

REVISION MATERIAL

YEAR 9

ENGLISH

Assessment 1 (The Gothic - A Christmas Carol)

Surname: _____

Forename(s): _____

Class: _____

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Key Spellings and Definitions

Vocabulary	Definition
Milieu	The people, physical, and social conditions and events that provide the environment in which someone acts or lives.
Malthusian	Relating to or characteristic of the English economist and clergyman Thomas Robert Malthus or his ideas about population.
Purgatory	1. an intermediate state after death for people to make satisfaction for past sins and so become fit for heaven. 2. a place or state of temporary suffering or misery
Redemption	An act of redeeming or atoning for a fault or mistake, or the state of being redeemed.
Symbolism	A literary device that uses <u>symbols</u> , be they words, people, marks, locations, or abstract ideas to represent something beyond the literal meaning.
Antithesis	A person or thing that is the direct opposite of someone or something else.
Apronym	A name aptly or fittingly suited to a person's profession, personality, or some characteristic
Universal Truth	A <u>universal truth</u> is a truth that applies to all mankind regardless of time and place. It is an intrinsic part of our collective human soul.
Didactic	Intended to teach, particularly in having moral instruction as an ulterior motive.
Transformation	A marked change in form, nature, or appearance.
Ideology	A system of ideas and ideals, especially one which forms the basis of economic or political theory and policy.
Reckoning	The avenging or punishing of past mistakes or misdeeds.
Catalyst	A person or thing that provokes or speeds significant change or action
Physiognomy	A person's facial features or expression, especially when regarded as indicative of character or ethnic origin.
Catharsis	The process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions.

Section 2 - Comprehension

Revise Chapters 1 and 2 to prepare for the questions that you'll be asked to answer.

Chapter 1

On Christmas Eve, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his old business partner, Jacob Marley. Marley's ghost is bound in a chain forged of cashboxes, ledgers, and more, reminders of his sins on Earth. To save Scrooge from encountering a similar fate, Marley tells Scrooge that he will be visited by three spirits over the next three nights.

Chapter 2

Scrooge awakens to the Ghost of Christmas Past who transports him to the countryside where he grew up, overwhelming Scrooge to tears at the sight of memories from his youth. Afterward, Scrooge is taken to a scene where Belle, his fiancée at the time, calls off their engagement, claiming that greed has corrupted him. Scrooge begs the ghost to take him back home, and after the ghost disappears, he falls back to sleep.

For a copy of the full text follow this link:

https://www.ibiblio.org/ebooks/Dickens/Carol/Dickens_Carol.pdf

Descriptive Writing

You are going to be given an image and asked to use this as a prompt to write a piece of descriptive writing.

(You will have covered these skills in class before your assessment.)

You should explore the image by considering the four key elements of setting:



Explore our stimulus image by considering the four key elements of setting.

For each heading, label your image with your ideas:

Time
Place
Physical environment
Social Milieu

It is easy to fall into the trap of creating a clichéd setting, particularly when writing in the [Gothic genre](#).

Whilst the use of [tropes](#) helps set and meet the reader's expectation of the text, including interesting and thoughtful details will help you avoid boring, predictable [settings](#).

Look at your image carefully:

- Select 4-5 'concrete' key aspects of the [setting](#) you could describe
- For each of those key details, list 4-5 (thoughtful/interesting) micro details - *remember, 'concrete' details, not adjectives*

Descriptive writing

In case you need a little guidance or some ideas:

<u>Gothic Tropes</u> <i>These are the recurring ideas and themes which frequently crop up in Gothic texts and help you recognise the genre. These can be linked to characters, setting, plot and atmosphere.</i>	• Thick fog curling around the gas lamps like ghostly fingers • Dim gaslight flickering through the mist, casting elongated shadows • Cobblestone streets slick with rain and echoing with distant footsteps • Narrow alleys swallowing the light — the unknown lurking within • Crumbling buildings, their façades scarred by time • The faint hiss of gas lamps, a whispering presence in the gloom • Shuttered windows hiding unseen lives and secrets • The smell of smoke and damp, clinging to the air like decay
<u>Metaphor</u> <i>A metaphor describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison based on the shared qualities of two things. To understand them we can look for tenor/vehicle/ground.</i>	• Fear crawled through her veins. • The house breathed in the dark, alive with secrets. • Shadows clung like cobwebs to the walls. • His guilt was a spectre that would not rest. • Time was a rotting carcass in that place. • The wind screamed like a mourning widow. • Her thoughts were a labyrinth of echoes. • Hope was a flickering flame in an ocean of night.
<u>Pathetic Fallacy</u> <i>This is where elements of nature, like the weather, are used to reflect human emotions and is a widely used Gothic convention. It is a powerful tool in creating atmosphere.</i>	<u>Fear / Suspense:</u> thunder rolling, lightning fractured, rain drumming, mist creeping, oppressive heat <u>Sorrow:</u> drizzling rain, grey dawn, wilting leaves, pale light <u>Anger / Chaos:</u> storm-torn sky, howling wind, crashing waves, trees thrashing <u>Isolation / Despair:</u> cold moonlight, still air, frozen ground, empty silence <u>Foreboding:</u> gathering clouds, low rumble, dim horizon, stagnant air
<u>Semantic Fields</u> <i>A technique used by writers to keep a certain image persistent in their reader's mind. They are a collection of words which are related to one another be it through their similar meanings, or</i>	<u>Death & Decay:</u> decay, rot, skeleton, lifeless, withered, corpse, ashes, ruin, dust, pallid <u>Darkness & Shadow:</u> gloom, murk, abyss, shade, obscurity, dim, silhouette, midnight, eclipse <u>Silence & Sound:</u> whisper, murmur, creak, echo, hush, distant, faint, shriek, rustle <u>Religion & the Supernatural:</u>

