1^{ère} LLCER-The serious escape game....

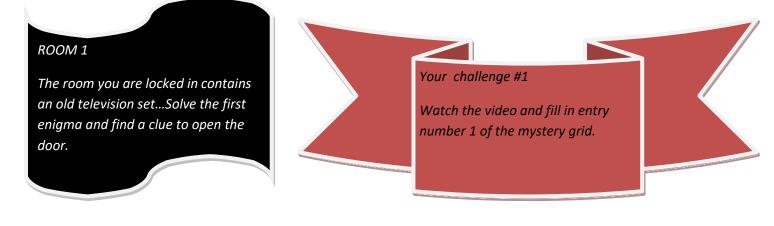
Frightening Imagination – "Imaginaires effrayants"

Monsters- What are they made of?

()

YOUR MISSION: YOU HAVE DECIDED TO GO TO TRANSYLVANIA AND VISIT COUNT DRACULA'S CASTLE TO RELIVE JONATHAN HARKER'S EXPERIENCE. YOU QUICKLY FIND YOURSELVES TRAPPED IN THE CASTLE. DECIPHERING CODES BASED ON THE GOTHIC GENRE WILL HELP YOU ESCAPE. TRY IT IF YOU CAN!

- You are 6 groups of 4 prisoners trying to find your way out.
- To escape, you will have to find your way through 7 rooms, solving enigmas and collecting clues and code cards.
- Beware! You have to meet all the challenges in the right order to obtain the code cards. You
 also have to complete the mystery grid to reveal a clue which will help you escape.
- All the documents to be watched and listened to are on the class padlet.
- You will have 6 hours on your own to try and escape...
- You will have to go and see the game master (the teacher) to help you find clues if need be and to make sure you've found the right answer before entering a new room...
- You are allowed to use an online dictionary (see the class padlet) if need be, but do not waste too much time...
- The winning team is the fastest to get out of the castle or the one which will be the nearest to achieve this goal at the end of the six hours. It will be rewarded....
- GOOD LUCK!



Watch and listen carefully so as to complete the following lyrics with at least 9 different ways of referring to monsters. Which is the noun that occurs twice (once in the singular and once in the plural) among them?

It's close to midnight	
And 's lurking in the dark	
Under the moonlight	
You see	
You try to scream	STRA C
But terror takes the sound before you make it	
You start to freeze	
As horror looks you right between you <mark>r eyes</mark>	
You're paralyzed	113

You hear the door slam And realize there's nowhere left to run You feel the cold hand And wonder if you'll ever see the sun You close your eyes And hope that this is just imagination, girl But all the while You hearup behind

You're outta time

They're out to get you

There's closing in on every side

They will possess you

Unless you change that number on your dial

Now is the time

For you and I to cuddle close together, yeah

All through the night

I'll save you from the terror on the screen

I'll make you see

Darkness falls across the land The midnight hour is close at hand

.....

To terrorize y'alls neighborhood And whosoever shall be found Without the soul for getting down

Must stand and face

And rot inside a corpse's shell

The foulest stench is in the air The funk of forty thousand years And Are closing in to seal your doom

And though you fight to stay alive

Your body starts to shiver

For no mere mortal can resist

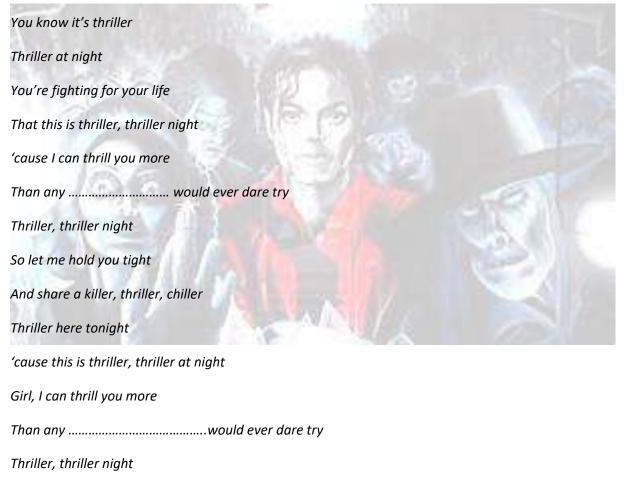
The evil of the thriller

'Cause this is thriller

Thriller at night

And no one's gonna save you

From



So let me hold you tight

And share a killer, thriller

I'm gonna thrill you tonight

RO	OM 1 LIVING WITH FEAR? VAMPIRES ARE NOT THE ONLY MONSTERS First names://////
	-Entry number 1 of the mystery grid (the noun that occurs twice):
	-Clue number 1: which are the 3 sounds you can hear at the very beginning of the video clip?
	-Clue number 1: which are the 3 sounds you can hear at the very beginning of the video clip?
	-Clue number 2: in the clip, there is a film within the film.
	What do you call such a device? A mise en -First number of the final code:
	A mise en
	Use the 1 st letter of the 1 st sound:
	Use the 7 th letter of the 2 nd sound:
	Use the 3 rd letter of the device:
	And the letters from the 3 coloured boxes above:
	Put them back into the right order to get the first number of the final code:

ROOM 2

Congratulations! You are now in Room 2. On its walls, you discover two very famous but quite disturbing paintings...



Your challenge #2

Look at them both carefully, memorize a maximum of details and once you feel ready to take up your new challenge, go and see the game master with your document...



William Blake's <u>The Great Red Dragon and the Woman Clothed</u> <u>in Sun</u> (1803-1805)



Henry Fuseli's <u>The</u> <u>Nightmare</u> (1781)



« CHALLENGING DEATH »

	First names://////
-	Title of the second painting:
-	Nationality of its author:
-	Date of the painting:
-	What can you see in the background which gives the painting a theatrical appearance, as though it presented a stage:
-	How is the sleeper dressed:
-	Why do you think such a colour was chosen:
	· · ·
_	Describe her position which may suggest her helplessness and vulnerability:
-	Where is the imp squatting?:
-	Who does it seem to be looking at because of its being half-turned?
-	What can you deduce from the position of its left hand?:
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
-	Which adjective would you choose to describe it?:
-	What is there at the top left of the painting?:
-	As its coat is dark and fades into the background, which is the most prominent part of its head?:
_	Is there another detail you can remember about the horse?:
_	Which adjective would you choose to describe the horse?:
_	Would you say the painting tells a clear story?: yes/ no
_	What does it mean?/ How is this connected with the theme of nightmares?
	what does it meanly now is this connected with the theme of nightmares.

ROOM 2	

« CHALLENGING DEATH »

First names :	/	/	/

-Entry number 2 of the mystery grid (the first name of the author of the 1st painting in Room 2):

-Clue number 1: which is the Italian word to describe the technique (used by Fuseli in the second painting) where light and shadow are highly contrasted?

