**Lesson 3 – Gothic Villains**

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

1. Recap:
   1. What does ‘ominous’ mean?
   2. What word means something thin and bony, like a skeleton?
2. We are going to look at some examples of famous Gothic villains. Read/listen to the extracts and then answer the questions.

**From *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. The narrator – Arthur Kipps – is at a funeral, and sees a mysterious woman.**

‘a woman…dressed in deepest black, in the style of full mourning that had rather gone out of fashion… Indeed, it had clearly been dug out of some old trunk or wardrobe, for its blackness was a little rusty looking. A bonnet-type hat covered her head and shaded her face, but, although I did not stare, even the swift glance I took of the woman showed me enough to recognise that she was suffering from some terrible wasting disease, for not only was she extremely pale, even more than a contrast with the blackness of her garments could account for, but the skin and, it seemed, only the thinnest layer of flesh was tautly stretched and strained across her bones, so that it gleamed with a curious, blue-white sheen, and her eyes seemed sunken back into her head.



1. What colour is the woman wearing?
2. What does Arthur think is wrong with the woman?
3. Give two quotations which prove this:
4. Why might we describe the woman as looking ‘skeletal’?

**From *Dracula* by Bram Stoker. The narrator – Jonathan Harker – is shaving. He is surprised by the sudden appearance of Count Dracula, and accidentally cuts himself.**

This time there could be no error, for the man was close to me, and I could see him over my shoulder. But there was no reflection of him in the mirror! The whole room behind me was displayed, but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself.

This was startling, and coming on the top of so many strange things, was beginning to increase that vague feeling of uneasiness which I always have when the Count is near. But at the instant I saw that the cut had bled a little, and the blood was trickling over my chin. I laid down the razor, turning as I did so half round to look for some sticking plaster. When the Count saw my face, his eyes blazed with a sort of demoniac fury, and he suddenly made a grab at my throat. I drew away and his hand touched the string of beads which held the crucifix. It made an instant change in him, for the fury passed so quickly that I could hardly believe that it was ever there.



1. What can Harker NOT see in the mirror?
2. What other clues are there that Dracula is a vampire? (There are two!)
3. What do you think the adjective ‘demonaic’ might mean?
4. What does the reader know that Harker has not worked out?
5. Your final task today is to create your own Gothic villain. You may either mind-map your ideas, or draw an image and label your character.

Think about:

* What type of villain will they be (a ghost? vampire? powerful man?)
* What will they look like? (healthy and powerful? skeletal? grotesque?)
* CHALLENGE: Can you **hint** at some ideas without giving the reader all the information? (e.g. we do not find out until later that the woman at the funeral is actually a ghost!)

Well done! You’ve finished this lesson.