

Gothic Literature

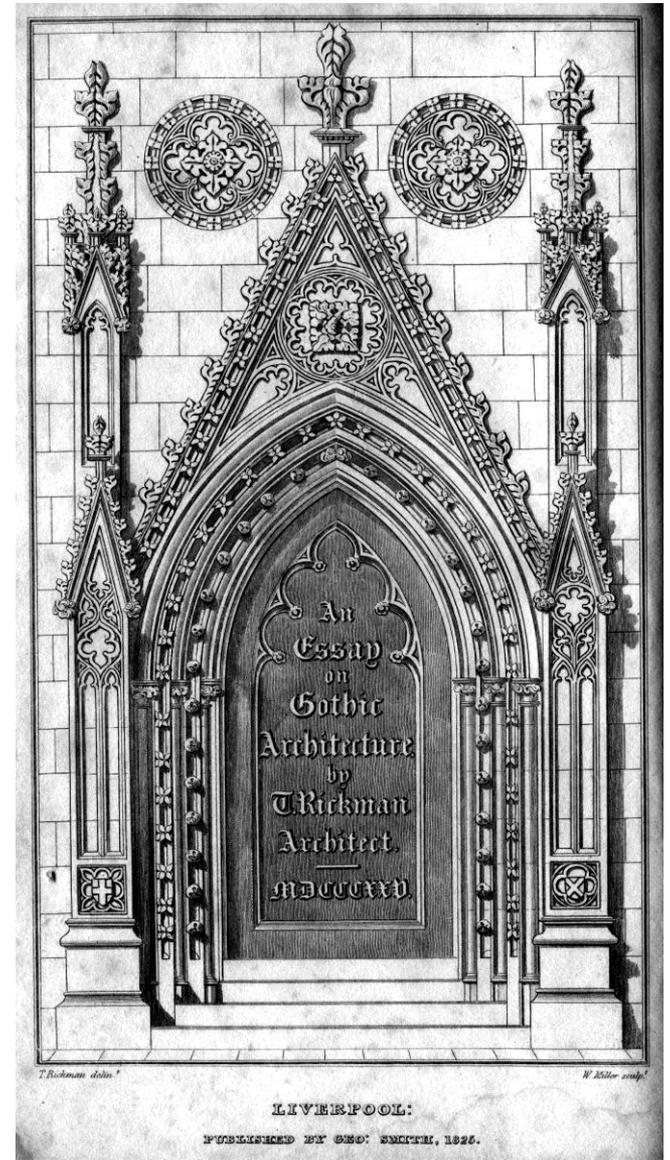
- ∞ List 3 words you associate with the word “gothic.”
- ∞ Use the following slides to fill in the Gothic Literature notes page



☞ The oldest and strongest of emotions is fear,
and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear
of the unknown.



It's called "Gothic" because gothic-style settings - like castles, mansions, and monasteries—served well as backdrops for such dark literature.



The run-down...

- Genre deals with emotional extremes and very dark themes; it examines our deepest, darkest fears—both real and imaginary.
- Gothic lit often incorporates supernatural elements, demons, and apparitions.
- Meant to terrorize the reader—but also draw them in

Common characteristics

- ∞ Victim is helpless against his torturer
- ∞ Torturer has immense power, sometimes supernatural
- ∞ Victim is often trapped by impenetrable walls—physical or psychological