-Clue number 2: I am an adult female horse and connected to Fuseli's 1781 painting even if not etymologically. Who am I? a

.....

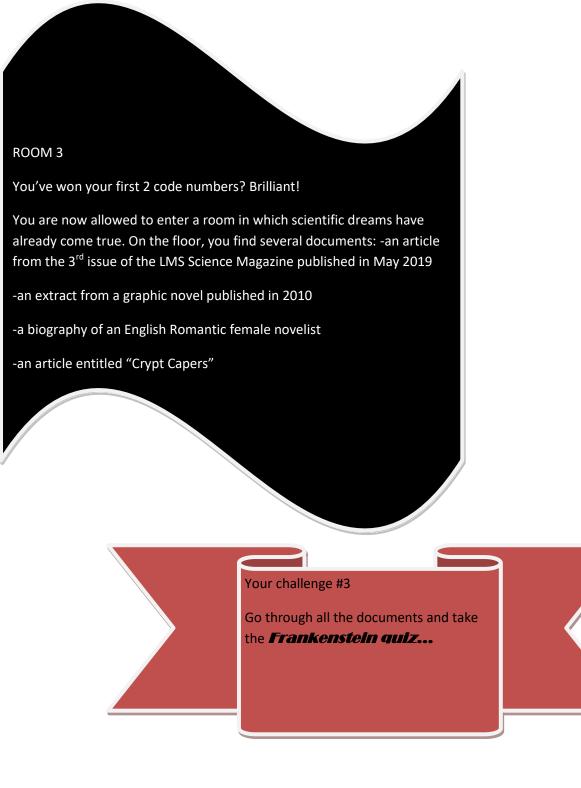
-Clue number 3: Because of the popularity of his work, Fuseli painted other versions of *The Nightmare*. Which number corresponds to the one you saw in Count Dracula's castle? 1, 2 or 3?



- Second number of the final code: it corresponds to the sum of letters in the answer to clues number one and two , plus the number of the right version....

.....+++=

the document to keep and to get validated by the game master



IENCE &HISTORY

DID YOU KNOW THAT 2 CENTURIES AGO SCIENCE HELPED INSPIRE A CLASSIC HORROR STORY THAT STILL HAUNTS RESEARCH TODAY?

On a dark chilly night, some 200 years ago, a dreary rainstorm kept 18-year-old Mary Shelley and her friends stuck indoors. They spent time reading ghost stories to one another. One member of the group, the poet Lord Byron, challenged the others to write frightening tales of their own.

That friendly competition gave birth to one of the great horror stories of all time: Mary Shelley's FRANKENSTEIN.

Victor Frankenstein is a young student who succeeds in fulfilling his obsession of bringing the dead to life. Using human and animal body parts, he builds a human-life form. Yet seeing his creation awaken, he is horrified and abandons it. Lonely and rejected, the creature kills everyone Victor loves and then runs away to die at the North Pole.

In fact Shelley and her friends had been interested in some recent science experiments: they focused on the role of electricity in animals' bodies. About 40 years earlier, in 1780, Italian scientist Luigi Galvani had found that when he applied an electric spark to the legs of dead frogs, the muscles twitched and moved. By the early 1800s, his nephew took the experiments further, applying electricity to the dead bodies of larger animals to observe their movements. Finally other scientists even tested the effects of electricity on the bodies of deceased humans.

The research led people to debate whether it might be possible to bring dead animals or people back to life.

After Shelley and her friends talked late into the night about electricity and questions of life and death, she went to bed but couldn't sleep. She saw an image in her mind of a scientist assembling a strange creature and bringing it to life. That vision formed the basis for her now famous tale. It was published in 1818 and shocked early reviewers. Yet it fascinated readers. Two centuries later, the novel has inspired countless movies and TV shows.

One of the reasons why the novel remains so relevant today is that a lot of scientific possibilities that were pure fantasy then are now very real.

FRANKENSTEIN'S MONSTER TODAY

Mary Shelley avoided giving details of the science that fictional Victor Frankenstein used to create his creature and bring it to life. If scientists wanted to create a modern version of Frankenstein's creature, here are some current techniques and technologies they could turn to.

> LAB-GROWN PARTS An ear can be grown from cells on a scaffoid, or support structure, in the lab. The same approach can also generate skin, blood vessels, and muscle

Doctors can transplant bissues such as the corner jouter layer of the eye), nerves, skin, cartilage, and bones tey can also transplant organs—including the kioneys, liver, heart, lungs, pancreas, and intestine—from one body to another.

NB : Frankenstein is not about giving up on scientific progress. It is about creating responsibility.

Shelley was not anti-science. Victor Frankenstein's great sin was not bringing his creature to life. It was failing to consider the consequences and take responsibility for his work.

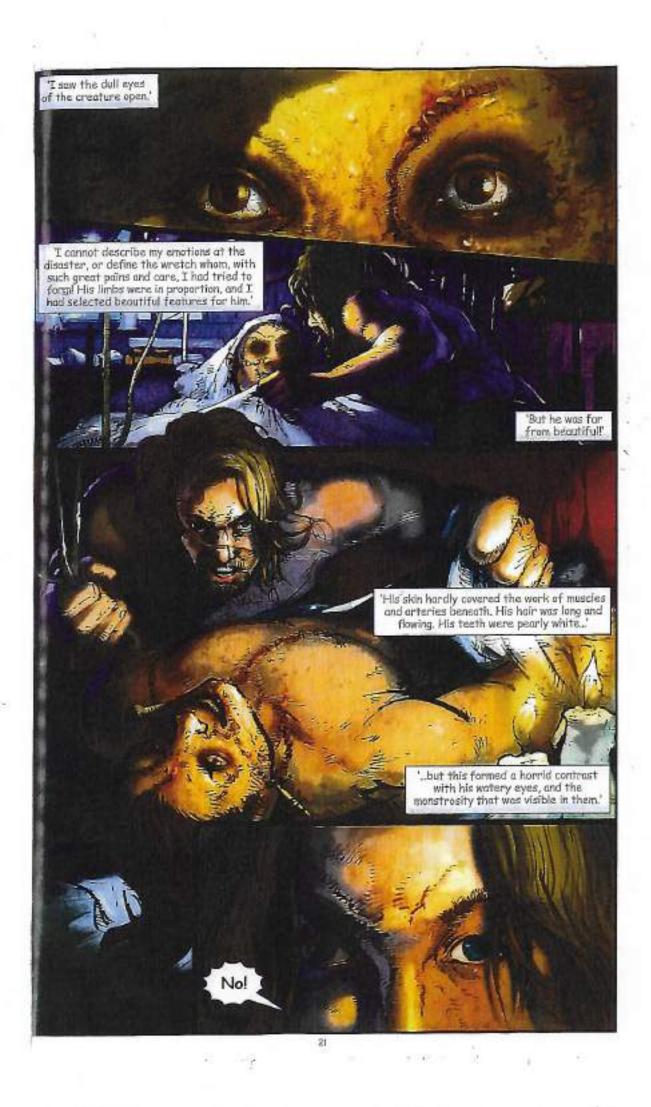
MECHANICAL DRGANS Machines can replace or aid certain organs. An artificial heart can pump blood through the body Dialysis machines operate outside the body to filter blood, performing the function of the kidneys.

