

Romanticism in "the fall of the house of usher" by edgar allan poe



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The Fall of the House of Usher short by Edgar Allan Poe. Gothic literature is the gloomy side of romanticism. Gothic literature also honors emotions, imagination, nature, and supernatural events. Edgar Allan Poe saw death as his muse for writing. He also married his second cousin named Virginia.

Edgar Allan Poe's short story The Fall of the House of Usher is an example of Gothic literature because it incorporates architecture, weather, and foreshadowing.

Within the story, the architecture represents an element of Gothic literature, because the house has a zigzag crack in the direction of the small lake near the house. The house also has beautiful Gothic arches. The narrator said "Made its way down the wall in a zigzag direction, until it became lost in the sullen waters of the tarn. and I entered the Gothic archway of the hall. pg. 751. The zigzag crack and the Gothic archways of the house gives us the perfect Gothic setting.

In the story, the weather represents an element of Gothic literature, because when the narrator enters the house he is filled with an atmosphere of sorrow and gloom. The narrator said "I felt that I breathed an atmosphere of sorrow. An air of stern, deep, and irredeemable gloom hung over and pervaded all. pg. 751. This atmosphere affected the narrator once he entered. It was also making his friend Roderick more ill.

Within the story, foreshadowing represents an element of Gothic literature, because both Roderick and the narrator hear the sounds of Madeline trying to get out of her coffin. The narrator says "Instinctive spirit prompted me -to certain low and indefinite sounds which came through the pauses of the

storms. pg. 758. Roderick says to the narrator yes, I hear it, and have heard it. Long-long-long-many minutes, many hours, many days, have I heard it. pg. 761. This foreshadows that Roderick knew he had buried Madeline alive. It also tells us that Madeline is coming to get her revenge.

In conclusion Edgar Allan Poe's short story *The Fall of the House of Usher* contains three of the elements of Gothic literature which are architecture, weather, and foreshadowing. The Gothic architecture gave the house the complete Gothic setting. This story had a gloomy and sorrowful atmosphere that ties in with the weather. It also incorporated a noise that foreshadows that she is coming to get her revenge for being buried alive by Roderick. In my opinion this is one of the best short stories that I have ever read because it is very thrilling and Gothic.