

## GOTHIC FICTION READING LIST

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**Aldiss, Brian**                      **Dracula Unbound**    **F ALD:B**  
Bram Stoker (who first wrote Dracula) joins Joe Bodenland in a crusade to exterminate all vampires once and for all. But the trail which begins in Utah in the 21st century ends far away in space and time, in a climax of devastating destruction.

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**Anderson, M.T.**                      **Thirsty**    **F AND:M**  
All Chris really wants is to be a normal kid, to hang out with his friends, avoid his parents, and get a date with Rebecca Schwartz. Unfortunately, Chris appears to be turning into a vampire. He needs help, but whom can he trust: Chet who has offered to help, or the Thing, who claims to be from the Forces of Light?

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**Bradbury, Ray**                      **Something Wicked This Way Comes**    **F BRA:R**  
Loss of innocence, recognition of evil, the bond between generations and the purely fantastic, all enter Green Town, Illinois, with the Pandemonium Shadow Show. Will and Jim, two 13 year-olds, explore the sinister carnival for excitement, which becomes desperation as the forces of dark threaten to engulf them.

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**Burgess, Melvin**                      **Bloodtide**    **F BUR:M**  
London is in ruins. Two warring families of gang lords, the Volsons and the Conors, control the city. To cement a truce, Val Volson gives his 14-year-old daughter as a bride to Conor. But can either man trust the other? And what does trust matter when the gods decide to play a part in the affairs of men...

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**Burgess, Melvin**                      **The Ghost Behind the Wall**    **F BUR:M**  
David is 12 years old and a bit of a brute. He lives in a block of flats and is very lonely, like Mr. Alveston, who is afraid he is losing his mind. While he is in a ventilation shaft, spying on his neighbours, David discovers a ghost with a grudge against Mr. Alveston.

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**Burton, Tim**                      **The Melancholy Death of Oyster Boy & Other Stories**    **F BUR:T**  
Twenty-three illustrated gothic tales from the dark corridors of the imagination behind Batman, Edward Scissorhands and Big Fish. Burton's lovingly lurid illustrations evoke both the sweetness and tragedy of a cast of gruesomely sympathetic children - hopeful, yet hapless beings.

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**Carmody, Isobelle**                      **The Gathering**    **F CAR:I**  
An exciting story about a sinister town and a group of teenagers who together have the power to rid the town of evil if they can unravel the messages from the past.

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**Cooper, Susan**                      **Over Sea, Under Stone**    **F COO:S**  
Like many adventures, this one begins with a holiday in Cornwall, the discovery of an ancient map and a search for an Arthurian treasure. But Simon, Jane and Barney soon realize that dark forces are at work to prevent them realizing King Arthur's power for good once more.

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**Dahl, Roald**                      **The Best of Roald Dahl**    **F DAH:R**  
Hypnotized from the first sentence, you will remain spellbound as Roald Dahl unravels his fiendish fictions with the satisfying twist-in-the-tale endings as he leads you through the dangers of gambling for high stakes over wine, the perils of being a vegetarian and the macabre consequences of a night-time seduction.

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**Green, Simon R.**      **Down Among the Dead Men**      **F GRE:S**  
After delivery of a large consignment of gold, the border fort on the edge of the Darkwood, falls silent, answering neither natural nor supernatural communication. When the Forest King sends a small force, combining sorcery and military skills, they find a deserted fortress soaked in blood ...

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**Harland, Richard**      **The Black Crusade**      **F HAR:R**  
The story takes place in 1894, and tells of a Hungarian bank clerk, Basil Smorta, who falls hopelessly in lust with Volusia, aka 'the Australian Songbird'. He follows her across Europe in company with a group of Fundamental Darwinists led by Lord Malicide Said.

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**Hill, Susan**      **I'm the King of the Castle**      **F HIL:S**  
When Charles Kingshaw and his mother come to live with Hooper and his father in the ugly, isolated Victorian house, Hooper sees Kingshaw as an intruder, a boy to be subtly persecuted. Kingshaw realises that Hooper will never let him be. And the worst is still to come...

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**Horowitz, Anthony**      **The Devil's Door-Bell**      **F HOR:A**  
When thirteen-year-old Martin Hopkins is taken to Lesser Malling, he soon discovers that this is not just another sleepy little Yorkshire village. Who is his new foster mother, the sinister Mrs Crow, who has taken him all the way there, and why does she need him?