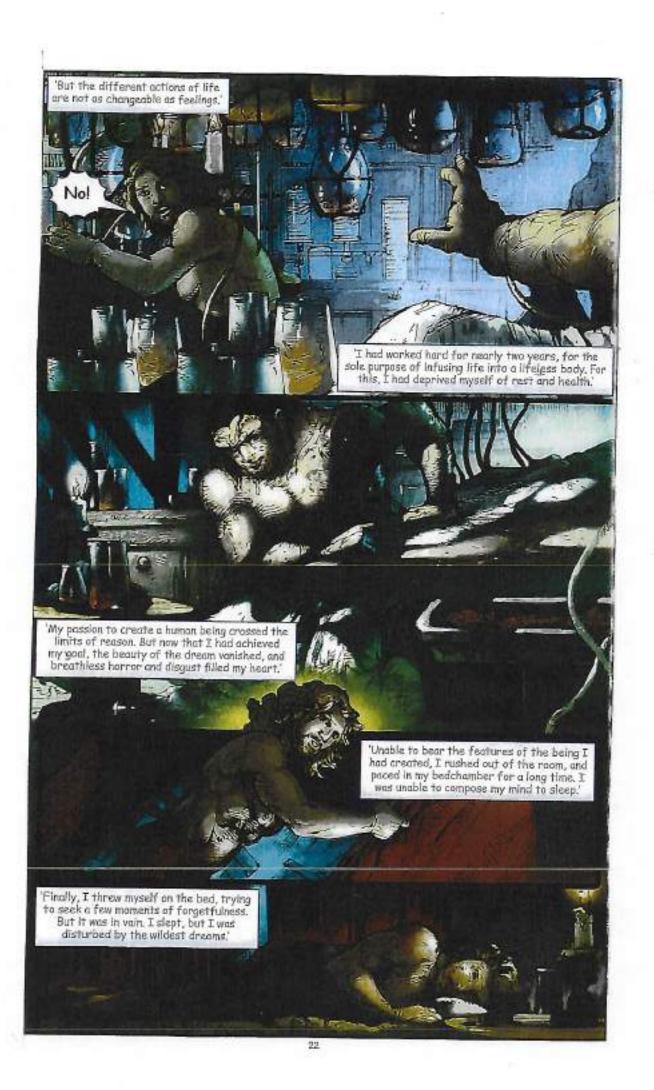
> EICNIC COMPONENTS If bone or muscle transplants aren't available, robotic exoskeletons can support the limbs, or prosthetics (arbificial limbs) car replace them. The most advanced prosthetics car be connected to the brain to follow its commands.

Thanks to Frankenstein's lessons, modern scientists can now create genetically modified organisms. They develop artificial intelligence, i.e machines that can learn, solve problems and make decisions. His lessons also apply to technological advances from social media to robotic aircraft known as drones...

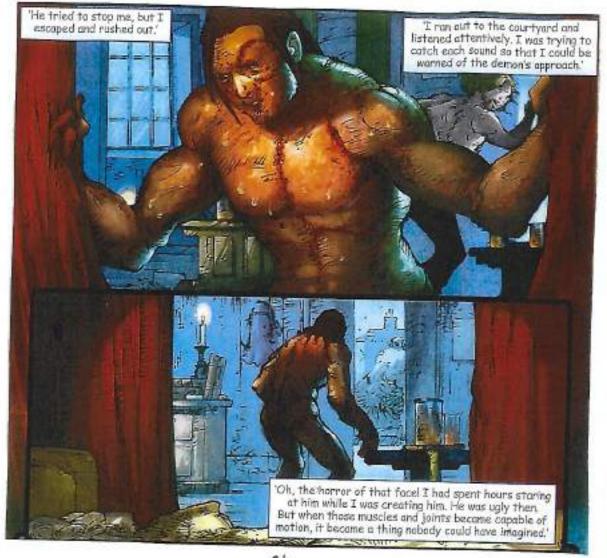


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24.

MARY SHELLEY 1797-1851



"It is not singular that, as the daughter of two persons of distinguished literary celebrity, I should very early in life have thought of writing."

Mary Shelley was born in London in 1797, into an exceptionally gifted, intellectual family. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, was a famous radical writer, and her father was the philosopher William Godwin. Mary Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Women* is an important early feminist work. In this she argued that women should no longer be treated as second-class citizens. Just as influential was her father, Godwin, whose liberal philosophy was fundamental in shaping the political views of a generation of writers and thinkers.

> Shelley's interest in science fiction was influenced by her father, who was fascinated with developments in scientific thinking during the nineteenth century. This interest was followed by Shelley who would regularly attend science lectures in London.

> When she was sixteen years old, Shelley met and fell in love with the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley. They seemed to be the perfect match of literary pursuits, and Percy was pleased with their shared interest in poetry. They married in 1816.

> Percy influenced his wife's writing with his interest in radical science. Shelley's ideas for Frankenstein had the weight of personal interest and research into the subject of galvanism, and beliefs that a corpse could be brought back to life using electricity.

> It was this interest in science and a love of ghost stories that motivated Shelley to create her macabre tale. In the introduction to her novel, Shelley also admitted to a desire to frighten her readers.

> Frankenstein was a great success in its initial publication, and Shelley revised the story in its later printing. Despite the novel's success, Shelley would live in the shadow of her more famous husband. When Percy died in 1822, Shelley devoted herself to publicizing her husband's work.

> Shelley's later novels never gripped the public's attention as *Frankenstein* had; the novel continues to intrigue modern readers, and has been the subject of several books and films.

Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley died of a suspected brain tumor on February 1, 1851.



In the 19th century in England, the period when Frankenstein was published, there were great advances in medical science. Many men like Victor Frankenstein were deeply interested in the human body, and soon anatomy schools and dissecting rooms as a way of learning about the human body had almost become a necessity!

What was body-snatching?

In the simplest of terms, body snatching was the stealing of dead bodies from graveyards. This gruesome act was greatly feared and brought grief to relatives and friends. Freshly burled bodies were taken out of the graves at night and were secretly given to anatomy schools which needed the bodies for their experiments and classes.



Why was there an increase in this activity during the 19th century?

