Gothic Terminology
Gothic

Of or relating to an architectural style prevalent in western Europe from the 12th through the 15th century and characterized by pointed arches, rib vaulting, and a developing emphasis on verticality and the impression of height.
Gothic Continued

Of or relating to a style of fiction that emphasizes the grotesque, mysterious, and desolate.
Ancestral Curse

Evil, misfortune, or harm that comes as a response to or retribution for deeds or misdeeds committed against or by one's ancestor(s).
Body-Snatching (grave-robbing)

Body-snatching is the act of stealing corpses from graves, tombs or morgues. This act was quite prominent during the period of time wherein cadavers were unavailable for dissection and scientific study (early 18th century to middle 19th century).
Cemetery

A cemetery defines a place which is used for the burial of the dead.
Claustrophobia

An abnormal dread of being confined in a close or narrow space. Often attributed to actual physical imprisonment or entrapment.
Doppelgänger

Doppelgänger comes from German; literally translated, it means “doublegoer.” A doppelgänger is often the ghostly counterpart of a living person. It can also mean a double, alter ego, or even another person who has the same name.
Dreaming/Nightmares

Dreaming is characterized as a form of mental activity that takes place during the act of sleep. Dreams invoke strong emotions within the dreamer, such as ecstasy, joy and terror.
Entrapment/Imprisonment

A favorite horror device of the Gothic finds a person confined or trapped, such as being shackled to a floor or hidden away in some dark cell or cloister.
The Explained Supernatural

The explained supernatural is a genre of the Gothic in which the laws of everyday reality remain intact and permit an explanation or even dismissal of allegedly supernatural phenomena.
The Female Gothic

The Female Gothic often aims to socialize and educate its female readers and is usually morally conservative. Yet the Female Gothic can also express criticism of patriarchal, male-dominated structures and serve as an expression of female independence.
The Haunted Castle or House

A dwelling that is inhabited by or visited regularly by a ghost or other supposedly supernatural being.
Mist

A grouping of water particles due to a change in atmosphere.
Somnambulism

Somnambulism, better known as sleepwalking, exists as a type of dissociated mental state which occurs during sleep.