

## What have we learnt?

This half term, we have been learning about gothic fiction. We have looked at a range of different stories, from Frankenstein to Dracula. We have been learning about which features make a gothic story. We've also been experimenting with our own gothic writing and creating our own gothic characters.



## What are we learning next half term?

Next half term, we will be completing our work on gothic fiction. We will be focussing on gothic short stories, in particular. We will be honing our craft as writers by creating our own gothic short story.



## What can my child be doing at home?

Your child will be set regular homework by their teacher. This could be related to their study of gothic fiction or it could be revising for our regular spelling tests. Students are also encouraged to read as much as they can. Our Reading Routes programme encourages students to read widely. They can also access our digital library, ePlatform, from home.



## When are the key assessment points and important dates?

Each term, your child will take part in an enrichment week, which enhances their experience of studying English. The Year 8 enrichment week will be the week commencing the 9<sup>th</sup> December. We will be putting together some immersive gothic experiences. Watch this space! This term's common assessment test will be undertaken during the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This assessment tests their reading comprehension and creative writing skills.



## What are this half term's dinner table topics?

Talking about their learning really helps to cement their knowledge. Your child is learning some brilliant things. Talking round the dinner table is a great opportunity to hear all about it. Here are some suggested questions you could ask:

- Which gothic stories have you explored so far?
- What makes a story a gothic story? What are the conventions?
- Are you reading one of the Reading Routes books? Which one? Why?