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**Jennings, Paul**      **Unbearable: More Bizarre Stories**      **F JEN:P**  
Yet another collection of fast-paced, bizarre and deceptively simple tales. Each story grows out of an image or incident which Jennings twists and stretches like a rubber band and which snaps in the end with a wicked or witty sting.

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**King, Stephen**      **Misery**      **F KIN:S**  
Paul Sheldon is forced to write a novel by his mad captor-nurse, Annie Wilkes. He hates her, he fears her, he wants to kill her; but all the same he needs her power. Annie Wilkes literally breathes life into him.

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**The Kingfisher Treasury of Spooky Stories**      **F KIN**  
This creepy collection will send shivers down your spine. With clanking skeletons, moonlit churchyards, strange shadows, there are chills and chuckles aplenty.

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**Lindsay, Joan**      **Picnic at Hanging Rock**      **F LIN:J**  
Three girls from a boarding school disappear from a picnic at Hanging Rock. The mystery had everyone baffled.

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**Lovecraft, H. P.**      **H.P. Lovecraft Collection : Classic Tales of Cosmic Horror**      **F LOV:H**  
Classic fiction (pre -1945). This collection of H. P. Lovecraft's work contains 71 stories by the master of weird fantasy and strange horror fiction.

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**Mahy, Margaret**      **The Haunting**      **F MAH:M**  
Barney Palmer is being haunted. The boy in blue velvet with the yellow owl-like eyes is taking over his body and his mind. An unusual haunting story about two unusual families.

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**Marcus, David**      **Irish Ghost Stories**      **F MAR:D**

The Irish have a long and impressive tradition of ghost story-telling reaching back to tales of the banshees. This collection includes more modern ghost stories, from the spirit who taps out SOS signals on central-heating pipes to the woman who does her spectral knitting on the screen of an unplugged television set...

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**Matthews, Andrew**      **Darker**      **F MAT:A**

Abernant's a dead town. Dead boring. But not this summer. Because Abernant's dark history is about to reawaken... Nick feels it coming. The weather turns hot, close, brooding. Kids become restless and aggressive, joy riding, thieving and mugging. And that's only a beginning. For within the violence something ancient lurks. Watching. Preparing to feed...

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**Moore, Christopher**      **The Serpent of Venice**      **F MOO:C**

Three prominent Venetians await their most loathsome and foul dinner guest, the erstwhile envoy from Britain who also happens to be a favourite of the Doge: the rascal-Fool Pocket. This trio of cunning plotters--the merchant, Antonio; the senator, Montessor Brabantio; and the naval officer, Iago--have lured Pocket to a dark dungeon, promising a spirited evening with a rare Amontillado sherry and a fetching young noblewoman. Their invitation is, of course, bogus. The wine is drugged; the girl is nowhere in sight.

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**Nix, Garth**      **The Ragwitch**      **F NIX:G**

When Julia finds a rag doll in a strange nest on a windswept beach, she unwittingly breaks an age-old spell and unleashes the evil power of the banished North-Queen. The doll grows into a hideous rag doll monster who transports Julie back into the world from which the North-Queen had been banished centuries before.

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**Paver, Michelle**      **Thin Air: a Ghost Story**      **F PAV:M**

The Himalayas, 1935. Kangchenjunga. Third-highest peak on earth. Greatest killer of them all. Five Englishmen set off from Darjeeling, determined to conquer the sacred summit. But courage can only take them so far - and the mountain is not their only foe. As the wind dies, the dread grows. Mountain sickness. The horrors of extreme altitude. A past that will not stay buried. And sometimes, the truth does not set you free.

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**Peake, Mervyn**      **Boy in Darkness**      **F PEA:M**

Titus Groan, in his desire to leave the senseless ritual of Gormenghast, becomes trapped in a desert of grey space. While there is no sign of life, something stirs below ground. Something alone and alive. Something that smiles very gently to itself as it sits upon its throne waiting patiently.

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**Pepper, Dennis**      **The New Young Oxford Book of Ghost Stories**      **F PEP:D**

This is a collection of stories about ghosts - all kinds of ghosts. You'll meet ghostly warriors, dogs, snooker-players and ventriloquists dummies. You'll sleep in haunted inns, operate a demonic computer, go for your last ride on a phantom express and maybe turn into a ghost yourself.

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**Perry, S.D.**      **The Umbrella Conspiracy**      **F PER:S**

Raccoon City is a remote mountain community suddenly beset by a rash of grisly murders. Bizarre reports start to spread of attacks by vicious creatures from the surrounding forest, some human... some not. Victims are apparently eaten. At the epicentre of these deaths is a dark, secluded mansion belonging to the mysterious Umbrella Corporation.

