

Horror goes beyond what most people think of when they hear the term – unnecessary and overabundance of killing, gore, or even “torture porn”. Unfortunately, for most, this concept of horror stems mostly from film. However, horror in literature goes far beyond this. Horror can be seen as art, commentary on society, a form that brings about community, shows the face of humanity, as history, and yes, a good scare and lingering disturbance.

Day 1 - What is horror?

- Concept of horror
 - Not just fear, but strong fear
 - Horror as a genre is built around one truth: that the world is full of fearful things. But the best horror tells us more. It tells us how to live with being afraid. It tells us how to distinguish real evil from harmless shadows. It tells us how to fight back. It tells us that we *can* fight the worst evils, whether or not we all survive them — and how to be worthy of having our tales told afterward.
 - Horror exists in ways that can impact everyone:
 - Horror differs per individual
 - Known vs. unknown
 - One of H.P. Lovecraft's most famous quotes about the genre is that: "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown"
 - Seen vs. hidden
 - Fight vs. flight
 - Fear or anxiety
- Why/how do we experience horror?
 - Different aspects of horror
 - Literary theories of horror
- Why do we enjoy horror? [The paradox]
 - Douglas E. Winter stated, “Horror is not a genre. It is an emotion.”
 - Cathartic
 - Identification with ???
 - Car crash example
 - Refusal of the real for the fiction
- Evolution of horror
 - Culture / history
 - Roman contests and conquests
 - Inquisition
 - Black Plague
 - Salem Witch Trials / McCarthyism
 - Slavery/Civil War
 - 1930s The Great Depression: Horror as Escapism
 - World War II - Nazism
 - 1950s Cold War Paranoia: Mutant Terrors & Outer Space Invaders, nuclear war
 - Cuban Missile Crisis
 - Late 1960s-1970s Vietnam and the Countercultural Explosion: Grit & Guts

- Y2K
- 3-Mile Island and Chernobyl
- Global warming
- 2001-present 9/11 and the “Global War on Terror”: Torture Goes Mainstream
- Mass shootings, school shootings
- Clowns
- Literature
 - From the epic poem to the classic to the schlock to the ???
 - Epic of Gilgamesh and mythology
 - Holy books
 - Beowulf
 - The Monk
 - Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, Poe
 - Horror as a new genre

Day 2

Horror in books classified as horror

- Divine Comedy – Dante Aligheri (14th century)
- Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe (1592)
- The Monk – Matthew Gregory Lewis (1796)
- Frankenstein – Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (1818)
- Tales of Mystery and Imagination – Edgar Allan Poe (1838)
- Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson (1886)
- The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde (1891)
- The Island of Dr. Moreau – H.G. Wells (1896)
- The War of the Worlds – H.G. Wells (1898)
- Dracula – Bram Stoker (1897)
- The Turn of the Screw – Henry James (1898)
- The Hound of the Baskervilles – Arthur Conan Doyle (1902)
- The Lurker at the Threshold – H.P. Lovecraft & August Derleth (1945)
- The Killer Inside Me – Jim Thompson (1952)
- Psycho – Robert Bloch (1959)
- The Haunting of Hill House – Shirley Jackson (1959)
- Something Wicked This Way Comes – Ray Bradbury (1963)
- Rosemary’s Baby – Ira Levin (1967)
- The Exorcist – William Peter Blatty (1971)
- Burnt Offerings – Robert Marasco (1973)
- Ghost Story – Peter Straub (1979)
- Red Dragon – Thomas Harris (1981)
- The Keep – F. Paul Wilson (1981)
- Pet Semetary – Stephen King (1983)
- The Damnation Game – Clive Barker (1985)

- IT – Stephen King (1986)
- The Stand – Stephen King (1989)

Horror in books not classified as horror

- The Epic of Gilgamesh
- The Iliad and the Odyssey
- The Bible
- Beowulf
- Aesop's Fables
- Grimm's Fairy Tales
- Jane Eyre
- 1984
- Helter Skelter
- Lord of the Flies – William Golding, 1954
- Blood Meridian – Cormac McCarthy, 1985
- The Hot Zone
- We Need to Talk About Kevin – Lionel Shriver
- Sharp Objects – Gillian Flynn
- Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro