**Gothic Literature Document Summary**

* Gothic literature is inspired by medieval architecture – old castle and ruined buildings
* Features include hidden panels, wild screams, axe murderers and limbless bodies
* Key element of Gore
* Aim to create strong visual imagery for effect
* Create claustrophobic atmosphere to help accommodate feelings of terror and read in reader
* Plot can be often overdone making the story unbelievable
* Ghost stories are part of the horror genre and involve the spirit of a dead person coming to haunt the living
* This is often due to the ghost attempting to exact revenge, uncover a crime or teach a lesson
* These stories allow for an insight into human nature
* The ghosts presence is logical
* For effect ghost stories do not have to be set in a gothic setting but rather in a more familiar setting to invoke relatability
* Gothic beasts have many deadly features
* Vampires originate from legends
* Werewolves from folklore
* Both come out at night
* An effective use of fear is psychological (reawaken personal fears)
* Horror originates from myths and legends passed down through generation to enforce rules and traditions
* Modern purpose is to entertain

Influential texts

* “Castle of Otranto” – Horace Walpole (1765)
* “Frankenstein” – Mary Shelly (1818)
* “ In a Glass Darkly” – Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu (1872)
* “Dracula” – Bram Stoker (1897)
* (Multiple novels) – Edgar Allan Poe