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**Poe, Edgar Allan**      **Murders in the Rue Morgue & Other Stories**      **F POE:E**

A delicious thrill of horror runs through the grotesque tales of Edgar Allan Poe. Herein, you may find three tales of detection tinged with terror, featuring Poe's groundbreaking detective, Auguste Dupin.

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**Pratchett, Terry**      **Carpe jugulum**      **F PRA:T**

They've got flair and fashion sense. They've got fangs... Discworld's unique breed of vampires are eager to get their teeth into the good and not-so-good citizens of Lancre. Granny Weatherwax and her cronies have other ideas and are lining up against them. Bloodshed has never been so much fun.

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**Priestley, Chris**      **Mister Creecher : a Novel in Three Parts**      **F PRI:C**

Billy is a street urchin, pickpocket and petty thief. Mister Creecher is a monstrous giant of a man who terrifies all he meets. Their relationship begins as pure convenience. But a bond swiftly develops between these two misfits as their bloody journey takes them ever northwards on the trail of their target: Victor Frankenstein.

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**Priestley, Chris**      **Tales of Terror From the Black Ship**      **F PRI:C**

The Old Inn clings to a clifftop above a storm-lashed sea. Ethan and Cathy are sick and their father has gone to fetch a doctor...but they are not alone for long. A visitor comes begging for shelter, and the three of them sit out the throes of the storm with the visitor telling the children grisly and terrifying tales to pass the time.

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**Rees, Celia**      **Soul Taker**      **F REE:C**

Lewis James is unhappy. Overweight and unhappy, his dad despises him, the girl he likes won't look at him. Desperate to change, he goes to a fortune teller. But this one is different: if Lewis really wants to change his future, he has to give something in return. After all, a deal's a deal. A soul for a soul.

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**Rice, Anne**      **Of Love and Evil : the Songs of the Seraphim**      **F RIC:A**

The angel Malchiah whisks ex-contract killer Toby O'Dare back to 16th-century Rome, where Toby must save Vitale de Leone, a young Jewish physician who's been implicated in the poisoning of his gentile master and accused of bringing a poltergeist-like dybbuk into the household.

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**Shan, Darren**      **Cirque Du Freak**      **F SHA:D**

Darren Shan is just an ordinary schoolboy, until he visits the Cirque du Freak, until he meets Madam Octa, until he comes face-to-face with a creature of the night. Soon, Darren and his friend Steve are caught in a deadly trap and must make a bargain with the one person who is not human and only deals in blood.

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**Shelley, Mary**      **Frankenstein**      **F SHE:M**

*Also available as a graphic novel at GRA SHE.*

The classic that never lets up. Dr. Frankenstein creates a man from stolen body parts. He is the most cultured of people, but things go wrong. He feels he is not loved and becomes a being of abject misery.

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**Sleater, William**      **House of Stairs**      **F SLA:W**

Five orphans are abandoned in a house with no visible walls, ceilings or floors. Within the labyrinth of steps, their actions are controlled by a food machine, which only feeds them if they do as it demands. An intriguing story.

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**Stevenson, R.L.**                    **The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Other Tales of Terror**                    **F STE:R**  
A psychological thriller about a man who uses drugs to change himself from a kindly family doctor to a deformed killer. A classic.

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**Stine, R.L.**                    **The Curse of the Mummy's Tomb**                    **F STI:R**  
Gabe just got lost - in a pyramid. One minute, his cousin Sari was right ahead of him in the pyramid tunnel, the next minute, she'd disappeared. But Gabe isn't alone. Someone else is in the pyramid, too. Someone - or something. Gabe doesn't believe in the curse of the mummy's tomb, but that doesn't mean that the curse isn't real. Does it?

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**Stine, R.L.**                    **Monster Blood II**                    **F STI:R**  
Evan can't stop thinking about monster blood and what happened last summer. It was horrible - terrifying. Too bad Evan's science teacher doesn't believe him, and he's stuck cleaning out the hamster's cage as punishment for making up stories. When Andy arrives things get worse -he's brought a present that's green and slimy and starting to grow ...

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**Stoker, Bram**                    **Dracula**                    **F STO:B**  
This is the most famous of all tales of vampirism. The story is told through the diaries of a young solicitor, Jonathan Harker, his fiancée Mina, her friend Lucy Westenra and Dr John Seward, the superintendent of a large lunatic asylum at Purfleet, in Essex.

