**Lesson 2 – Creating a Gothic Setting**

**Please complete the following tasks for your lesson today. There are ‘icons’ you can click on to hear information being read out loud.**

1. Recap: What are Gothic **settings** usually like? Give three ideas:



**This week, we are going to focus on writing our own Gothic story. We are going to write a little bit each lesson, then put it all together at the end.**

1. Let’s start by looking at some high-level vocabulary. Match the word to its definition, then the example. *(You can check your answers at the end!)*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Word** | **Definition** | **Example** |
| Grotesque | Able to be touched or felt | *S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ trees lined the path to the mansion.* |
| Tangible | Threatening or menacing | *The silence was so loud it was almost t\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.* |
| Ominous(ly) | Thin and bony – like a skeleton | *There were g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ statues either side of the doorway.* |
| Skeletal | Having a bizarre, ugly appearance | *Dark clouds hung o\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the castle.* |

1. Read/listen to this example of a Gothic setting from *Dracula*.

***The narrator – Jonathan Harker – is just arriving by carriage at Count Dracula’s castle, deep in the Transylvanian mountains.***

When I could see again the driver was climbing into the caliche (carriage), and the wolves disappeared. This was all so strange and uncanny that a dreadful fear came upon me, and I was afraid to speak or move. The time seemed interminable as we swept on our way, now in almost complete darkness, for the rolling clouds obscured the moon.

We kept on ascending, with occasional periods of quick descent, but in the main always ascending. Suddenly, I became conscious of the fact that the driver was in the act of pulling up the horses in the courtyard of a vast ruined castle, from whose tall black windows came no ray of light, and whose broken battlements showed a jagged line against the sky.



Here is a list of common ideas we find in Gothic descriptions. Highlight and label as many as you can find *(an example has been done for you)*:

* An isolated location
* Darkness/night-time
* A decayed castle/house
* Frightening woods or forests
* Howling or baying in the distance
* Unexplained creaking or clanking noises
* Bad weather

1. (OPTIONAL ACTIVITY) Draw a picture of your own Gothic setting:
2. Now, write a paragraph in which you describe your own Gothic setting. You should write for 20 minutes and trying to include:
   * The Gothic ideas from the list in Question 3
   * At least **two** words from Question 2

Well done! You have finished this lesson.