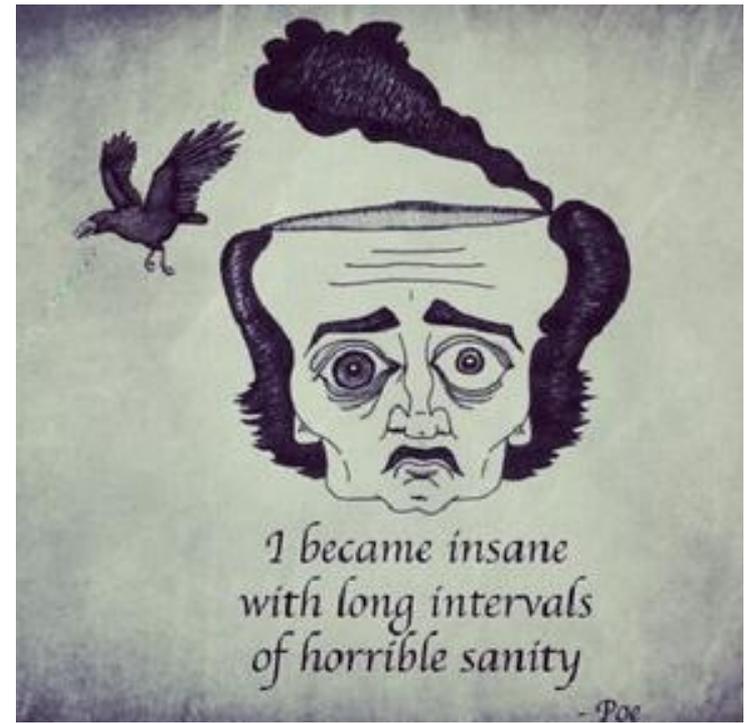
Common characteristics

- ∞ Atmosphere of mystery, darkness, oppressiveness
- ∞ Mysterious disappearances and reappearances
- ∞ Melodramatically violent and psychologically abnormal

Edgar Allan Poe

His prose is richly poetic with...

- ☠ Jeweled phrases
- ☠ Repetition
- ☠ Visual imagery
- ☠ Simple, straightforward plots



- ☠ **Typical protagonist (the main, good guy, character)**
dark, handsome, proud, melancholy, intellectual,
highly sensitive, capricious, introspective, isolated, and
sometimes slightly mad gentleman of ancient family
and opulent circumstances.

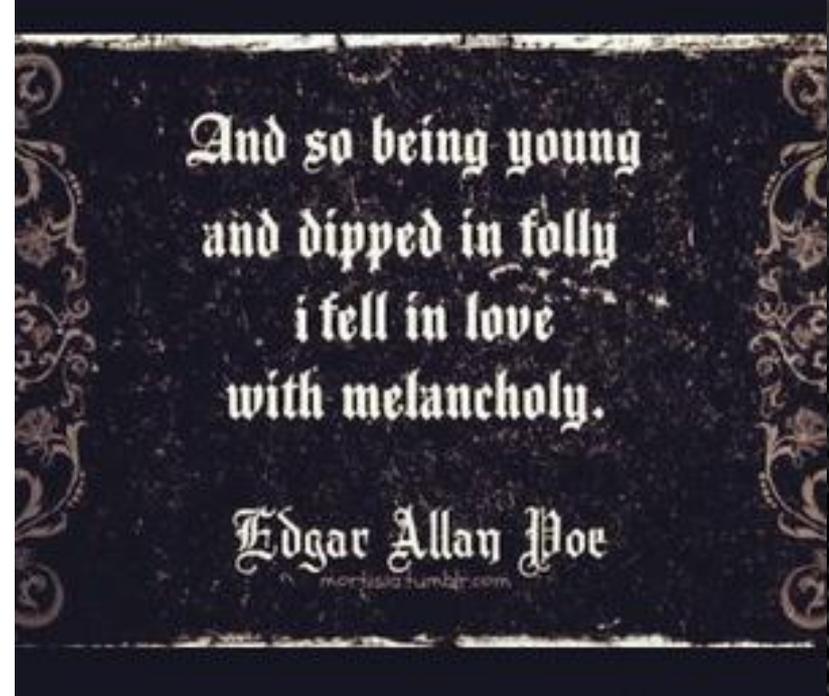
"A Sone"

Read the poem.

What is each stanza about?

Who is the speaker?

What has happened to the speaker?