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**Stoker, Dacre & Baker, J.D.**                    **Dracula**                    **F STO:D**  
It is 1868, and a twenty-one-year-old Bram Stoker waits in a desolate tower to face an indescribable evil. Armed only with crucifixes, holy water, and a rifle, he prays to survive a single night, the longest of his life.

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**The Supernatural Omnibus**                    **F SUP**  
A collection of stories of apparitions, witchcraft, werewolves, diabolism, necromancy, Satanism, divination, sorcery, voodoo, possession, occult, doom and destiny.

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**Swindells, Robert**                    **Abomination**                    **F SWI:R**  
Martha is 12 and very different from other kids. No TV, no computer, no cool clothes. Especially, no friends. It's all because of her parents. Strict members of a religious group, their rules dominate Martha's life. But one rule is the most important of all: Martha must never ever invite anyone home. If she does, their terrible secret - Abomination - could be revealed.

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**Thomas, Matthew**                    **Terror Firma**                    **F THO:M**  
Do you believe in Elvis sightings? In alien abductions? And that fairies play at the bottom of your garden when you're not looking? That's what they want you to believe. If you're a cynic you're a sucker, because the truth is far more disturbing. All the conspiracy theories you've ever thought of are true. Be very scared!

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**Thompson, Kate**      **Creature of the Night**      **F THO:K**

When Bobby's mother moves the family into a rented house in the country, a neighbour tells him that a child was once murdered there. Bobby doesn't care. All he wants is to get back to Dublin and to resume his wild life there, stealing from the crowded shopping streets and racing stolen cars at night. But getting his old life back doesn't turn out to be so easy.

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**Walpole, Horace**      **The Castle of Otranto: a Gothic Story**      **F WAL:H**

A tale of fast moving action and tremendous climaxes with all the ingredients of the gothic tale: the feudal tyrant, the solemn ecclesiastic, the forlorn but virtuous damsel, the gloomy castle with its dungeons and empty corridors.

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**Waters, Sarah**      **Little Stranger**      **F WAT:S**

In a dusty post-war summer in rural Warwickshire, a doctor is called to a patient at lonely Hundreds Hall. Home to the Ayres family for over two centuries, the Georgian house, once grand and handsome, is now in decline, its masonry crumbling, its gardens choked with weeds, its owners - mother, son and daughter - struggling to keep pace. But are the Ayreses haunted by something more sinister than a dying way of life?

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**Wells, H.G.**      **The Invisible Man**      **F WEL:H**

People have often dreamed of what fun it would be if we were invisible, but the adventures of the unfortunate hero shows that invisibility is really a curse.

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**Westerfeld, Scott**      **Peeps**      **F WES:S**

After a chance encounter with a mysterious woman one night, Cal Thompson's life is changed forever. He's been infected with an insidious parasite. The good news: he's only a carrier. The bad news: he's infected all his former girlfriends - and now they've turned into what Cal calls 'Peeps'. The rest of us know them as vampires. And it's Cal's job to hunt them down, before they create even more of their own kind...

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**Westwood, Chris**      **Calling All Monsters**      **F WES:C**

Jo is a great fan of horror stories, especially those by author Martin Wiseman. One night one of his stories comes true when her violent boyfriend tries to attack her and is killed by a fearful monster in the cemetery near her home. She visits Wiseman and discovers monsters locked in his house. Her nightmares become reality as her boyfriend returns from the grave...

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**Wilde, Nicholas**      **The Eye of the Storm**      **F WIL:N**

Rory, into bikes and football, is not at all keen on having clean, cricketer Ashton Dalton as a stepbrother. What if Ashton discovers Rory's living nightmare, a terror of the dark? In the ancient Welsh valley where the new family comes together for the first time, fresh terrors are revealed terrors of the day as well as of the night.

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**Wilde, Oscar**      **The Picture of Dorian Gray**      **F WIL:O**

A portrait ages horribly while its subject, a debaucher, seducer and murderer, appears to remain unravaged by time and experience.

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**Zafon, Carlos Ruiz**      **Marina**      **F ZAF:C**

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Oscar Drai finds himself drawn to an old dilapidated mansion where he meets the captivating and elusive Marina. She leads him to the cemetery to witness a mysterious ritual: on the fourth Sunday of every month, a veiled woman alights from a carriage and lays a single rose on an unmarked grave. Oscar and Marina are swept on a journey into the city's dark underground to a sinister tale of love, ambition and jealousy that will hold Oscar's heart forever.

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