

OBHS Core Questions:

Subject: ENGLISH

Year and Term: Year 9 Autumn 1

Topic: 'The Woman in Black'



Learn these questions to build a strong foundation of knowledge for this half-term. Ask family or friends to test you regularly, or practise on your own using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write' method.

	Question	Answer
1.	What is context?	The circumstances that form the setting for an event or idea.
2.	What 4 areas contribute to an understanding of context?	Social, Cultural, Historical and Economical.
3.	When did the first gothic novel appear?	The late 18 th century.
4.	What emotions did the gothic genre want to evoke?	Fear and worry.
5.	Name some common subject matters that may be in gothic writing.	The supernatural, family curses, mystery, madness and death,
6.	Why did gothic literature become so popular in the 19 th century (the Victorian era)?	There were huge developments in science, technology, transport and medicine which meant that things changed very rapidly in society. There was a fear that the developments were unnatural or blasphemous in some way and there was an interest in stories that focused on the supernatural or evil consequences of experimenting and inventing.
7.	What is a convention?	Conventions are things / codes in the text that the audience understand and accepts. They are typical of that genre. They include character , plot , themes , setting and atmosphere .
8.	What types of characters would you expect to see in gothic writing?	Monsters who can't function in the 'normal' world, the supernatural, representations of evil. villains, vampires, ghosts, werewolves and persecuted maidens.
9.	What plot or themes would you expect to see in gothic writing?	A battle between good and evil, communication between the living and the dead, the possibility of life after death, violence, romance, horror and the Supernatural.

10.	What settings would you expect to see in gothic writing?	Scary, dark, isolated, abandoned houses/castles/ruins/abbeys, haunted houses and wild landscapes.
11.	What atmosphere is typically created in gothic writing?	Dark, mysterious, quiet, creepy, fear, ghostly, spooky and suspense.
12.	Who wrote 'The Woman in Black'?	Susan Hill.
13.	When was 'The Woman in Black' written?	1983.
14.	When was 'The Woman in Black' set?	The novel is set in the Victorian/Edwardian era (1889 – early 1900's).
15.	What is a pastiche?	A pastiche is an imitation of a style.
16.	How is 'The Woman in Black' a pastiche of the Victorian gothic style of literature?	Susan Hill writes in a very similar style to Dickens and other writers by using characteristic devices such as densely detailed text, evocative descriptions and language that is as lavish and dense as any Victorian tale.
17.	How were women in Victorian society presented?	The ideal woman had strong moral values, it was not considered 'proper' for a woman to have a child outside of marriage, if so, the baby would be taken away and the woman cut-off from their family.
18.	Who is the main character in 'The Woman in Black'?	Arthur Kipps.
19.	When is Chapter 1 set?	Christmas Eve.
20.	What was a Victorian tradition to tell on Christmas Eve?	Ghost stories.
21.	What is foreshadowing?	Foreshadowing is a type of literary device where an author makes a hint towards something that will happen later in the story.
22.	When does foreshadowing tend to appear in a text?	Foreshadowing usually appears at the start of the text; either at the very beginning or at the start of a chapter.
23.	Why is foreshadowing used?	Foreshadowing is a way to encourage the reader to think about what may be to come and cause them to develop an expectation of what the story might bring later down the line. It can act as a form of suspense in order to keep the reader engaged.
24.	What is foreboding?	The feeling that something bad is going to happen.
25.	What is Arthur Kipps' job?	He works at a law firm.

26.	Why does Arthur Kipps have to journey North?	To attend Mrs Drablow's funeral and deal with her estate after her death.
27.	How is the woman in black first introduced to us in Chapter 4?	Arthur Kipps sees her at Mrs Drablow's funeral and recounts how pale and barely alive she looks.
28.	What is the name of Mrs Drablow's house.	Eel Marsh House.
29.	Where was Mrs Drablow's house situated?	Across the causeway in an isolated, marshy area.
30.	What does pivotal moment mean?	A key moment in the structure of the story where the mood/atmosphere changes drastically, a key piece of information is revealed or the plot develops in a new way.
31.	What is the name of dog that is given to Arthur Kipps to keep him company at Eel Marsh House in Chapter 8?	Spider.
32.	What is a Byronic hero?	A key protagonist who doesn't believe in ghosts at the outset but changes when he has experienced the presence of one. They are intelligent, sophisticated and educated, but struggling with emotional conflicts, a troubled past and 'dark' attributes.
33.	What is a metaphor?	A figure of speech that makes a comparison between two unlike things without using "like" or "as."
34.	What is personification?	A literary device where a non-human entity, like an object or animal, is given human characteristics, actions, or emotions
35.	What is a verb?	A word that describes an action, state of being, or occurrence
36.	What is an adjective?	A word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun, providing more information about its qualities, characteristics, or attributes
37.	What is sibilance?	A literary device involving the repetition of "s" sounds (and sometimes other hissing sounds like "sh," "th," "f," "z," and "v") in a series of words.
38.	What is repetition?	The purposeful use of the same words or phrases multiple times to emphasize a point, create a rhythm, or enhance clarity.
39.	What is sensory language?	Language uses words that appeal to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch) to create vivid imagery and engage the reader's imagination.

40.	What is emotive language?	The use of words and phrases specifically chosen to evoke an emotional response in the reader or listener.
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