As the number of anatomy schools grew, so did the demand for cadavers (dead bodies). One of the main sources of the bodies was executed criminals. But since there were very few criminals executed, the schools were always in need of bodies. So stealing dead bodies from graves became a good way to meet the demand of the schools. In fact, it became a quite a lucrative business as dead bodies became a commodity and began being sold and bought at really high prices!

Who were the 'resurrectionists'?

The anatomists or their students did not steal the bodies themselves, since they were respected men of society. Instead, they paid people to do it for them. These men would enter a cemetery at night, dig up a recently buried body, and secretly sell it to the local medical school. These men were called the 'resurrectionists' as they sort of resurrected the dead!

What was the 1832 Anatomy Act?

The Anatomy Act was passed by parliament in 1832. The main aim of this act was to increase the number of bodies available for dissection in anatomy schools by allowing them to use unclaimed bodies. A body was declared unclaimed if no one came forward within 48 hours. This inevitably resulted in paupers' bodies from hospitals, poor law institutions, asylums, and workhouses being transferred to dissection rooms!

Who were Hare and Burke?

William Burke and William Hare lived in Edinburgh in the early 19th century. The story goes that a lodger died owing money in Mrs. Hare's boarding house. Burke and Hare decided to sell the body to cover the debt. They realized that this was a great way of making money. And so began the infamous West Port murders. The two murdered more than 15 vagabonds whom they invited into the boarding house. Thankfully, this moneymaking enterprise ended when the last victim, Mary Docherty, was discovered in Burke's house one morning in November 1828.



What were mortsafes?

Rampant body snatching during the early 19th century led to the invention of mortsafes around 1816. These were heavy iron or iron-and-stone devices in many different designs used to protect graves from theft. Often they were complex contraptions with rods and plates, all locked together. They were especially used in graveyards close to medical schools.



« Scientific dreams »

FRANKENSTEIN QUIZ

- Which famous poet was with Mary Shelley when she started writing *Frankenstein?*
- From what materials did Frankenstein make his creature?
- Who were the West Port murderers? How did they manage to make money in the early 19th century?
- In what year was the novel first published?
- Who were Mary Shelley's famous parents?
- How long did it take Victor Frankenstein to create his monster?
- What do you call "body-snatching"? What was its aim?
- What prompted Mary Shelley to write the novel?
- Why did Frankenstein abandon his creature?
- Who were the "resurrectionists"?
- What was the main goal of the 1832 Anatomy Act?
- What do you call the heavy iron or iron-and-stone devices used to protect graves from theft? Where were they especially useful?

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10	
12	



« Scientific dreams »

-Entry number 3 of the mystery grid: which is the subtitle of Mary Shelley's novel and how can you account for it?

[NB: it refers to an ancient Greek myth, in which Zeus, the king of the gods, punishes a Titan for having rebelled against him by giving humans a series of gifts, the most precious of which was the sacred fire stolen from Zeus. Zeus is furious and punishes the Titan by having him chained to the side of a mountain. Every day an enormous eagle flies by and every day it pecks out the Titan's liver.]

..... -Clue number 1: number of victims of the West Port murderers: -Clue number 2: the age Mary Shelley was when Frankenstein was published: -Clue number 3: the number of letters in the surname of the Italian scientist who discovered animal -Third number of the final code: it corresponds to the addition of the answers to clues number one and two, divided by the answer to clue number three.... the document to keep=

ROOM 4

You did it! You now have 3 code numbers and the first 3 entries of the final mystery grid. Do not lose them....

On a desk, you come across an old magazine in which you find 2 illustrations with the same title. You are puzzled and try to understand what they may be about...

Your challenge # 4

<u>Part 1:</u> You try and anticipate the content of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel paying particular attention to the captions of the 2 illustrations you've just come across. You tell the game master about your findings in English...



Your challenge # 4

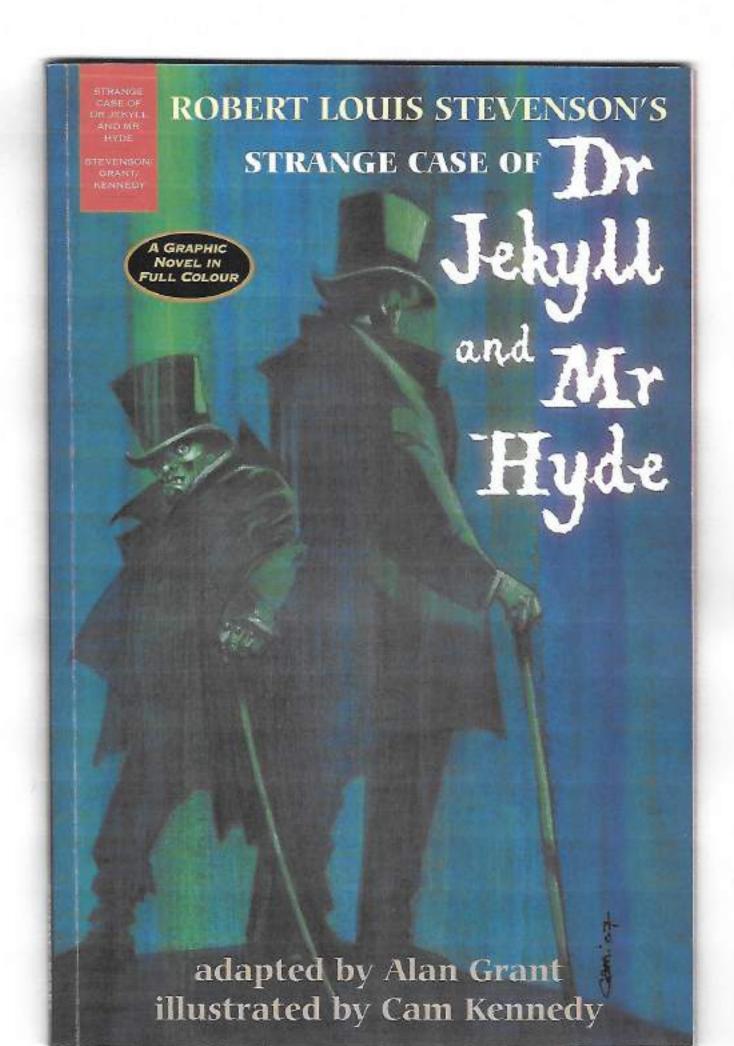
<u>Part 2:</u> You've found a graphic novel with the same title in Count Dracula's bookcase. You decide to read from the chapter entitled "The last night" onwards. You write a short but convincing summary of what you have understood.