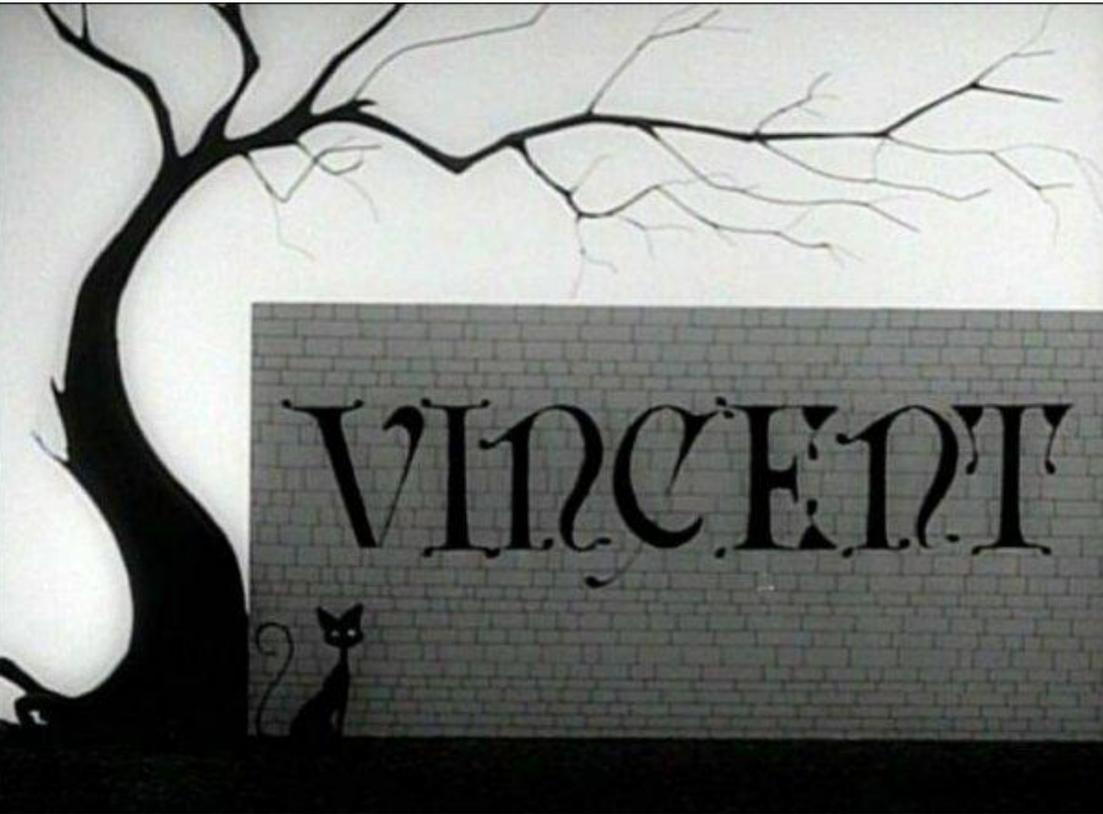


from "Edgar Allen Poe" in Supernatural Horror in Literature by H.P. Lovecraft

Read the paragraph below, and answer questions 1-7 on green notes page.

IN the eighteen-thirties occurred a literary dawn directly affecting not only the history of the weird tale, but that of short fiction as a whole; and indirectly moulding the trends and fortunes of a great European æsthetic school. It is our good fortune as Americans to be able to claim that dawn as our own, for it came in the person of our most illustrious and unfortunate fellow-countryman Edgar Allan Poe. Poe's fame has been subject to curious undulations, and it is now a fashion amongst the "advanced intelligentsia" to minimize his importance both as an artist and as an influence; but it would be hard for any mature and reflective critic to deny the tremendous value of his work and the persuasive potency of his mind as an opener of artistic vistas. True, his type of outlook may have been anticipated; but it was he who first realized its possibilities and gave it supreme form and systematic expression. True also, that subsequent writers may have produced greater single tales than his; but again we must comprehend that it was only he who taught them by example and precept the art which they, having the way cleared for them and given an explicit guide, were perhaps able to carry to greater lengths. Whatever his limitations, Poe did that which no one else ever did or could have done; and to him we owe the modern horror-story in its final and perfected state.

a Tim Burton short



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- ∞ How is Vincent a typical gothic protagonist?
- ∞ How is he different than the typical gothic protagonist?