**Welcome to The Haunted Project!**

**Introduction**

"It was a dark and stormy night..." What kind of feelings does this opening phrase evoke? If a story opened with this phrase, what kind of story would you assume you were reading? For centuries, readers have been captivated with scary stories. In this project, you and your group will read two scary stories, one classic Gothic tale and one modern ghost story. After analyzing these stories and doing a little comparing and contrasting, you will work with your group to write your own ghost story and present it to the class, incorporating images and sounds to set the mood and illustrate your story.

**Task**

**Here are the steps you will follow:**

1. First, gather yourselves into groups of no more than three and read through the articles about ghost stories.
2. Then, **as a group**, select one of the classic stories listed in this packet to read.
3. **As an individual:** In a short written analysis (no fewer than 250 words,) compare and contrast the classic story your group chose with one of the modern stories we read in this unit by answering the prompt questions in this packet. The prompt for this can be found in the **Process** section.
4. Next, work with your group to assign roles for **The Haunted Project Part II**. You will find the available roles listed in the **Process** section. Together you will need to write a horror story similar to the ones you have read as part of this project. You will also need to find images and sounds to accompany your story. Your group will then need to present it to the class as a PowerPoint presentation. Details about the roles and requirements for the story and the presentation can be found in the **Process** section.
5. In order to assure that everyone in a group participates, **ONE** person in the group will be assigned the specific role of **GROUP LEADER/PARTICIPATION TRACKER.** In addition to this group member's contributions to the story and presentation, he or she will be required to keep track of the contributions every group member makes to the project. On the day that you submit your story and make your presentation to the class, this group member will be required to submit a brief write-up detailing the contributions of each group member.

**\*Note: During the last class BEFORE the project is submitted, the Leader/Tracker will be asked to give his or her group a brief summary of the write-up (and the contributions being listed for each group member.) This group meeting will be facilitated and supervised by the teacher. If any group member should disagree with the Tracker's observations, then he or she will be able to express that to the Tracker and/or the teacher during this meeting.\***  
YOUR GROUP SHOULD BE TURNING IN: A copy of your story, a copy of your presentation (in hard or digital copy, depending on the medium you select,) and a brief write-up detailing the contributions each group member made to the project.

**Process**

First choose your groups. There should be between two and three people in a group. As a group, assign your roles.  The roles are as follows:  
  
**THE IMAGE SEEKER--**This person is in charge of finding images to put in the PowerPoint that will accompany your story. You may create the images yourself, find them online and provide citation, or "mix and match" the two approaches. Ideally, your presentation should have at least six to seven images.  
  
**THE MONSTER MASH MAKER--** This person is in charge of finding appropriate (and SPOOKY!) music and sound effects to accompany your presentation. You presentation **MUST** feature at least one sound effect and one song. You may either create this song and/or sound effect yourself or you may find it online and provide citation.  
  
**DR. FRANKENSTEIN--** This person is in charge of putting the final presentation together. This means combining the images, music, and story into your PowerPoint.  
  
In addition, one of your members will act as **THE GROUP LEADER/PARTICIPATION TRACKER.** Feel free to think of your own spooky (but still appropriate!) title if you wish. This person will be in charge of holding everyone accountable for their roles. They will make sure that everyone is on task and completing their part of the assignment accordingly. On the same day that the project is presented, The Group Leader/Participation Tracker will submit to the teacher an account of each group member's contributions to the assignment as a whole. (See the Task section for more information.)  
  
**All members of the group will work together to write the story, contributing elements such as plot, characters, literary devices, and the nature of the haunting.**

**A Little Background**

Before you jump into reading some ghost stories, take a moment to peruse these articles. They feature some background information on ghost stories in general. As you read through these articles, pay special attention to any reference made to the characteristics of ghost stories. That information may be useful later when you start to write your own!

[The Origin of Ghost Stories (As We Know Them Today)](http://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/dec/23/ghost-stories-victorians-spookily-good)

This article from *The Guardian* delves into 19th-century ghost stories. Ghost stories were quite popular during this time. Read this article to learn about the social and economic conditions that caused this to be the case. You may also be surprised to learn which holiday was traditionally associated with ghost stories!  
  
[The Truth That Creeps Beneath Our Spooky Ghost Stories](http://www.npr.org/2013/10/27/240824786/the-truth-that-creeps-beneath-our-spooky-ghost-stories)

Pay close attention to the last section (under "What Ghosts May Really Be Telling Us.")   
**Classic Stories**

Select one of these classic ghost stories to read and answer the questions that follow.

