

2002

Trends, patterns, and characteristics of young adult horror fiction

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Abstract

The characteristics of young adult horror fiction include literary conventions, incidents and patterns that are unique to the genre and appealing to the reader. This researcher investigated the trends, patterns, and conventions of young adult novels which make these novels appealing to the reader. This researcher made this investigation using a quantitative content analysis of the young adult horror literature. The researcher chose the books based on the availability of the book, by using the keywords horror, supernatural, occult, gothic, and vampire. The whole book was then analyzed for the trends, patterns, and conventions which it contained.

Trends, Patterns, and Characteristics of Young Adult Horror Fiction

A Graduate Research Paper
Submitted to the
Department of Curriculum and Instruction
Division of School Library Media Studies
In Partial fulfillment of the requirement for the
Degree Master of Arts

University of Northern Iowa

By

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September 2002

Abstract

The characteristics of young adult horror fiction include literary conventions, incidents and patterns that are unique to the genre and appealing to the reader. This researcher investigated the trends, patterns, and conventions of young adult novels which make these novels appealing to the reader. This researcher made this investigation using a quantitative content analysis of the young adult horror literature. The researcher chose the books based on the availability of the book, by using the keywords **horror**, **supernatural**, **occult**, **gothic**, and **vampire**. The whole book was then analyzed for the trends, patterns, and conventions which it contained.

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Chapter1

Introduction

“The woman in the tub had been dead for a long time. She was bloated and purple, her gas-filled belly rising out of the cold, ice-rimmed water . . . Her eyes were fixed on Danny’s, glassy and huge like marbles. She was grinning, her purple lips rolled back in a grimace . . . Her hands were frozen on the knurled porcelain sides of the tub like crab claws” (King, 1977, p. 217).

Background

This gruesome quotation is representative of the literature which composes the horror genre. Stephen King is considered by many to be one of the most popular writers of horror novels written for adults. His works, along with those of Dean R. Koontz, John Saul, V.C. Andrews and many others have captured the attention of a wide audience of readers. “. . .tales of vampires, demons, and ghastrly possession probably reach more people than the work of any other American writers” (Edmundson, 1997, p. xii).

This genre is extremely popular with young adults ages 12 - 18. “Certain adult writers, such as V.C. Andrews and Stephen King, are voted the favorite authors of teen readers time and time again”(Kies, 1992, p. vii). The popularity of adult horror writers has spurred some to write specifically for the young adult audience. These authors include R.L. Stine, Christopher Pike, Lois Duncan, Caroline Cooney and many others. Suspense, horror, and gore have obtained the attentions of a young audience, who enjoy the thrills and chills that this genre seeks to provide. This research will investigate the characteristics of horror written specifically for the young adult audience.

Horror Genres and the Subgenres

The genre is composed of a variety of types of literature; it originally emerged from folklore and ancient mythology about the supernatural. Magic, witchcraft and enchantment proliferated in the genre from the beginning. According to Cuddon (1998) “[a]part from being about murder, suicide, torture, fear and madness, horror stories are also concerned with ghosts, vampires, doppelgangers, succubi, incubi, poltergeists, demonic pacts, diabolic possession and exorcism, witchcraft, spiritualism, voodoo, lycanthropy, and the macabre, plus such occult or quasi-occult practices as telekinesis and hyalomancy” (p.388).

Horror literature has been popular with readers since the eighteenth century. One of the first novels to be characterized as horror is Horace Walpole’s The Castle of Otranto (1764). This work is considered to be a gothic novel, and is composed of spooky castles, mystery, and the supernatural. Gothic literature is often credited with being the foundation of the horror genre as it contains many of the elements important to the genre, including mystery and suspense. According to Edmundson (1997) most horror fiction is descendant from the gothic novel (p. 4). Some of the earliest horror writers included the Bronte sisters, Edgar Allan Poe, Ann Radcliffe, Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, and Robert Louis Stevenson.

One of the most influential writers of horror fiction during the early 1900s was H.P. Lovecraft. Lovecraft is said to have inspired his contemporaries as well as many of today’s writers. Some of his most popular works include, The Outsider (1921) and At the Mountains of Madness (1931). The Outsider (1921) is the story of a man who is trapped in a castle. When he escapes from the castle he

travels into a strange land where he is faced with horrifying events. At the Mountains of Madness (1931) tells the tale of an exploration of a mountain range in Antarctica. The first team that attempts to explore the range perishes upon meeting an unknown life form which destroys them. The second team faces a similar fate. Other popular writers during the early to mid 1900s were Robert Bloch, Richard Matheson, Charles Beaumont, and Shirley Jackson.

