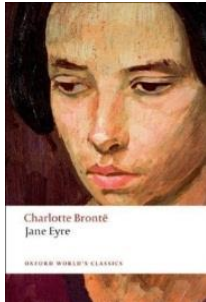


# GOTHIC LITERATURE

- a **genre** of **fiction** characterised by mystery and supernatural horror

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century



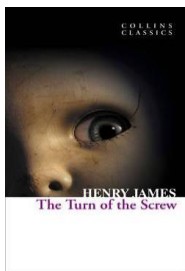
### **Charlotte Brontë *Jane Eyre* (1847)**

At Thornfield Hall, resolute and independent Jane Eyre finds fulfilment in her duties as governess, and the love of her life in her employer Edward Rochester. But when a dark secret from Rochester's past comes to light, Jane must make the most difficult decision of her life.



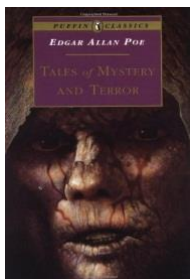
### **Emily Brontë *Wuthering Heights* (1847)**

The story of Heathcliff, an orphan who falls in love with a girl above his class, loses her, and devotes the rest of his life to inflicting revenge on her family. In early nineteenth-century Yorkshire, the passionate attachment between a headstrong young girl and an outcast boy brought up by her father causes disaster for them and many others, even in the next generation.



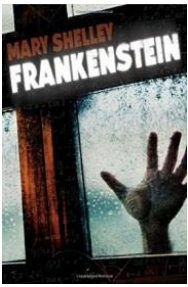
### **Henry James *The Turn of the Screw* (1898)**

The governess of two enigmatic children fears their souls are in danger from the ghosts of the previous governess and her sinister lover.



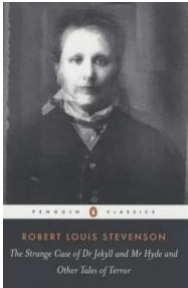
### **Edgar Allan Poe *The Fall of the House of Usher* (1839)**

A visitor to a gloomy mansion finds a childhood friend dying under the spell of a family curse.



**Mary Shelley *Frankenstein* (1818)**

Obsessed with the idea of creating life itself, Victor Frankenstein plunders graveyards for the material with which to fashion a new being, shocking his creation to life with electricity. But this botched creature, rejected by its creator and denied human companionship, sets out to destroy Frankenstein and all that he holds dear.



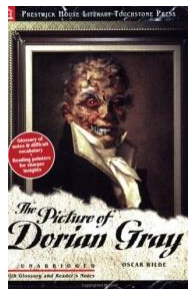
**R L Stevenson *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)**

A dark psychological fantasy gave birth to the idea of the split personality. The story of respectable Dr Jekyll's strange association with the 'damnable young man' Edward Hyde; the hunt through fog-bound London for a killer; and the final revelation of Hyde's true identity is a chilling exploration of humanity's capacity for evil.



**Bram Stoker *Dracula* (1897)**

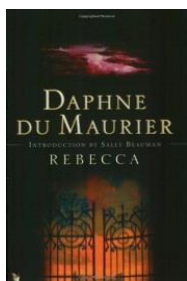
Acting on behalf of his firm of solicitors, Jonathan Harker travels to the Carpathian Mountains to finalize the sale of England's Carfax Abbey to Transylvanian noble Count Dracula. Little does he realize that, in doing so, he endangers all that he loves. For Dracula is one of the Un-Dead—a centuries-old vampire who sleeps by day and stalks by night, feasting on the blood of his helpless victims. Once on English soil, the count sets his sights on Jonathan's circle of associates, among them his beloved wife Mina.



**Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)**

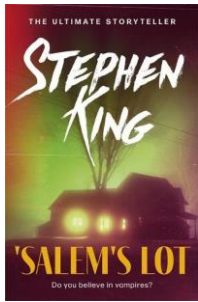
Horror hides behind an attractive face. Though Dorian's pleasure-seeking indulgences leave no blemish on his ageless features, the painted portrait infused with his soul proves a living catalogue of corruption, revealing in its every new line and lesion the sins he has committed.

**20<sup>th</sup> Century**



**Daphne du Maurier *Rebecca***

The novel's nameless young narrator is perplexed by her volatile new husband, Maxim de Winter, the rich owner of the grand Cornish estate, Manderley. Maxim is the kind of charmer who proposes by snapping: "I'm asking you to marry me, you little fool." His first wife, the glorious but malevolent Rebecca, drowned in a sailing accident, but her spirit remains, infused in the masonry of Manderley and the seething glare of its housekeeper, Mrs Danvers.



