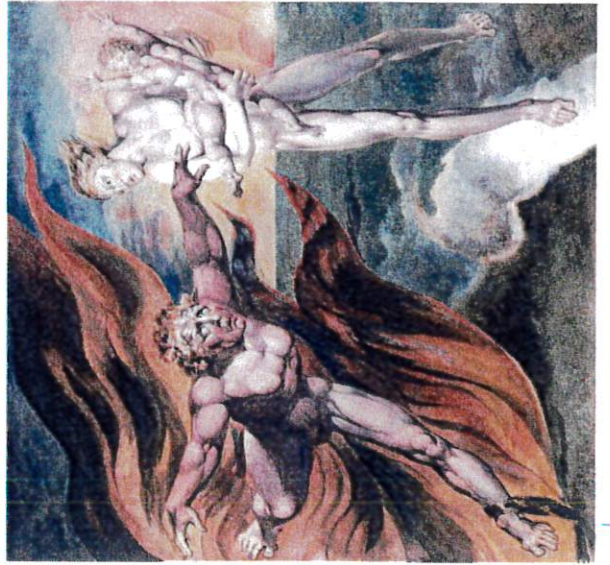




Key words

NOUNS	ADJECTIVES
FRIAR	DARK
MIRROR	MEDIEVAL
CURSE	OLD
PICTURE	SCARLET
LIGHTHOUSE	MENACING
DUNGEON	CHIVALRIC
CASTLE	ANONYMOUS
ABBAY	BLOODY
LEGEND	INNOCENT
VAMPIRE	MOONLIT

LABORATORY	SAVAGE
LAIR	LOST
LEGEND	HORRID
MIRROR	PALE
TOWER	DIABOLICAL
ZOMBIE	SINISTER
CRUCIFIX	DECAYING
HOUSE	MACABRE
DOCTOR	MELANCHOLY
MANUSCRIPT	MYSTERIOUS



The Gothic

Video from The British Library presented by Professor John Bowen

Horace Walpole	
Famous Gothic Novels	
Place and Time	
Power	
Sexual Power	
The Uncanny	
The Sublime	
Political and Social Crisis	
The Supernatural and the Real	

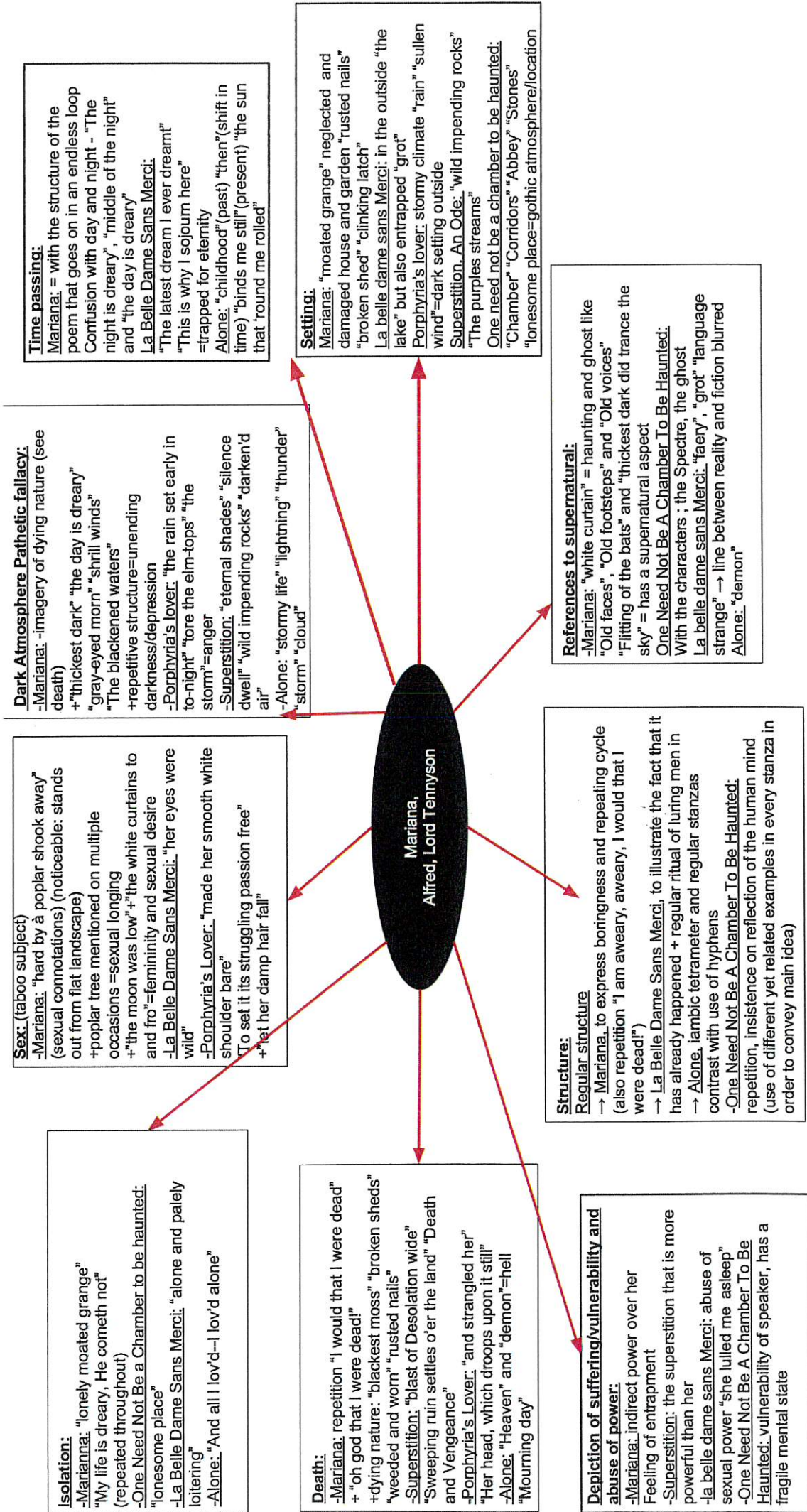
6	Describe the layout of the poem	Summarise the poem in fewer than 20 words	How does the poem make you feel?	Draw a picture representing the whole poem (one minute)	How does the title link to the ideas in the poem?	Compare poetic voice in two poems
5	Find three key words in the poem	What are the feelings and attitudes within the poem?	How would you stage a video of the poem? (one minute)	What question would you like to ask the poet?	Compare feelings and attitudes in two poems	Evaluate the overall effectiveness of the poem
4	Which line do you most like?	Give your most convincing interpretation of the whole poem	What do you think is the message of the poem?	Compare themes and ideas in two poems	How do the ideas in the poem link to another you have read?	Closely analyse one detail in the poem
3	Find something unique about this poem compared with others you have studied	What do you think the poem is about?	Compare language (techniques) in two poems	Identify as many techniques as you can that are used in the poem	Explore the effect of one language technique?	Create an alternative interpretation of the poem
2	How is this poem different to others you have studied?	Compare structure in two poems	Why do you think the poet wrote the poem?	Which phrase/line do you think encapsulates the poem's meaning?	If the poem was a colour, what would it be?	Explain the mood or tone of the poem
1	Compare language (power words) in two poems	How is this poem similar to others you have studied?	Choose three words you think have the most impact in the poem	Draw a picture representing the most important moment in the poem (one minute)	How might someone of a different age/gender/interest respond to the poem?	How does the structure enhance your interpretation of the poem
	1	2	3	4	5	6

