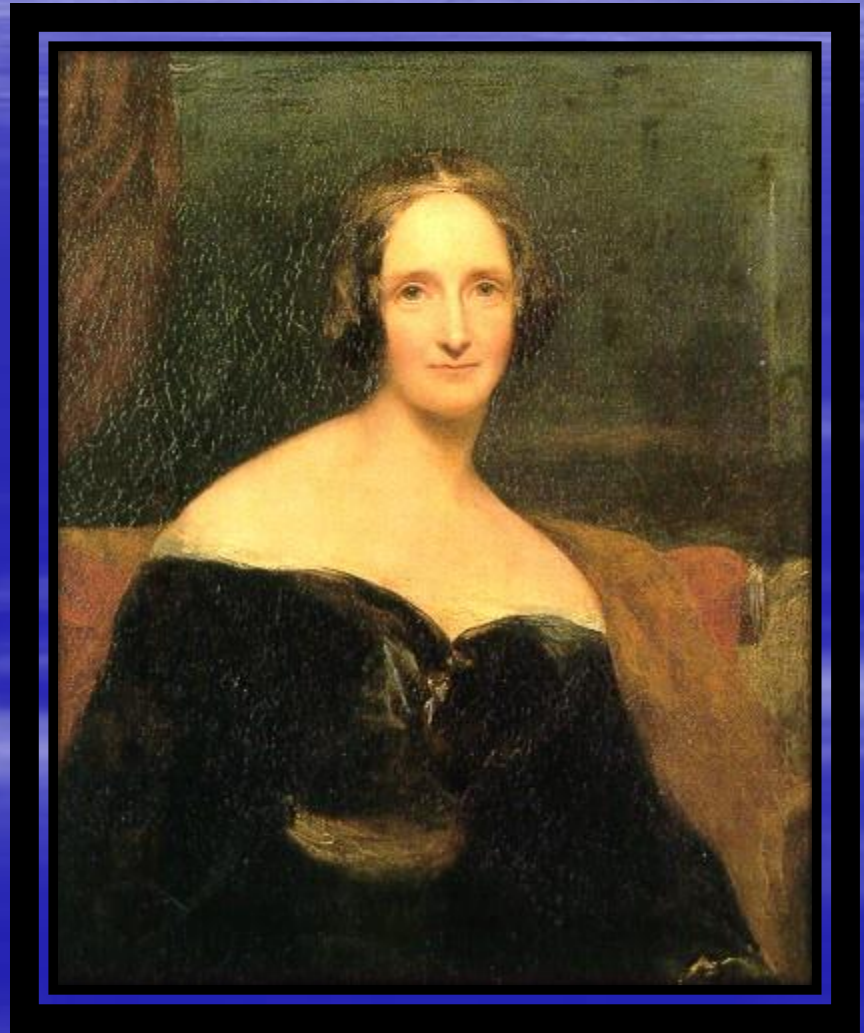


GOTHICISM

Major European Gothic Authors include:

GOTHICISM

Mary Shelly



GOTHICISM

Mary Shelly

Charles Dickens



GOTHICISM

Mary Shelly

Charles Dickens

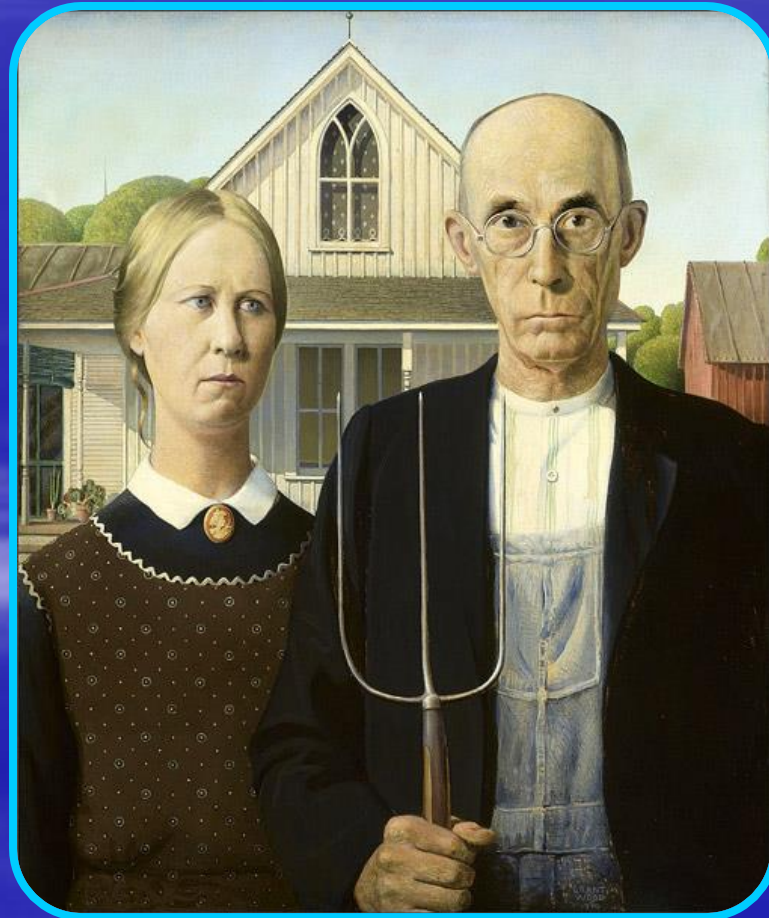
Bram Stocker



***AMERICAN
LITERARY GOTHICISM***

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

American Gothicism began to take new
Directions



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Some typically Gothic elements remain,
particularly settings involving forests.



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Some typically Gothic elements remain,
particularly settings involving forests.

“Young Goodman Brown”
By
Nathaniel Hawthorne

Forests contain real physical
dangers:

Bears, Cougars, Poisonous
Snakes, Scorpions, Wolves.



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

“My Terror is not of Germany,
but of the *Soul*.”

-- Edgar Allen Poe

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

American Gothic spirit was driven
by the “power of blackness.”

-- Herman Melville

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Unlike traditional Gothicism, American Gothicism did NOT use evil that invade from the outside.



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

- The *individual's* potential for evil was the determining trait of American Gothicism.



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

- Few vampires, werewolves, ghosts, lost spirits, demons, or witches.

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

In American Gothicism, “the deepest terrors are socio-political in nature, reflecting our worst fears about vulnerable Western Institutions:

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

- Our Government
- Bureaucracies
- School Systems
- Communities
- Families”

-- Anthony Magistrale

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

The Frontier Experience moved the settings from castles and haunted forests to villages, homes, and other natural and domestic settings, places normally considered safe.

Ex.: “The Fall of the House of Usher” [Living Room]

“The Black Cat” [Back Yard & Basement]

“My Cousin Major Molineau” [Tavern]

The House of the Seven Gables [Kitchen & Living Room]

Moby Dick [Boarding House and Sea Ship]

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

America was seen as a 'Fallen Eden.'



Halo3 © Bungie Studios, Microsoft Corporation.

Eden
Sept 2007 RVideo

Halo3 © Bungie Studios, Microsoft Corporation.

Eden
Sept 2007 RVideo



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

American Gothicism becomes obsessed with:

- Family disintegration
- Incest
- Racial Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Contamination of the landscape

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Major Themes include:

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Major Themes include:

- Terror of Self



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Major Themes include:

- Terror of Self
- Psychic Disorders



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Major Themes include:

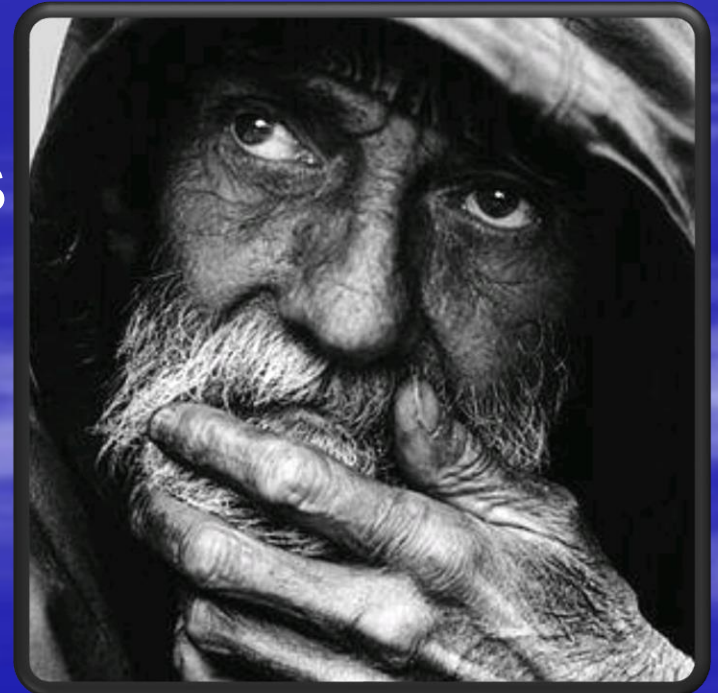
- Terror of Self
- Psychic Disorders
- Terrible sense of Loneliness



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

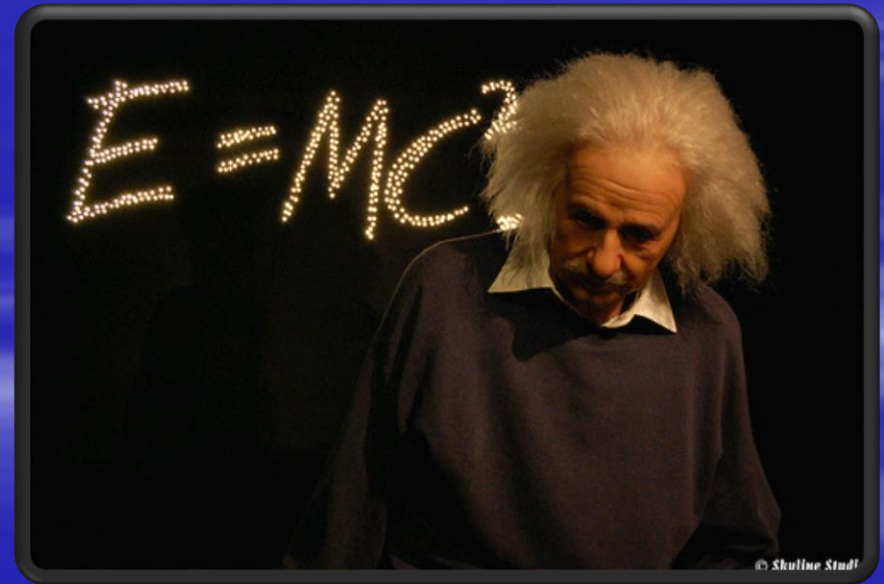
Major Themes include:

- Terror of Self
- Psychic Disorders
- Terrible sense of Loneliness
- Homelessness



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Gothicism is the irrational twin of Rationalism



