



HORROR GENRE

LESSON & ACTIVITIES

CONNECTS TO
CLASSIC LITERATURE

GREAT FOR
OCTOBER!

GRADES 7-12

HORROR SUBGENRES



- Gothic horror
- Psychological horror
- Body horror
- Supernatural
- Folk horror
- Zombies
- Monsters

Teacher _____

Name _____

LET'S EXPLORE SOME HORROR BOOKS!

DIRECTIONS: In groups, examine three horror books. Use the front and back cover and first pages to determine the horror subgenre. A book may fit more than one subgenre.

SKULL ICON

TITLE: _____

GENRE: _____

LIKELY HORROR SUBGENRE: _____

WHY DO YOU THINK SO? _____

LIKE _____

LET'S EXPLORE SOME HORROR BOOKS!

DIRECTIONS: In groups, examine three horror books. Use the cover and book jacket to determine the horror subgenre. A book may fit more than one subgenre.

BOO ICON

TITLE: _____

GENRE: _____

LIKELY HORROR SUBGENRE: _____

WHY DO YOU THINK SO? _____

LIKE _____

HORROR GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 6-8)

FICTION

- ☐ The Haunting of Walker Pond (Tandon)
- ☐ Bonebag (Elliott and F)
- ☐ Hungry Bones (Hun)
- ☐ X Marks the Haunt
- ☐ Gloam (MacKay)
- ☐ A Little Too Haun (Winans)
- ☐ The House N
- ☐ The Better to
- ☐ (Mejia)

GRAPHIC NOVELS

- ☐ Children of the Night (Setian)
- ☐ Cry Out Loud (O'Connor)
- ☐ Hungry

HORROR GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 9-12)

FICTION

- ☐ Doe (Barrow)
- ☐ The Hanging Bones (Tesch)
- ☐ The Saw Mouth (Plett)
- ☐ We Could Be Anyone (McLemore)
- ☐ And the River Drags Her Down (Yun)
- ☐ Where No Shadow Stays (Hashem)

three books would you recommend to someone looking for a horror genre book? What details make it sound interesting?

Mrs. READER PANTS

THIS HORROR GENRE LESSON & ACTIVITY INCLUDES:

What colors do you associate
with the horror genre?

Why do you think we
associate these
colors with horror?

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR: GREEN

Green can be the color of money, jealousy, and nature.
In the horror genre, however, it may also represent evil,
the supernatural, and portals to a dangerous spirit world.

- Death, decay, mold
- Sickness, disease, vomit
- Evil magic
- Supernatural / ghosts
- Poison, toxic waste
- Monster or alien skin or blood color
- Glowing green eyes
- Supernatural goo

Many of these can also work for the color yellow!



Lesson presentation & scrolling slideshow



2-page “Exploring Horror Genres” group activity



Bookmarks for Grades 6-8 and 9-12 - These
include recommended horror genre titles for each
grade level group



All text is editable in PowerPoint and Google
Slides

WHOLE-GROUP LESSON

Part I of the presentation introduces students to genre, characteristics of horror novels, and three horror subgenres (gothic, body, and folk horror).

HORROR GENRE CHARACTERISTICS

- Scary, creepy, dark, suspenseful
- Sets an ominous tone (such as creepy music in movies)
- May have ghosts, monsters, witches, or other supernatural beings or forces
- Psychological horror, madness, obsession
- Isolation, survival



EXAMPLES OF BODY HORROR IN CLASSIC LITERATURE

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
- *The Island of Dr. Moreau* by H.G. Wells
- *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka
- *The Invisible Man* by H.G. Wells



The Metamorphosis is about Gregor Samsa, a man who inexplicably transforms into a dung beetle.

Each subgenre in Part I includes examples from classic literature that students may have heard of (or will read in their English classes).

SCROLLING SLIDESHOW

The slides in Part II need to be set on a timer (instructions with visuals included).

THE SCROLLING SLIDES INCLUDE:

- the psychology of color (red, black, green)
- trivia questions and answers
- would-you-rather questions
- horror genre vocabulary
- quotations from classic horror novels

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COLOR: GREEN

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PHOBIA MATCH

Can you match these phobias?

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| triskaidekaphobia | Fear of cats |
| arachnophobia | Fear of fear |
| ailurophobia | Fear of spiders |
| phobophobia | Fear of the number 13 |

(answer on next slide)



SMALL-GROUP ACTIVITY

In small groups, students look at three horror novels from the library.
How do they know the books are horror, based only on the cover and summary?

Name _____ Teacher _____

LET'S EXPLORE SOME HORROR BOOKS!

DIRECTIONS: In groups, examine three horror books. Use the front and back cover and book jacket to determine the horror subgenre. A book may fit more than one subgenre.

 **TITLE:** _____

LIKELY HORROR SUBGENRE: _____

WHY DO YOU THINK SO? _____

TITLE: _____

LIKELY HORROR SUBGENRE: _____

WHY DO YOU THINK SO? _____

TITLE: _____

LIKELY HORROR SUBGENRE: _____

WHY DO YOU THINK SO? _____

you recommend to someone looking for horror books. What details make it sound interesting? _____

HORROR GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 9-12)

FICTION

- ☐ Doe (Barrow)
- ☐ The Hanging Bones (Tesch)
- ☐ The Saw Mouth (Plett)
- ☐ We Could Be Anyone (McLemore)
- ☐ And the River Drags Her Down (Yun)
- ☐ Where No Shadow Stays (H)

HORROR GENRE RECOMMENDATIONS (GRADES 6-8)

FICTION

- ☐ The Haunting of Walker Pond (Tandon)
- ☐ Bonebag (Elliott and Elliott)
- ☐ Hungry Bones (Hung)
- ☐ X Marks the Haunt (Currie)
- ☐ Gloam (MacKay)
- ☐ A Little Too Haunted

SHORT STORIES / POETRY

- ☐ The Black Girl Survives in This One (various authors)
- ☐ These Bodies Ain't Broke
- ☐ Stitch Head (Bass)

Small-group activity:
“Exploring Horror
Genres”

Recommended
Horror books for
Grades 6-8 and 9-12

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IS THIS LESSON READY TO USE TODAY?

YES! It is ready to teach after a quick review. A few slides can be customized for your library or deleted if you do not need them.

It also includes editable text so you have the option to customize it for your library or classroom!

WHAT EXACTLY IS EDITABLE?

Editable:

All text, headings, and captions in the presentation and printable pages

NOT Editable:
images

HOW LONG DOES THIS LESSON TAKE TO TEACH?

This lesson is designed to be flexible. **Part I (lesson)** takes about 20 minutes.

Part II is a slideshow that scrolls automatically on a screen, so it depends on your slide timings.

The **group discussion activity** takes about 20 minutes, longer if students share their findings.

WHAT LIBRARIANS ARE SAYING



“This has been a wonderful source to use as a supplemental in my class. Engaging and interesting.”

~Megan H.,
used with Grades 9-10



“This may be the favorite of students so far! They enjoyed the information and kept coming back for more.”

~C. Winkler,
used with Grades 6-11

STUDENTS LOVE SCARY BOOKS!

Tap into that enthusiasm
with an exploration of
horror genre classics,
characteristics, and subgenres.

SEE THIS HORROR GENRE LESSON