<i>through a more abstract reason.</i>	altar, cathedral, relic, demon, ghost, spirit, prayer, curse, sanctum <u>Emotion & Sanity:</u> madness, delirium, despair, dread, guilt, torment, hysteria, obsession
<u>Contrast</u> <i>Gothic writers frequently uses the contrast between light and dark, order and chaos, or beauty and decay to heighten the atmosphere. This contrast creates a sense of tension and unease.</i>	<u>Light vs Dark:</u> glimmer / gloom, radiant / shadowed, pure / tainted <u>Beauty vs Horror:</u> delicate / grotesque, fragile / monstrous, serene / violent <u>Life vs Death:</u> pulse / stillness, breath / tomb, bloom / decay <u>Reality vs Imagination:</u> tangible / spectral, certain / illusory, known / forbidden <u>Innocence vs Corruption:</u> pure / stained, childlike / sinful

Punctuation / sentence structures

Using different types of sentences in writing is important because it makes your writing clearer, more interesting, and easier to read.

Clarity: Some ideas are easier to understand in short, simple sentences. Longer sentences can help explain more complicated thoughts or connect different ideas together.

Keeps It Interesting: If all your sentences are the same length and structure, it can get boring to read. Mixing short and long sentences keeps the reader interested and makes the writing more exciting.

Emphasis: Short sentences can make important points stand out, while longer sentences help you explain things in more detail.

Setting the Mood: The way you structure sentences can also change the feeling of your writing. For example, short sentences can make things feel fast and urgent, while longer ones feel calmer or more thoughtful.

Here is an example of a good answer:

In the quiet depths of the melancholy office, a heavy stillness hung in the air, as if it conspired to hush any sound that might disturb the tranquil mystery. The room, draped in the greyness of foggy weather, kept its secrets hidden, covered in a dimness that clung to every corner. Small, dusty windows, reluctant portals to the outside world, offered feeble resistance to the encroaching gloom. The faint light that filtered through, though weak, cast subtle shadows on piles of papers scattered across a desk, their folds resembling ancient symbols etched in the language of forgotten books. A lone desk lamp, its soft glow a modest flame against the approaching darkness, wrestled with the pervasive shadows, creating an eerie play of light and dark on the walls.

Beyond the muted glow of the lamp, the room unfolded its melancholic scene—a gothic display of dust-covered books, neglected volumes whispering tales of buried secrets and forbidden knowledge. Shelves, burdened with the weight of ages, creaked under the load of forgotten wisdom. Small tables, adorned with relics of forgotten origin, hosted the remnants of the past—a worn quill, an inkwell filled with inky shadows, and scraps of parchment yellowed with time. Piles of books, their spines cracked and aged, leaned against each other as if sharing hidden stories. In the silence, the room emanated a ghostly beauty, a gothic tribute to the secrets it cradled in its dusty embrace, where the past lingered like a phantom, whispering forgotten truths to those willing to listen.

Here is an example of a full mark answer:

The room, cloaked in the pallor of grey foggy weather, held its secrets close, shrouded in a veil of dimness that clung to every corner. Small, dusty windows, begrudging portals to the outside world, offered feeble resistance to the advancing gloom. The muted light that filtered through, though meager, cast ethereal shadows upon the piles of papers that adorned a desk, their creases and folds resembling ancient runes etched in the arcane language of forgotten tomes. A solitary desk lamp, its feeble glow an inconspicuous flame in the face of encroaching darkness, wrestled with the pervasive shadows, creating an unsettling contrast that danced upon the walls like specters in eternal waltz.

Beyond the spectral glow of the lamp, the room unfurled its melancholic tableau—a gothic symphony of dust-laden tomes, forgotten volumes whose spines whispered tales of long-buried secrets and forbidden knowledge. The shelves, heavy with the weight of ages, groaned under the burden of forgotten lore. Small tables, adorned with trinkets of forgotten origin, played host to the detritus of antiquity—a moth-eaten quill, an inkwell brimming with inky shadows, and fragments of parchment yellowed with the passage of time. Piles of books, their bindings cracked and timeworn, seemed to lean conspiratorially against one another, their pages imbued with the essence of bygone eras. In the stillness, the room exuded a spectral beauty, a gothic elegy to the secrets it held in its dusty embrace, where the past lingered as a phantom, whispering forgotten truths to those who dared to listen.