Mariana by John Everett Millais 1851



Gothic Features and Concepts

Gothic Concept	Example from the poem	Analysis
<p>Use of setting to mirror emotions and to create a sinister atmosphere - description of a hostile environment.</p>		
<p>Horror and Death - the shocking strangulation of a young woman and the murderer's lack of remorse. The ending of the poem is particularly macabre as the speaker caresses Porphyria's corpse.</p>		
<p>Abnormal Psychology - the poem is from the perspective of the murderer. Is he insane? Schizophrenic? A psychopath? A sociopath?</p>		
<p>Breaking taboos - Browning portrays female sexuality. Porphyria flirts with and seduces the speaker. She is not the innocent and demure young woman usually portrayed in literature of the time.</p>		
<p>Sexual transgression - the speaker is clearly aroused by Porphyria. Maybe he has a fetish for hair? The strangulation is also described in an erotic way and his kissing and playing with the corpse is reminiscent of necrophilia.</p>		



Choose one of the articles below to read and answer the questions in your own words.

EITHER Dracula: vampires, perversity and Victorian anxieties.

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/dracula>

(The vampire is a complicated creature: caught between life and death, at once alluring and horrifying. Greg Buzwell considers the way the novel reflects the fears that haunted late 19th-century society – fears of immigration, sexual promiscuity and moral degeneration.)

1. How has the vampire always been a contradictory figure?
2. What kinds of late-Victorian fears are explored in the novel?
3. How are women presented in Dracula?
4. How does Stoker reflect modern ideas and inventions in his novel?

OR The Picture of Dorian Gray: art, ethics and the artist.

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-picture-of-dorian-gray-art-ethics-and-the-artist#>

(Dark desires and forbidden pleasure are at the centre of The Picture of Dorian Gray. Greg Buzwell examines the interplay between art and morality in Oscar Wilde's novel, and considers its use of traditional Gothic motifs as well as the theories of the new aesthetic movement.)

1. How does Wilde explore the idea of a double life in The Picture of Dorian Gray?
2. What was the Aestheticism movement and how does it link to the Gothic?
3. What is the role of paintings in Gothic fiction?
4. Why was the novel so controversial when it was first published and how does this reflect Gothic concepts?

OR Gothic fiction in the Victorian fin de siècle: mutating bodies and disturbed minds.

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/gothic-fiction-in-the-victorian-fin-de-siecle>

(The Victorian period saw Gothic fiction evolving and taking on new characteristics. With a focus on the late 19th century curator Greg Buzwell traces common themes and imagery found in The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Dracula and The Picture of Dorian Gray.)

1. How did the setting in Gothic novels change as the genre developed?
2. How were Darwin's ideas reflected in Gothic fiction?
3. How did the ideas of the Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso influence Gothic writers?
4. How did Gothic fiction allow authors to explore themes that were not necessarily acceptable subjects for discussion in respectable society?