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HU250: Supernatural Horror in American Literature and Film

Professor Regina Hansen

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### Mount Auburn Cemetery

As I walked through the cemetery, I noticed the prevalence of Gothic architectural elements.

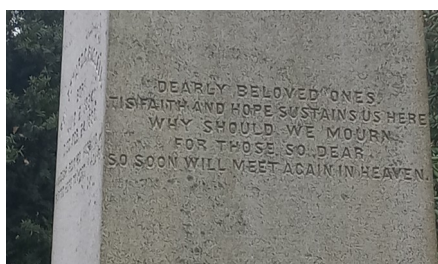


The Bigelow Chapel, for instance, features pointed arches, buttresses, and ribbed vaults.

These structures evoke a sense of mystery and antiquity, which are often present in horror narratives of the period, particularly a myth of Dracula, a vampire lord

residing in a castle whose real-world equivalent features numerous elements of Gothic architectural style. Additionally, an interesting

thing I observed is that numerous tombs at the cemetery contain statues of women, Death is often represented as female in art and literature, and the statues can be seen as personifications of death,



mourning, or reference to the

concept of “femme fatale” which somewhat relates to the early witch hunts prevalent in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century that we discussed in class. As I examined the tombstones and monuments at

Mount Auburn Cemetery, I noticed several inscriptions that seemed to reflect the mentality of the Gothic period, with its focus on the afterlife and the human soul. For example, I found an epitaph

The cemetery's is also very spacious and well-maintained natural environment which can create an overwhelming atmosphere. Walking through the cemetery alleys, surrounded by towering trees and lush vegetation, can evoke a feeling of mystery and solitude. This is often a symbolic element in horror narratives where nature is portrayed as a mystical force, as it can heighten the tension and create an atmosphere of unease. The somber, yet beautiful, landscape of Mount Auburn Cemetery is reminiscent of the eerie, fog-shrouded moors or dark forests commonly found in gothic and horror settings (which is particularly relatable as I visited the cemetery on a cloudy day early in the morning).



Me at the cemetery :)