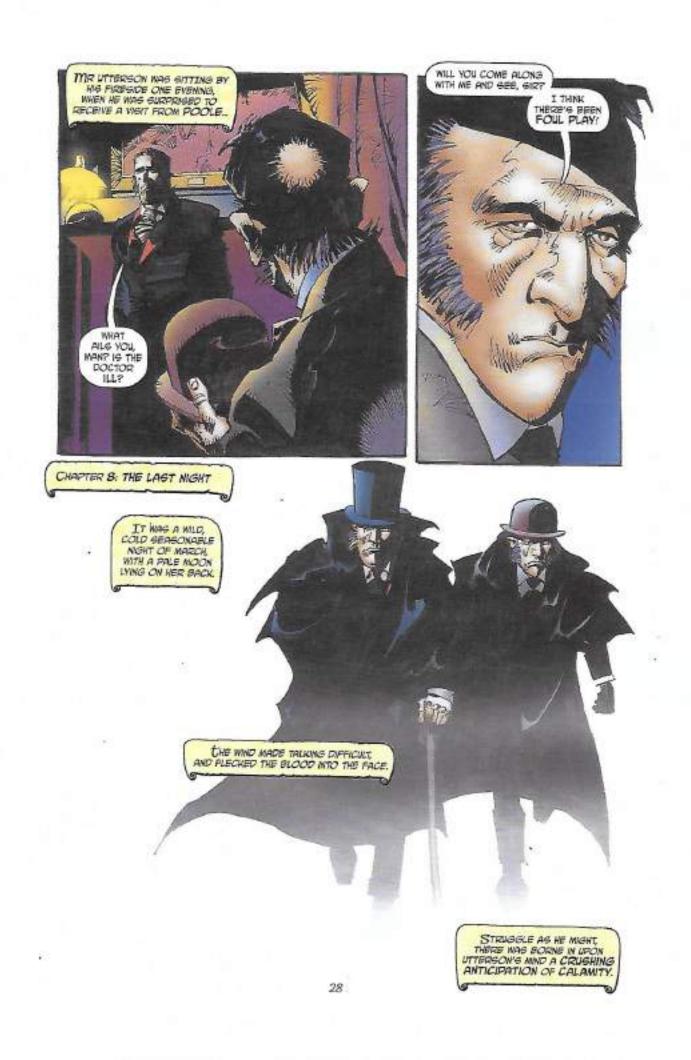
► Robert Louis Stevenson NORMAL LOUIS JOURNAL Revert Louis Standard Stan And That so in the second of t Place for his condition. Some of his books are inspired by his tools and travel books are inspired by his tools and some short stories and tools are inspired by his tools and pools. In the second travel local and travel local and the second travel local and the second travel local and the second travel local and travel local and the second travel local and the second travel local and travel local and the second travel local and travel local ROUBEN MANOULIAN

Dr. Jekyll faces horrible consequences when he lets his dark side run wild with a potion that changes him into the animalistic Mr. Hyde. Starring Frederic March, Miriam Hopkins, and Rose Hobart. Screenplay by Samuel Hoffenstein and Percy Heath. Based on the novel by Robert Louis Stevenson. Directed by Rouben Mamoulian.

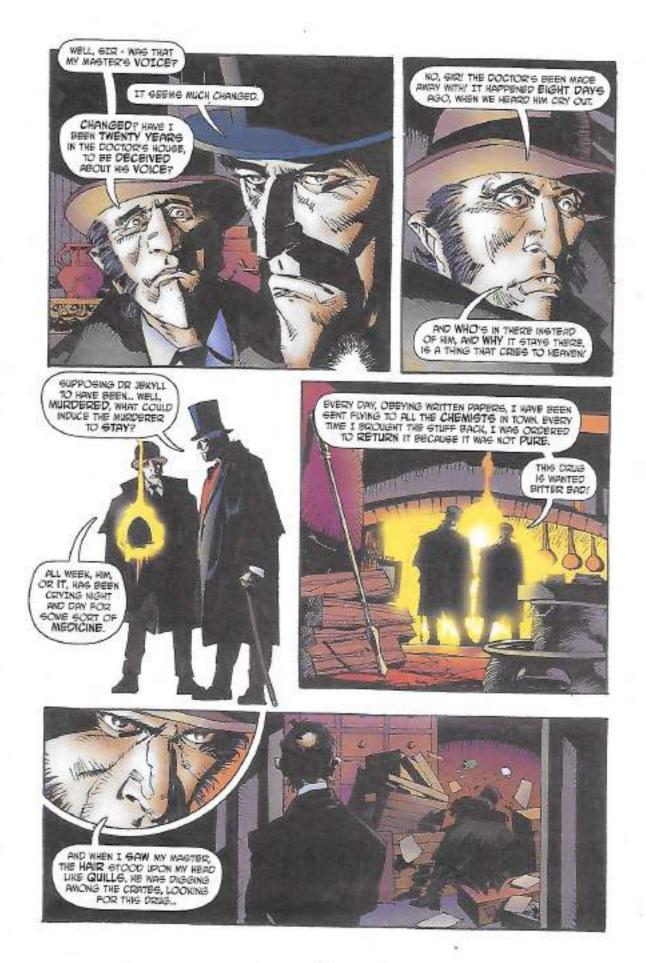


Hastie Lanyon, Dr. Jekyli's friend, discovering Dr. Jekyli's secret. Poster for a theobirsal adaptation of Strange Case of Dr Jakyll and Nr Horiv (R.L. Stevenson, 1885).











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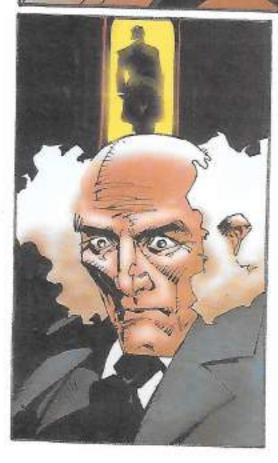








