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Inquiry into Gothic Terror and Gothic Horror

Dark passageways, hidden rooms, evil lurking around every corner, and buried secrets all await readers and viewers of the gothic genre. While the gothic originated with Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* in 1764, we continue to be fascinated by elements of the gothic today, from supernatural creatures to haunted houses. Despite our increasing knowledge about science, we continue to thirst for stories about supernatural and paranormal activity, monsters, and other unexplained phenomenon. Inquiry into the Gothic will explore various manifestations of the gothic and ask why it is that we continue in the 21st century to be fascinated by this genre. We will also consider whether the gothic enriches our lives or causes us more harm than good. Students will conduct research into these topics and seek to answer some of these questions by performing hands-on, historical and academic research. In the field research unit we'll discuss terror and horror gothic movies and explore their appeal. In the historical unit we'll examine different representations of vampires throughout time, such as in the book *Dracula* and the book and movie version of *Twilight*. In the academic research unit we'll focus our attention on contemporary manifestations and interpretations of gothic, such as goth culture.