

Gothic literature is a literary genre (or type of writing) that combines elements of horror with romance. Such literature usually features events that cannot be easily explained (often supernatural) and/or over which people have no control. The plot is usually developed through mystery or suspense.

This type of writing has things like:

- Gloomy, decaying setting (haunted houses or castles with secret passages, trapdoors, and other mysterious architecture)
- Supernatural beings or monsters (ghosts, vampires, zombies, giants)
- Curses or prophecies
- Female characters in need of rescue
- Romance
- Intense emotions

Carlos Fuentes' earliest fiction is often called gothic, and *Aura* is part of a series of works in which Fuentes uses gothic elements to describe how the past continues to haunt the present of Mexico in the 1950s and 1960s.

DIRECTIONS: Use the chart below as a model for one on your paper or on the back of this one. Fill it in with **TWO** examples from Chapter 2 of *Aura*. You will have more room if you lay the paper sideways.

Vocabulary review for the chart:

Imagery is a written description that attempts to capture a sense experience (sight, sound, taste, touch, smell); it is an attempt to help the reader “experience” the events through written description. The feelings that the image creates is its **connotation**. **Mood** is a literary element that evokes certain feelings or vibes in readers through words and descriptions; mood creates an emotional setting that surrounds the reader.

IMAGE (QUOTE FROM THE STORY)	CONNOTATION AND OTHER IDEAS THAT THE IMAGE SUGGESTS	MOOD THAT THE IMAGE HELPS TO CREATE	HOW IS THIS LIKE GOTHIC LITERATURE?
<p>EXAMPLE (from Chapter 1 of <i>Aura</i>) All you can make out are the dozens of flickering lights [...] They cast a faint glow on the silver objects, the crystal flasks, the gilt-framed mirrors (13).</p>	<p><u>Apprehension:</u> The dark setting hides things, creating the potential for danger.</p>	<p><u>Mysterious:</u> The people in this home choose to live in gloomy darkness. Why?</p>	<p><u>Gloomy, decaying setting:</u> The home is described almost like a haunted house. The things in it are old and mysterious. The light is dim and mysterious, providing more shadow than illumination.</p>
<p>1. first example from Chapter 2 of <i>Aura</i></p> <p>2. second example from Chapter 2 of <i>Aura</i></p>	<p>DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THIS ON THIS HERE; YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ROOM</p>	<p>DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THIS ON THIS HERE; YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ROOM</p>	<p>DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DO THIS ON THIS HERE; YOU DO NOT HAVE ENOUGH ROOM</p>

Words that you may wish to use on your chart (use the noun form-- on the left-- for connotation and the adjective form-- on the right-- for mood):

Anxiety/Anxious, Apprehension/Apprehensive, Confusion/Confused, Despair/Despairing,
Disturbance/Disturbed, Eeriness/Eerie, Fear/Fearful, Foreboding, Gloom/Gloomy, Horror/Horrific,
Melancholy, Mystery/Mysterious, Nervousness/Nervous, Ominousness/Ominous,
Suspense/Suspenseful