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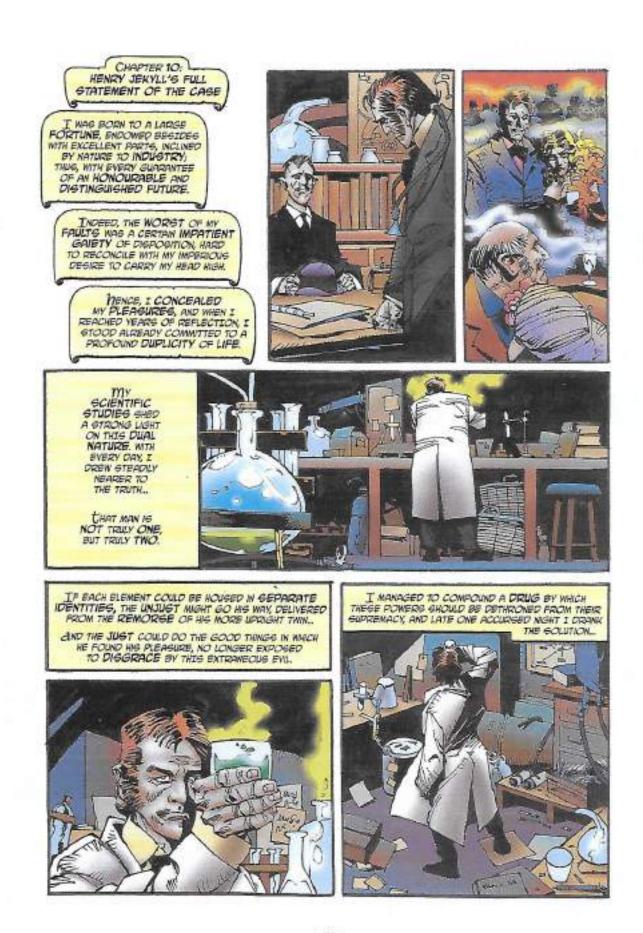


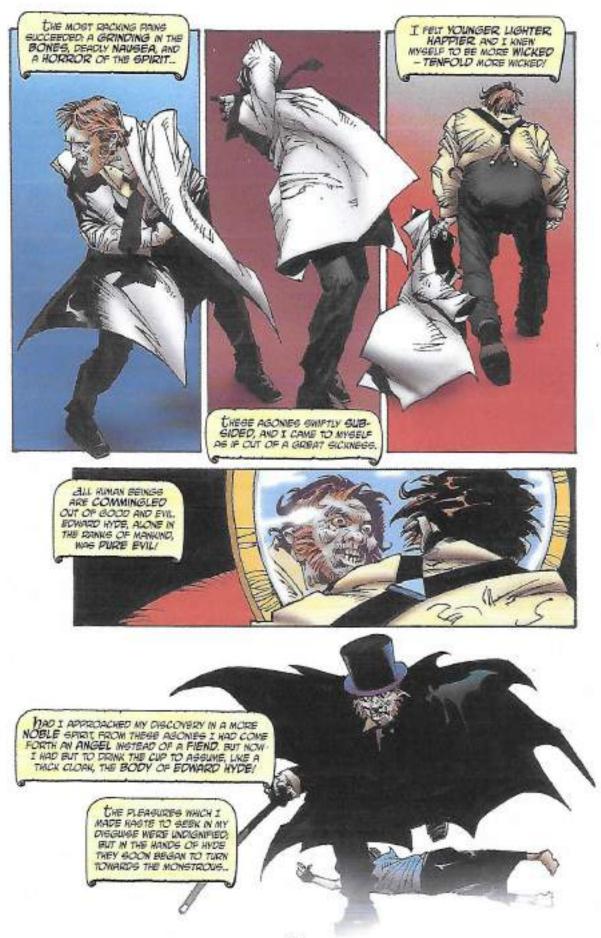




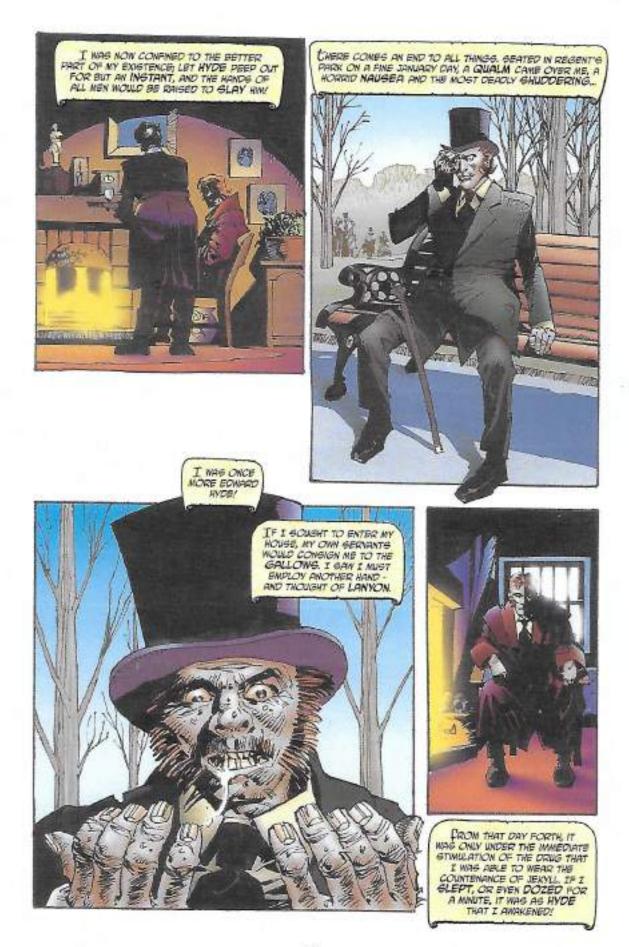


"WHAT HE TOLD ME IN THE NEXT HOUR, I CANNOT BRING MY MIND TO GET ON PAPER. MY GOUL GICKENED AT IT."











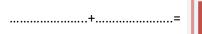


« The dark side of human nature » (A)

First no	ames:////
Entry r	number 4 of the mystery grid (Name another great success from the same author):
-Clue n	number 1: the age when the novelist died:
-Clue n	number 2: the number of right answers you've ticked:
What i	s the novel about?
0	a dark thriller about the duality of human nature
0	the struggle between good and evil which can both be found in a single person
0	a metaphor of man's duplicity

o a split personality

and two.



ROOM 5

Great job ! You are getting closer to the exit.... The room contains another television set. Turn it on (scan the QR code), watch the programme, and get ready to take up your lifth challenge...



Your challenge # 5

Complete the following summary. All the words you need to do so will be taken from the coloured bases.