### **Stephen King: Salem's Lot**

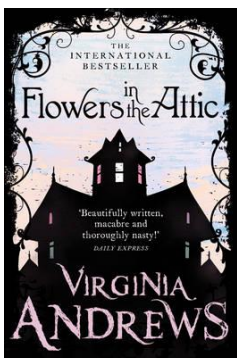
This is the story of a mundane town under siege from the forces of darkness. Considered one of the most terrifying vampire novels ever.

## **21<sup>st</sup> Century**



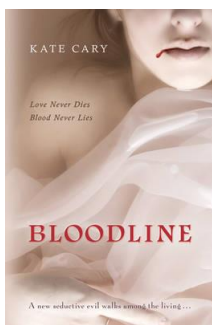
### **David Almond: Clay**

Fourteen-year-old Davie and his best friend, Geordie, are altar boys at their local Catholic Church. Stephen's a gifted sculptor. One day as Davie looks on, Stephen brings a tiny figure to life. It's a talent he has, the gift of creation—and he knows that Davie has this talent, too. Davie allows Stephen to convince him to help bring a life-size figure to life—and Clay is born.



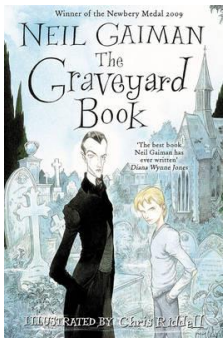
### **Virginia Andrews: Flowers in the Attic**

Up in the attic, four secrets are hidden. Four blonde, beautiful, innocent little secrets, struggling to stay alive...Chris, Cathy, Cory and Carrie have perfect lives - until a tragic accident changes everything. Now they must wait, hidden from view in their grandparents' attic, as their mother tries to figure out what to do next. But as days turn into weeks and weeks into months, the siblings endure unspeakable horrors and face the terrifying realisation that they might not be let out of the attic after all.



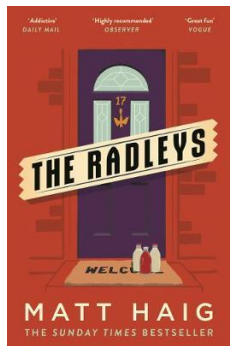
### **Kate Cary: Bloodline (A sequel to Bram Stoker's Dracula)**

When nineteen-year-old John Shaw returns from World War I, he is haunted by nightmares – not only of the horrors of battle, but of the brutal midnight exploits of his superior, Captain Quincey Harker. When Harker appears unexpectedly in England and lures John's sister, Lily, to Transylvania. John must confront the truth. Only the love of pure Mary can save him from Count Dracula's poisonous bloodline. But the line goes further than John and Mary can possibly imagine.



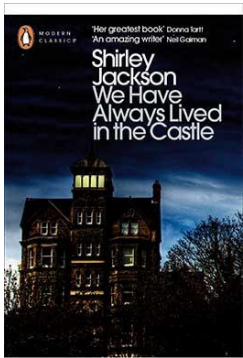
### **Neil Gaiman: The Graveyard Book**

When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead. But for Bod there is also the danger of the murderer still looking for him - after all, he is the last remaining member of the family. A stunningly original novel deftly constructed over eight chapters, featuring every second year of Bod's life, from babyhood to adolescence. Will Bod survive to be a man?



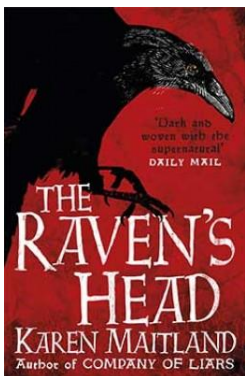
### **Matt Haig: The Radleys**

Peter and Helen Radley are living as quiet a life as possible with their teenage children, Rowan and Clara, in a Yorkshire village. They're both abstaining vampires, both aching, tired and repressed – things they wouldn't be if they went back on the blood. They have never told their children the truth, but when Clara kills a sexually aggressive boy in a burst of vampiric instinct, there's little chance of keeping the secret any more.



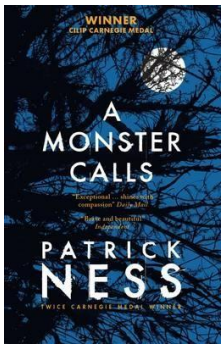
### **Shirley Jackson: We have always lived in the Castle**

Living in the Blackwood family home with only her sister Constance and her Uncle Julian for company, Merricat just wants to preserve their delicate way of life. But ever since Constance was acquitted of murdering the rest of the family, the world isn't leaving the Blackwoods alone. And when Cousin Charles arrives, armed with overtures of friendship and a desperate need to get into the safe, Merricat must do everything in her power to protect the remaining family.