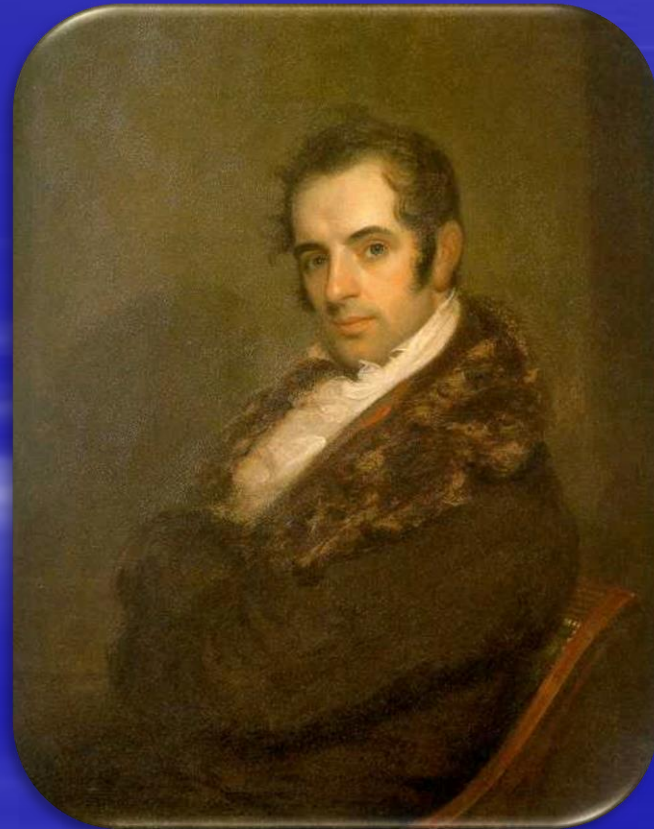
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GOTHICISM

Major 19th Century Gothic Writers include:

Washington Irving

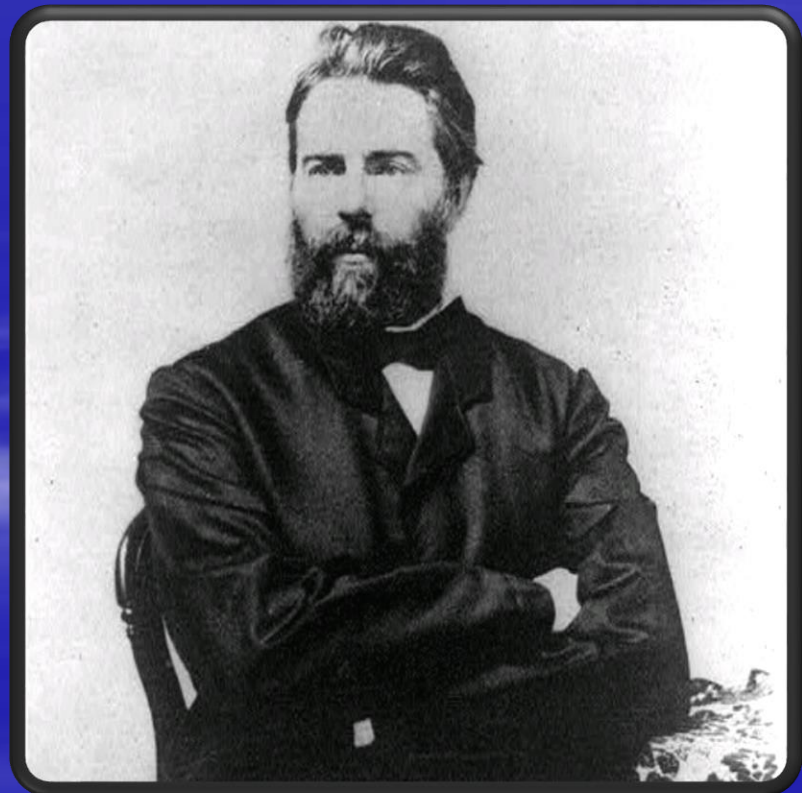


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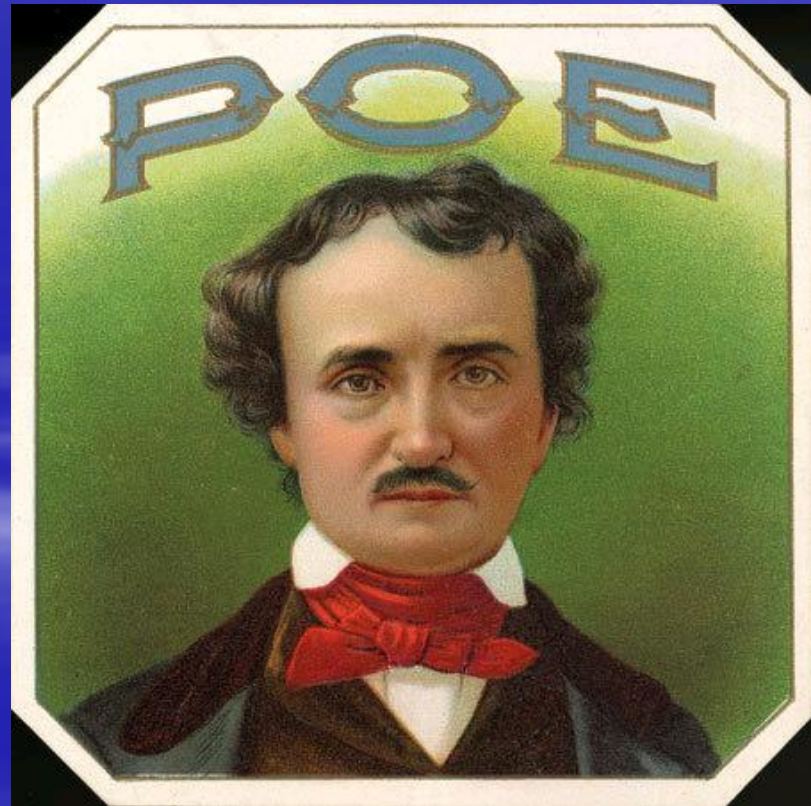
Herman Melville