London

Ireland

Basil Hallward

Lord Henry Wotton

Evil/ pleasure/immorality

prison/profilgacy/youth

catalyst/novel/plays-

actress/downfall/sin

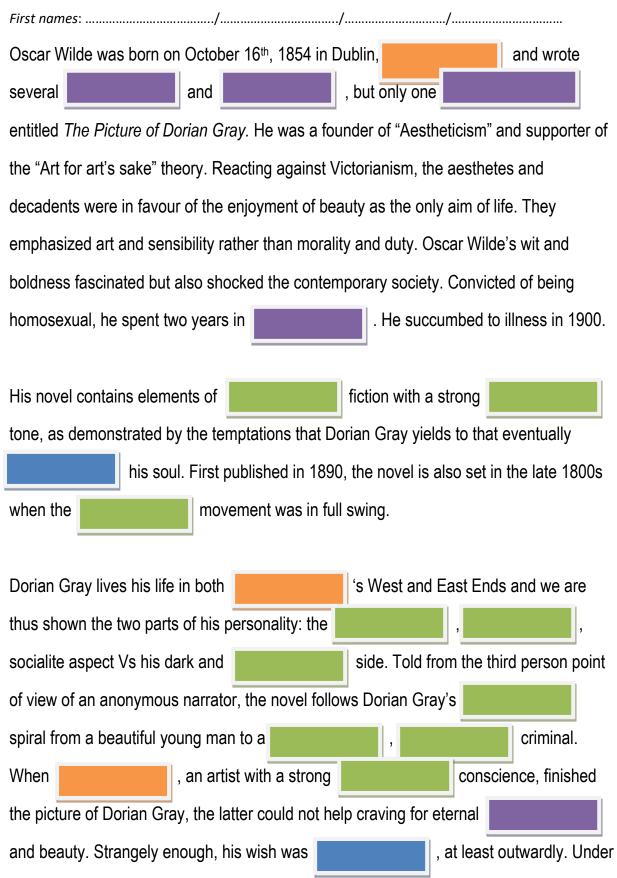
poems

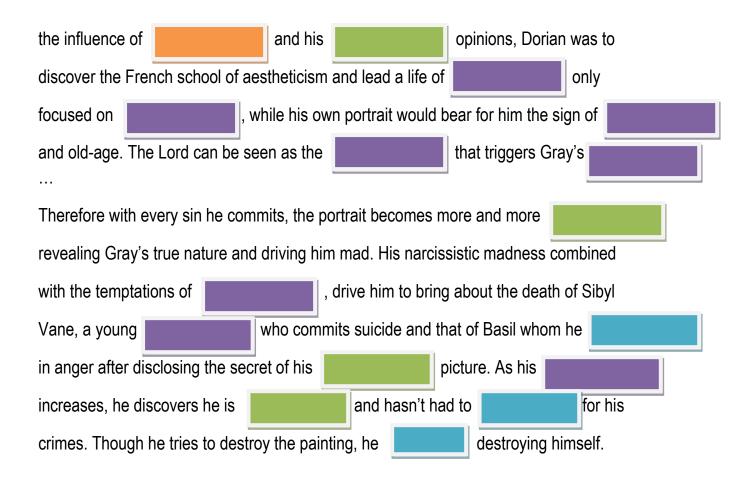


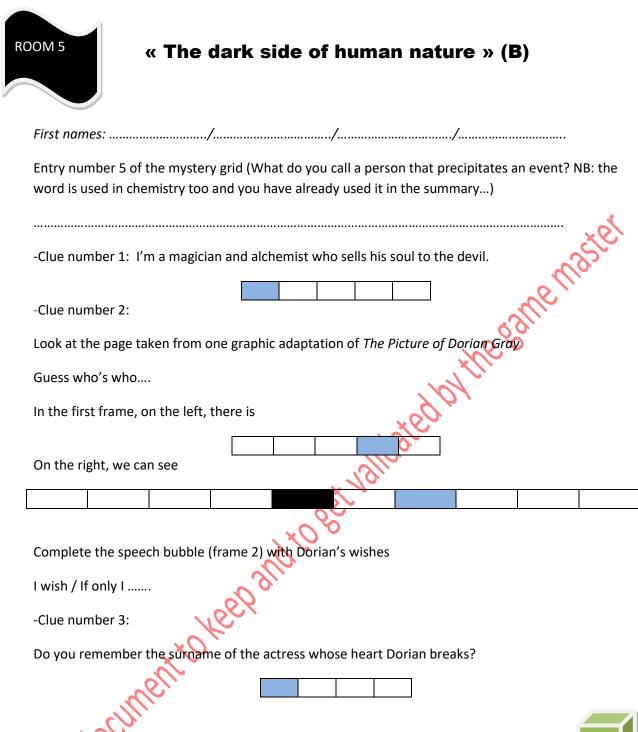
moral/tarnished/ageless/ immoral/seedy/gothic/ outgoing/downward/ hideous/Faustian/ selfish/noturious/ pleasure-seeking/ Decadent



« The dark side of human nature » (B)







-Fifth number of the final code: it is made up of the 4 letters in the coloured boxes above:



THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY



Welcome into ROOM 6!

It is the first of Count Dracula's two favourite rooms. He has dedicated them to his favourite novelist whom he has fondly nicknamed "the King of horror", "the master of terror"....

Your challenge #6

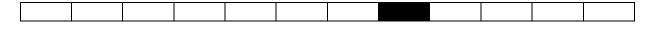
The Count's favourite novels have often been adapted for the screen....Here is but a short selection of some stills taken from these adaptations. Can you identify them and complete the three grids? Can you guess who the Count's favourite novelist is?

	Film version	The original novel
-Title		
-Date of release/ of publication		
-Name of the film director		
-Main actors/ characters		
-Title		
-Date of release/ of publication		
-Name of the film director		
-Main actors/ characters		
		309803000000000000000000000000000000000
-Title	•••••	
-Date of release/ of publication		
-Name of the film director		
-Main actors/ characters		





-Count Dracula's favourite novelist :





Your challenge # 7

You now use your mobile phone to watch the 1980 official trailer of the adaptation from which the third still is taken... You answer 2 questions and

What happened to the previous off-season caretaker of the isolated Overlook hotel in the Colorado Rockies?

What is written on the door of Room 237(a word Danny Torrance keeps repeating during the whole film)? What does it mean?

&

> What is the meaning of the title? What is the shining that Danny possesses?

·····

"The King of horror, the master of terror "

Your challenge # 8

In the room, you also find pieces of Count Dracula's favourite novel by Stephen King on the floor. Unfortunately they have all been jumbled by the former visitors. Read them and put them back into the right. order

First names: _____

"No, Annie, I didn't. It's just a book."

She punched her fists down into the pillows' next to his head. The whole bed shook and Paul cried out in pain". He knew that he was close to death. "I didn't kill her!" he shouted.

She stopped and looked at him with that narrow black expression that gap⁵.

She picked up a heavy jug' of water from the table next to his bed, brought it down towards his head, but at the last second turned and threw She looked at him and brushed her hair off her face. Two red marks had it at the door instead of breaking his head open. appeared on her cheeks², "You dirty bird," she said. "Oh, you dirty bird,

how could you do that? You killed her."

3_"Where will you go? What about my medicine?" Paul called after her as she walked out of the room and locked the door. But the only reply was the sound of her car as she drove away.

He was alone in the house. Soon the pain came.

She's had a heart attack, thought Paul, and the alarm was replaced by joy. I hope it was a big one.

She came and stood over his bed, looking down at him out of her paperwhite face. Her neck was tense and she opened her hands and then closed them into tight fists, again and again.

"You... you... you dirty bird!" she stammered.