### **Karen Maitland: The Raven's Head**

1224. Langley Manor, Norfolk. Lord Sylvain has been practising alchemy in hiding for years and now only the Apothecary's niece can help him with final preparations to forge the Philosopher's Stone. Alchemy calls for symbols - and victims - and when a man in possession of an intricately carved raven's head arrives at the Manor in a clumsy attempt at blackmail, Sylvain has both symbol and victim within easy reach. But the White Canons in nearby Langley Abbey are concealing a crucial, missing ingredient... Regulus, a small boy with a large destiny.



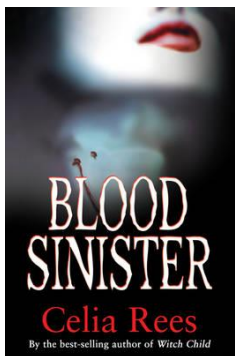
**Patrick Ness: A Monster Calls**

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth.



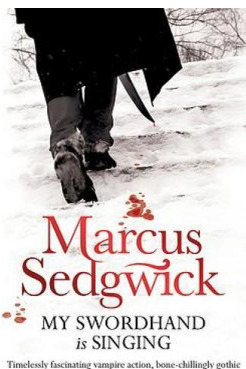
**Chris Priestley: Mister Creecher**

Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship begins as pure convenience. But a bond swiftly develops between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target . . . Victor Frankenstein.



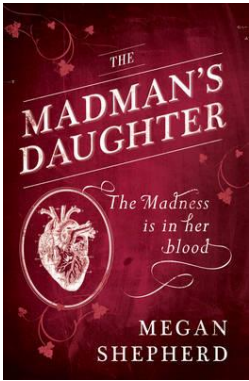
**Celia Rees: Blood Sinister**

Ellen's just sixteen, but she's dying—and nobody knows why. So when she's sent to her gran's house she's relieved to find a distraction in the form of her great-grandmother's diaries, written when she was Ellen's age. As Ellen reads, she becomes increasingly embroiled in the fascinating story of her life. Ellen's condition is worsening, and it's becoming more and more difficult for her to distinguish her own life from the nightmarish events recorded in the diaries



**Marcus Sedgwick: My Swordhand is Singing**

In a bitter winter, Tomas and his son, Peter, settle in a small village as woodcutters. Tomas digs a channel of fast-flowing waters around their hut so that they have their own little island kingdom. Peter doesn't understand why his father has done this, or why his father carries a long, battered box, whose mysterious contents he is forbidden to know. But Tomas is a man with a past—a past that is tracking him with deadly intent. Father and son must face a soulless enemy and a terrifying destiny.



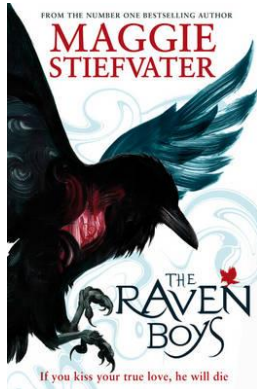
**Megan Shepherd: The Madman's Daughter**

London, 1894. Juliet Moreau has built a life for herself-working as a maid, attending church on Sundays, and trying not to think about the scandal that ruined her life. After all, no one ever proved the rumours about her father's gruesome experiments. But when she learns her father is alive and continuing his work on a remote tropical island, she is determined to find out if the accusations were true.



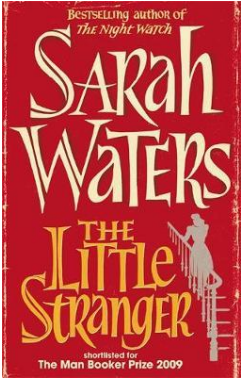
**Pam Smy: Thornhill**

As she unpacks in her new bedroom, Ella is irresistibly drawn to the big old house that she can see out of her window. Surrounded by overgrown gardens, barbed wire fences and 'keep out' signs, it looks derelict. But that night, a light goes on in one of the windows. And the next day she sees a girl in the grounds. Ella is hooked. The house has a story to tell. She is sure of it. Enter Thornhill, Institute for Children, and discover the dark secrets that lie within. But once inside, will you ever leave?



**Maggie Stiefvater: The Raven Boys**

Blue has spent the majority of her sixteen years being told that if she kisses her true love, he will die. When Blue meets Gansey's spirit on the corpse road she knows there is only one reason why - either he is her true love or she has killed him. Determined to find out the truth, Blue becomes involved with the Raven Boys, four boys from the local private school (lead by Gansey) who are on a quest to discover Glendower - a lost ancient Welsh King who is buried somewhere along the Virginia ley line. Whoever finds him will be granted a supernatural favour. Never before has Blue felt such magic around her. But is Gansey her true love?



### **Sarah Waters: The Little Stranger**

In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, its owners - mother, son and daughter - struggling to keep pace. But are the Ayreses haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life? Little does Dr Faraday know how closely, and how terrifyingly, their story is about to become entwined with his.