Year 10 – English – Home Learning 9

Spoken Language – Task 1

Have a discussion with a family member and create a mind map about the Gothic Horror genre.

Try to consider as many things as you can, including: famous stories and characters; types of setting which you think would be effective or suit the genre and how they should make you (the audience) feel if done correctly.

Reading – Task 2

Read the extract below which has been adapted from Mary Shelley's novel, Frankenstein, and answer the questions below in full sentences.

In this passage, the narrator –a young scientist called Victor Frankenstein – describes the night he succeeded in his experiment to bring life to a dead body.

It was on a dreary night of November that I achieved my goal. With a nervousness that was almost painful, I collected the instruments of life around me, so that I might bring a spark of being into the lifeless thing that lay at my feet. It was already one o'clock in the morning; the rain pattered dismally against the window panes, and my candle was nearly burnt out, when, by the glimmer of the half-extinguished light, I saw the dull yellow eye of the creature open; it breathed hard, and its limbs began to twitch.

How can I describe my emotions at this disaster, or how describe the wretch whom with such great efforts and care I had tried to create? His limbs were in proportion, and I had chosen his features as beautiful. Beautiful! Great God! His yellow skin hardly covered the muscles and arteries beneath; his hair was shiny, black, and flowing; his teeth were pearly white; but these attractive features only highlighted his watery eyes, his shrivelled skin and straight black lips.

I had worked hard for nearly two years, with the single aim of bringing life into a dead body. For this I had deprived myself of rest and health. I had desired it passionately; but now that I had finished, the beauty of my dream vanished, and breathless horror and disgust filled my heart. Unable to look upon the awful being I had created, I rushed out of the room and continued a long time pacing up and down in my bed-chamber, unable to calm my mind so I could sleep. After a while, overcome with exhaustion, I fell upon my bed and slept for a while. But it was hopeless; I slept, indeed, but I was disturbed by the wildest dreams.

By the dim and yellow light of the moon, as it forced its way into the bedroom, I saw the wretched creature—the miserable monster whom I had created. He held up the curtain of the bed; and his eyes were fixed on me. His jaws opened, and he muttered some sounds, while a grin wrinkled his cheeks. He might have spoken, but I did not hear; one of his hands was stretched out, seemingly to prevent me from leaving, but I escaped and rushed downstairs. I hid in the courtyard of the house which I lived in, where I remained during the rest of the night, walking up and down in terrible fear, listening attentively, catching and fearing each sound as if it announced the approach of the monstrous creature I had so miserably given life.

Questions:

1. When is the story set?
2. Why is this an effective setting for a Gothic Horror story?
3. At the start of the extract , how is Victor feeling?
4. Why do you think he feels this way?
5. From the second paragraph, list four things about the Creature's appearance.
6. How long had Victor worked on creating his monster?
7. What did he sacrifice to make his dreams come true?
8. How did Victor feel at the end of the extract? Justify your answer using a quotation.

Writing

Use the word bank and text below to create an analytical response to the following question: How does the writer use language to create a **spooky atmosphere** for the reader?

What to do:

(1)   Read the text below.

(2)   Fill in the blanks. Choose the correct word from the Word Box at the bottom.

The _____ uses a variety of details to create a spooky _____ for the reader. One detail is the time when the story takes place: the narrator explains that it is "_____" in the morning and this means it is dark and this makes it creepy for the reader.

Another detail that creates a _____ atmosphere is the weather: the narrator says that the " _____" pattered dismally against the "_____" panes. This makes it seem even more _____ and adds to the spooky atmosphere.

Lastly, the narrator says that a "_____ thing" was lying at his feet. At this point, we do not know what the "thing" actually is, so this detail also adds to the spookiness that the readers feel.

WORD BANK: *Use <u>each</u> word only **once**.*

lifeless	**spooky**	**author**	**window**
rain	**gloomy**	**atmosphere**	**one o'clock**