6_ "What? I don't understand." But suddenly he did understand. He remembered that yesterday she was three-quarters of the way through Misery's Child. Now she knew it all. She knew that Ian and Misery could not have children; she knew that Misery gave birth to Geoffrey's child and died in the process.

"She can't be dead!" Annie Wilkes screamed at him. Her hands opened and closed faster and faster. "Misery Chastain cannot be dead!"

> 7_ "Oh no, of course you didn't. Well, Just tell me this, then, Mister Clever: if you didn't kill her, who did? Just tell me that. You tell lies." She went blank then. She stood up straight, with her hands hanging down by her , sides, and looked at nothing.

> She came back a little at a time and the anger, at least, was gone. She looked down at him sadly. "I think I have to go away for a while," she said "I shouldn't be near you. If I stay here I'll do something stupid."

wo days later she came into his room early in the morning. Her face was grey. Paul was alarmed. "Miss Wilkes? Annie? Are you all right?" "No."





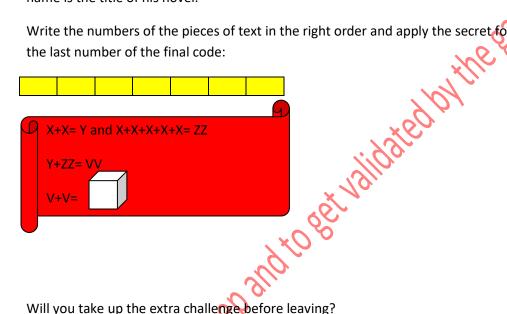
« The King of horror, the master of terror »

Entry number 6 of the mystery grid: Annie Wilkes is used to living her life by p....., i.e through Misery's adventures and misadventures.

Entry number 7 of the mystery grid: When he decided to kill Misery Chastain, Paul Sheldon actually wrote his death w.....

Entry number 8 of the mystery grid: Misery Chastain is Paul Sheldon's e..... heroine, i.e her name is the title of his novel.

Write the numbers of the pieces of text in the right order and apply the secret formula to discover the last number of the final code:



Will you take up the extra challenge before leaving?



Your challenge # 9

A group of gypsies have just entered Room 6. Two members of your team decide to mime the scene from Count Dracula's favourite novel for them to understand it. The 2 others dub the scene in English for one of the gypsies (the game master) can understand this language. If she claps her hands at the end of your performance, well done! You are out of Room 6.





MY DEAREST FRIENDS,

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU ARE NEARLY FREE AND YOU HAVE DISCOVERED MOST OF MY SECRETS...

I AM DISAPPOINTED FOR YOU WERE ALL CHOICEST PREYS BUT I HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

PLEASE, DO NOT FORGET ME AND TELL YOUR MOST APPETIZING FRIENDS TO COME AND VISIT MY CASTLE.

TELL THEM HOW MUCH I LIKE FRESH BLOOD AND THAT THEY WILL BE MORE THAN WELCOME....

HAVE A NICE WAY BACK AND TAKE GREAT CARE OF YOURSELVES,

Your friend, D.

NB 1: Don't forget the final code (the one to open my great door)....

17		05	48
17	20		64
10		05	

If you circle the 6 numbers you got from the first six rooms in the grid above, there will be two left...They have a significant meaning as for the origins of the Gothic genre...

NB 2: Don't forget the mystery grid and the final passwords...

Ρ	R	0	Х	Y	Ν	R	E	D	0	М
W	С	R	Е	А	т	U	R	Е	E	С
Ι	w	0	0	М	Y	N	0	Ρ	т	А
L	Р	А	U	S	т	н	Е	E	н	Т
L	R	т	R	Ι	S	L	А	N	D	А
I	0	н	W	R	н	0	R	А	F	L
А	М	Е	А	L	А	L	E	С	Е	Y
М	Е	U	S	Р	0	N	т	С	А	S
Т	R	Е	А	S	U	R	E	S	т	т
0	Т	R	A	Ν	Т	0	В	Y	L	E

Once you have circled all the letters from all the words from entry 1 down to entry 8 in the grid above, you will find the title of a novel and the name of its author: both are connected to the final code...

NB 3: Read the "Let's recap" document. Prepare a 10 question Gothic quiz for the prisoners of the other groups to take and be free...You could use the document to check the final code and the final passwords as well.

First names:/...../...../...../

LET'S RECAP

ORIGIN of the word-EFFECTS on the reader-AIMS of Gothic Fiction

- The word "Gothic" originally describes the architectural excess of Gothic style. When applied
 to literature it refers to horror and terror. It is linked to excess and produces both excessive
 and contradictory emotions of pleasure and fear rather than a rational response.
- It shows the influence of sentimentalism and of Rousseau and is a reaction against the rationality of Locke. It was meant to excite rather than to inform or to instruct readers with moral lessons. The aim was to remove the reader from the ordinary, everyday world of the normal and the familiar.
- Gothicism is connected chronologically and thematically to Romanticism. The 18th century Gothic writers are often described as precursors to Romanticism because they exalted the sublime and appealed to the reader's imagination.
- The excesses associated with Gothic figures were also seen as distinct signs for transgression. The terrors and horrors of transgression in Gothic writing become a powerful means to reassert the values of society. Their strategy was to warn against the dangers of social and moral transgression by showing them in their darkest and most threatening form.

BIRTH of GOTHIC FICTION - its Evolution throughout the 19th and 20th centuries

- Gothic architecture experienced a revival in the late 18th century as a result of an increased interest in the Middle Ages. In literature it is a typically Anglo-Saxon genre which appeared towards the end of the 18th century. The same word as in architecture was used because the literary genre dealt with emotional extremes and dark themes, and because it found its most natural settings in the buildings of this style which were old, unfamiliar and mysterious.
- The Gothic influence is mostly felt in the Gothic novel. It first centres upon sensitive heroines and their fear. It was very much a literature for women (because the heroines were women, because there were more and more feminine readers) and written by women. For instance the most popular writer was Ann Radcliffe. Horace Walpole, <u>The Castle of Otranto</u> was often regarded as the first true Gothic novel. The novels gradually became darker and more violent.
- They remained popular throughout the 19th century but their nature changed: the villains were mad scientists and criminals entered the novel; the city as a place of terror was the new setting and more internalized fears appeared. By the 1830s, the Gothic had ceased to be the dominant genre and was criticized for being inferior, formulaic and stereotypical.
- In the 20th century, the genre remained popular but took on a variety of forms such as science-fiction, horror tales, magic realism or the adventure novel. It has become particularly successful in the cinema.
- In the United States, there were no old abbeys and haunted castles, so Gothic fiction became more psychological, threatening people from the inside rather than the outside.See

for instance the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe.In the 20th century, Gothic themes reappeared in the works of Southern writers such as William Faulkner.