

# THE DARK ROMANTIC/ GOTHIC SHORT STORY CHARACTERISTICS

as seen in

## “The Minister’s Black Veil”

Below are the six different characteristics of Gothic Lit., which include elements, metonymy, primordial symbols, vocabulary, romance, and the gothic conclusion. As we watch the video version of “The Minister’s Black Veil”, highlight/circle the elements you see/hear:

### I. Gothic Elements

Setting in a castle

Mystery and suspense

An ancient prophecy

Omens, portents, visions

Supernatural

Women in distress

High / overwrought emotion

Women threatened by a powerful, impulsive, tyrannical male.

Byronic Hero

### II. The metonymy of gloom and horror. (Metonymy is a subtype of metaphor, in which something (like rain) is used to stand for something else (like sorrow)).

Wind, especially howling	Rain, especially blowing
Doors grating on rusty hinges	Signs, moans, howls, eerie sounds
Footsteps approaching	Clanking chains
Lights in abandoned rooms	Gusts of winds blowing out lights
Characters trapped in a room	Doors suddenly slamming shut
Ruins of buildings	Baying of distant dogs (or wolves?)
Thunder and lightning	Crazed laughter

### III. Primordial Symbols. These exist from the beginning of time - all humans share certain inborn impulses and concepts in the mind at the unconscious level.

Dark forests	Danger, obscurity, confusion, and the unknown with evil, sin, and death
River	Passage of time
Overcast sky	Gloom and depression
Flowers	Delicacy, beauty (or the opposite if dying)
Lamb	Innocence
Violent storm	Wrath, inconsolable grief
Colors	White = purity, innocence
Water	Rebirth or birth
Seasons	ie. Autumn = old age/Winter = death

#### IV. Elements of Romance

In addition to the standard gothic machinery above, many gothic novels contain elements of romance as well. Elements of romance include these:

1. **Powerful love**
2. **Uncertainty of reciprocation.**
3. **Unreturned love.**
4. **Tension between true love and father's control**
5. **Lovers parted.**
6. **Illicit love or lust threatens the virtuous one.**
7. **Rival lovers or multiple suitors.**

**V. Vocabulary.** The constant use of the appropriate vocabulary set creates the atmosphere of the gothic.

<b>Mystery</b>	Diabolical, enchantment, ghost, goblins, haunted, infernal, magic, magician, miracle, necromancer, omens, ominous, portent, preternatural, prodigy, prophecy, secret, sorcerer, specter, spirits, strangeness, talisman, vision
<b>Fear, Terror, or Sorrow</b>	Afflicted, affliction, agony, anguish, apprehensions, apprehensive, commiseration, concern, despair, dismal, dismay, dread, dreaded, dreading, fearing, frantic, fright, frightened, grief, hopeless, horrid, horror, lamentable, melancholy, miserable, mournfully, panic, sadly, scared, shrieks, sorrow, sympathy, tears, terrible, terrified, terror, unhappy, wretched
<b>Surprise</b>	Alarm, amazement, astonished, astonishment, shocking, staring, surprise, surprised, thunderstruck, wonder
<b>Haste</b>	Anxious, breathless, flight, frantic, hastened, hastily, impatience, impatient, impatiently, impetuosity, precipitately, running, sudden, suddenly
<b>Anger</b>	Anger, angrily, cholera, enraged, furious, fury, incense, incensed, provoked, rage, raving, resentment, temper, wrath, wrathful, wrathfully
<b>Largeness</b>	Enormous, gigantic, giant, large, tremendous, vast

#### VI. Conclusion

The Dark Romantics often place the climax at the very end of the story. You are left with a twist - what is the climactic end of "The Minister's Black Veil"?

In addition, the ending is "dark" and reflects the sinful nature/guilt of the character(s). How is this apparent in "The Minister's Black Veil"?