

Video Activity – The Listeners

Gothic is a lot about setting the mood, tone and the environment to experience horror. Listen to these two audio versions of the Gothic poem ‘The Listeners’ by Walter De La Mare and then read the task assigned below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIKgIXHETmU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0QGHT8s9pw>

The Listeners – Walter De La Mare

‘Is there anybody there?’ said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest’s ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller’s head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
‘Is there anybody there?’ he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Hearkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller’s call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
’Neath the starred and leafy sky;
For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
‘Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,’ he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,
Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.

Each of you has been assigned two lines from the poem below. Learn those lines and incorporate a physical action or two while saying those lines out loud, that best describes the lines you read out. Record yourself for those seconds of duration and mail your video across to me (nainam@genesigs.edu.in) by **19th July 2020**.

- Make sure that you are loud and clear while narrating the lines assigned to you.
- You can be as creative as you want to be with the background/lighting/costumes/makeup and voice modulation.
- Try to say the lines aloud in a gothic style. (voice modulation)
- The videos with all the actions will then be combined and displayed during the class.

Name of the student	Lines Assigned
Aahna Bahl	‘Is there anybody there?’ said the Traveller, Knocking on the moonlit door;
Aarush Arora	And his horse in the silence champed the grasses Of the forest’s ferny floor:
Ansh Garg	And a bird flew up out of the turret, Above the Traveller’s head:
Gargi Raina	And he smote upon the door again a second time; ‘Is there anybody there?’ he said.
Madhavi Dudani	But no one descended to the Traveller; No head from the leaf-fringed sill
Mannat Dhillon	Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes, Where he stood perplexed and still.
Navya Jain	But only a host of phantom listeners That dwelt in the lone house then
Neysa Badlani	Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight To that voice from the world of men:
Parth Joshi	Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair, That goes down to the empty hall,
Ragini Negi	Harkening in an air stirred and shaken By the lonely Traveller’s call.
Riya Sood	And he felt in his heart their strangeness, Their stillness answering his cry,

Sangkrit Pitchyarathorn	While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf, 'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
Sameer Gupta	For he suddenly smote on the door, even Louder, and lifted his head:—
Shruti Shailendra	'Tell them I came, and no one answered, That I kept my word,' he said.
Utsav Sadh	Never the least stir made the listeners, Though every word he spake
Yashi Garg	Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
Ritvik Sidana	From the one man left awake: Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
Tanishka Sharma	And the sound of iron on stone, And how the silence surged softly backward,
Jainis Sharma	When the plunging hoofs were gone.