* ***The Judge's House* by Bram Stoker:** https://www.sff.net/people/doylemacdonald/l\_jdghus.htm

A classic story that provides a twist on a setup you've probably heard before. A man rents a spooky house that once belonged to a strict judge. The house has been abandoned for many years, and it has gained a bit of an unpleasant reputation with those who live nearby. The man chooses not to heed the warnings of his landlady, and he moves into the house anyway. What horrors await him there? Read this tale to find out!

* ***The Black Cat* by Edgar Allen Poe:** https://poestories.com/read/blackcat

A drunken man kills his cat but is it really gone? Doesn’t he remember how unlucky it is to mess with a black cat? Will the cat have its revenge? Read Poe’s story to find out.

* ***The Body Snatcher* by Robert Louis Stevenson:** http://www.eastoftheweb.com/short-stories/UBooks/BodySnat.shtml

A young man studying medicine in Edinburgh is asked by his professor to be responsible for receiving the cadavers to be dissected by the school's students. Though he knows many are stolen from graves, he keeps his silence. Then one night he recognizes one of the cadavers as the victim of murder. Instead of turning in the culprit, he allows himself to be drawn deeper into the gruesome intrigue. But justice has the last laugh when the evidence of the man's crimes - evidence he thought long since dissected and disposed of - mysteriously resurfaces to his everlasting horror.

* ***The Shadowy Third* by Ellen Glasgow:** http://storyoftheweek.loa.org/2011/12/shadowy-third.html

In this spooky story by Ellen Glasgow, a nurse is called to attend to a woman who is said to be insane. The nurse sees no such insanity in the woman. At least, not until she discovers the chilling truth about the little girl she sees coming and going through the house...

**Modern Stories by Stephen King**

Ghost stories have evolved considerably over the years, but they are still much loved by audiences. Everyone loves a good scare every now and again. The following stories have been specially selected for you to read. **Be forewarned that all of the following stories contain some element that you may find to be creepy or scary.** Everyone fears different things, and everyone experiences fear differently. This is part of what makes us human. You are encouraged to at least attempt to read each of the stories completely. If, however, you find a story to be particularly triggering or disturbing to you, you may stop reading and contact your teacher. In general, if you have any issue with any of these stories, please see the teacher.

**The Reaper’s Image**: In this story, an insurance appraiser comes to a run-down museum to assess an antique mirror with a spooky past. People have disappeared after looking into this mirror. Others have tried to destroy it. All are terrified of it.

**The Man Who Would Not Shake Hands**: During a poker game, an isolated man longing for human companionship is accidentally touched by another player. He screams and runs from the game. Later, the gentleman who touched him is found dead. Why?

**Uncle Otto’s Truck**: A lucrative partnership, a suspected murder, a possessed or vengeful old truck. Is it real or just insanity?

**Word Processor of the Gods**: A voice from the grave. A birthday gift from a dead nephew gives our main character the power to change timelines and lives. What will he do with this power?

**Writing Your Short Analysis**

**Each person in your group must write and turn in an individual analysis. Though you may discuss your ideas with your group, each analysis must be unique.**

In an analysis of no fewer than 250 words, compare and the classic story with the modern story. What similar themes do you see? Based on the stories above, what fears might you categorize as being classic fears? In other words, which fears have endured over the years? What fears might you categorize as being newer or more modern?  How might the modern story represent modern fears? Are those fears similar or different than those you see represented in the classic story? How have the tropes and themes in the classic Gothic stories changed and evolved in the modern stories? In what ways do you see literary tools such as symbol, foreshadowing, or any other literary devices in both the modern and classic stories? Finally, can you make the argument that these modern stories are or are not "literature" and can you support that argument using evidence found in the stories themselves? Your total score will be out of 25 points.

**Writing and Presenting Your Very Own Ghost Story**

Next, work with your group and decide what kind of story you will write. Will you take a more classical gothic approach, or will you choose to write a more modern story? Your story must have literary quality and include the following literary devices: foreshadowing, symbol, and metaphor.

After you write your story, research and find images (or take/draw some pictures of your own) to illustrate key points or themes in your story. Include no fewer than five images. Finally, find a song that accurately conveys the mood of your story. Include this song in your presentation. Once you have compiled all the elements of your story, you will present it to the class, including the accompanying images and sounds, in some format. Your presentation needs to be between five and ten minutes, making sure to include time at the end for questions and class response.

**Evaluation**   
Each group member is expected to contribute an approximately equal amount of work to the project. You will be graded as a group on your story and presentation. The teacher may, however, issue individual grades at her discretion based on the list of contributions submitted by the Group Leader/Participation Tracker. If it is determined that one group member has done significantly more or significantly less than the others, then the students may be graded individually. The total score will be out of 50 points.