Nathaniel Hawthorne



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

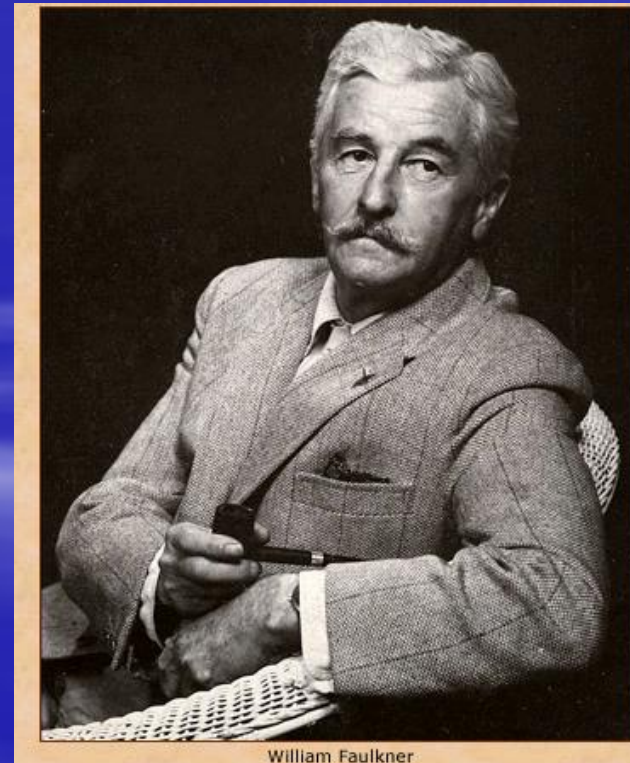
EDGAR ALLEN



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

William Faulkner



William Faulkner

AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

Harper Lee



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

Flannery O'Connor



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

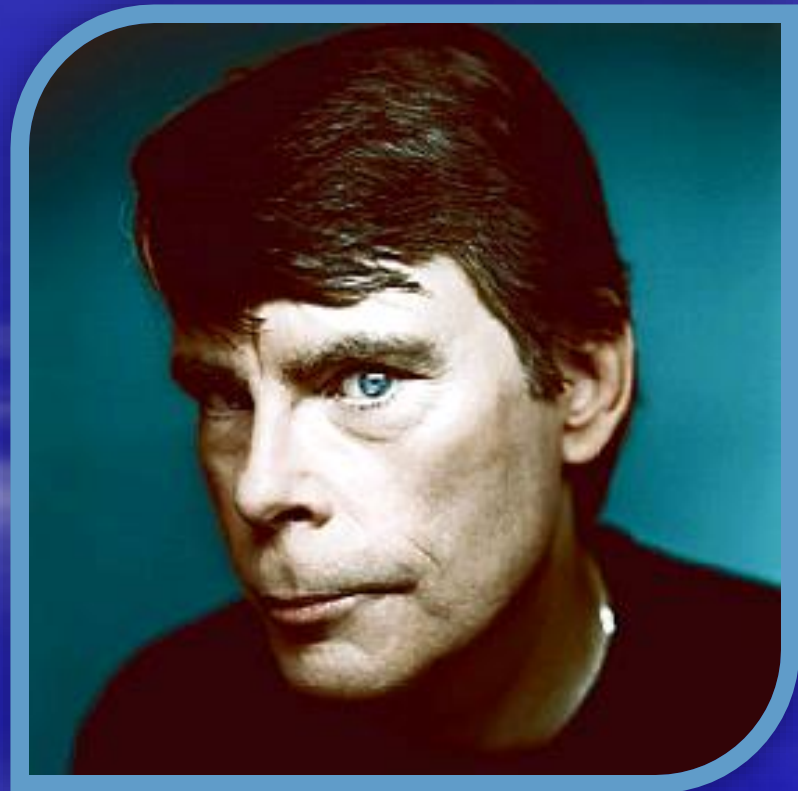
Anne Rice



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

Stephen King



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

Tim Burton



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

M Night Shamaylan



AMERICAN LITERARY GOTHICISM

Modern Gothic writers include:

George Romero



LITERARY GOTHICISM

REVIEW

General Gothicism:

- A sub-form of Romanticism
- Term originally meaning “of things German”
- The “darker” side of normally emotionally bright Romanticism—existence has nightmarish quality.

LITERARY GOTHICISM

REVIEW

European Gothicism:

- Evil creatures come from the outside haunt the night—often non or anti-Christian.
- Typical settings include forests, haunted castles, swamps.
- Monsters tend to be human or human like: vampires, ghosts, werewolves, witches, and other satanic or possessed souls.

LITERARY GOTHICISM

REVIEW

American Gothicism:

- Rather than influenced by Teutonic myth and religion, the “dark view of life” was influenced by the radical Protestant sense of depravity and the insecurities of the Frontier existence.

LITERARY GOTHICISM REVIEW

American Gothicism:

- Influenced by presence of the Frontier, settings were the most ordinary places, making security impossible even in our 'safest places': homes, churches, etc.
- Monsters similar to those of European Gothicism became the stuff of Science Fiction, rather than American Gothicism.

LITERARY GOTHICISM REVIEW

American Gothicism:

- Settings differ mainly due to the Frontier experiences—the country is young.
- Dark Forests remain a not uncommon setting because physical dangers were real.
- Horror is more psychological and spiritual rather than physical.

LITERARY GOTHICISM

REVIEW

American Gothicism

Plots and stories show obsessions with:

- Family disintegration
- Incest
- Racial Violence
- Sexual Violence
- Contamination of the landscape

LITERARY GOTHICISM REVIEW

American Gothicism

Major Themes include:

- Terror of Self
- Psychic Disorders
- Terrible Sense of Loneliness
- Homelessness
- America is a Lost Eden

LITERARY GOTHICISM REVIEW

American Gothicism

Gothicism in American never really died out or went into remission. It's alive and well as the movies of Tim Burton, M. Night Shyamalan, & George Romero demonstrate.

European Gothicism has always existed side by side with American Gothicism to the delight of readers and movie goers.