We’ve read a few Gothic stories in class and have discussed the style it has. It’s now your turn to create your own gothic story. You will want to focus on emulating the gothic experience and there should be no doubt that your story is gothic.

Things your story needs:

Setting:

Where is the story set?  A house? What country?  Which time period?  What is the topography of the land?  Weather patterns?  Are there unusual rumors about the setting?  Does it have a mysterious history?

Theme:

What is the main concept or idea of your tale?  Are there any common or stock archetypes you want to include?  Are there any symbols or recurring patterns to carry the meaning of the theme?

Mood:

How do you establish the mood of your tale?  How does it change?  Is it dark and foreboding from the first sentence or does it become so during the rising action?

Style:

What kind of language do you intend to use to describe your characters and setting?  What language do you use to enhance the action or excitement of the plot?

Plot:

    *Introduction*.  How do you introduce your character?  What is her/his relation to the setting; why is the character there?  Who are the other major characters?  Are there minor characters?  Is there a love interest?  Are the characters old friends or new acquaintances?  If they are just meeting each other, do they have an  instant like or dislike for one another?

    *Rising action*.  What conflict is introduced or uncovered?  What steps or hints unfold as the conflict builds?  Does the mood intensify?  Is the style more dramatic?  Does the setting reflect the plot tensions?

    *Climax*.  What is the exciting, interesting event or showdown the main character experiences with the antagonist?  What has he or she mistaken in making assumptions about the other characters or about the setting?  What does she or he learn at the moment of the event?  Does the main character win?  How?  What does she or he win?  How do the mood and style enhance the plot's climax?  Does the setting manifest the conflict: with storms or mild sunsets?

    *Falling action*.  How does the main character reconcile the conflicts?  Has he or she grown or changed?  Has the setting changed the characters?  Have the characters changed the setting? Is a mystery solved?

    *Conclusion*.  Do they live happily ever after?  Are there any loose ends or unsolved minor mysteries?    Is there a final eerie note with which you might end your Gothic tale?