From the 1970s on, the popularity of horror fiction has increased. There are a number of popular authors from this time period including Stephen King, Anne Rice, John Saul, V.C. Andrews, and Dean Koontz. According to Magistrale and Morrison (1996) "...the list stretches into the 1990s with novels by Robert R. McCammon, Clive Barker, Dan Simmons, John Saul, and Dean Koontz...[m]ost strive to build suspense by refracting their plots through the viewpoints of several stereotypical characters. Most are over-insistently topical and densely populated with explicit references to the popular culture of their times" (Magistrale and Morrison, 1996, p. 12).

Gothic.

The gothic novel is often formulaic. The setting and the characters have similar characteristics from novel to novel. According to Bailey (1999), "... gothic novels present larger-than-life villain/heroes who indulge desires and appetites (many of them sexual) most of us repress... the gothic villain/hero rails mightily against decorum and law...often invoking supernatural aid..." (p. 3). These characters' roles rarely change; the hero fights evil at all costs, while the villain calls upon evil or personifies it. The setting reveals the darker sides of the

characters, and is often remote, separated from humanity. As previously suggested, the gothic novel can be considered the base for all of the works that compose the horror genre. Although many critics had a low opinion of gothic novels, these works still retain popularity with audiences today. V.C. Andrews is a prime example from recent times of a popular writer of gothic romantic horror. “Her books, a mingling of adult fairy tale and psychological terror, earn the label of “horror” more by default than design... animated by nightmarish passions of greed, cruelty, and incest, yet [they are] told in romantic fairy tale tones, producing the most highly individualistic tales of terror of this generation” (Winter, 1986, p. 471). V.C. Andrew’s books display some of the negative characteristics of human beings.

Vampire.

Vampire stories have also been a very popular part of the genre. The first vampire appeared in English literature in 1819 in John Polidori’s The Vampyre (1819). Carmilla (Marffin, 1872) and Dracula (Stoker, 1897) followed in the late 1800s. Lorrain (1999) writes, “[y]et Dracula... immediately became and still remains the standard against which all vampire stories are judged. Dracula is the one vampire everyone knows” (p.31). Dracula while powerful is also a vampire who can be vanquished and has many weaknesses. He is portrayed as the ultimate evil in Bram Stoker’s book. Anne Rice changes that image with her recent vampire series involving Louis and Lestat. “...readers were shocked (and fascinated) to find that Anne Rice had shifted the tradition.” (Worley, p 80). While Rice’s vampires still drink the blood of human victims, they do not have

the weaknesses that Bram Stoker's *Dracula* had. Rice's novels, including The Vampire Lestat and Interview with the Vampire give the vampire more freedom. No longer does the vampire need to fear holy water, crucifixes or other religious symbols. In fact, if the vampire has lived long enough, even the sun cannot harm him. Many of the vampires in Rice's books are not portrayed as evil but are instead depicted as romantic characters. Immortal life resembles a gift that the vampires can bestow upon lucky mortals. Thirst for human blood is not presented as a curse as it is in Dracula but as a sensual experience both for the vampire as well as for the victim.

Occult.

Occult fiction manifests itself in a wide variety of works. In fact, many of the other genres have books that can also be classified as being occult fiction. Perhaps one of the most popular occult books is The Exorcist (Blatty, 1971). Demon possession, self-sacrifice, poltergeists, witchcraft, and satanic undertones prevail in this book as well as the other books that make up this genre. Many of Stephen King's books are predominant in the genre. King's book The Shining (King, 1977) tells the tale of a man who is possessed by evil influences and decides to kill his family. Many of King's books tell tales of people or machinery possessed by satanic influences. According to Heller (1987) King concentrates on portraying the demon or monster as transforming into a horrific power (p. 46). John Saul and Dean Koontz employ similar occult references and influences in their fiction as well. Koontz frequently employs horrific personas, which are capable of doing any number of things to destroy humans. For example in

Midnight (Koontz, 1989) the characters are implanted with computer viruses, which cause them to be capable of making horrifying transformations. Melton (1996) points out that the interest that books such as Rosemary's Baby, (Levin, 1967) those written by Stephen King and others, provide evidence that there is a romantic popular interest in the occult (p. 458). Ghosts and other supernatural beings proliferate in these works, and are necessary in order for a book to qualify as a part of the subgenre.

Psychological thrillers.

Psychological thrillers are also an important part of the horror genre. One of the most prevalent writers in the genre is Thomas Harris. In Harris's books, serial killers eagerly seek out their next victim. The victim is often mutilated in order to meet the desire of the serial killer to murder his prey in especially brutal ways. "The psychopathic criminals...want to enact some kind of radical transformation over society and/or themselves. For them, power is synonymous with domination and destruction" (Magistrale and Morrison, 1996, p. 39). Other important authors of this genre include Tammy Hoag and Iris Johansen. These authors too, write novels in which a serial killer threatens both the victims as well as society as a whole. The evil in these books is represented by a human monster, and serial killer stories often fall into this genre.

Splatterpunk.

Splatterpunk is a genre that became popular in the 1980s. It is known for its gruesome portrayal of human beings turned into monsters who participate in a wide variety of evil activities. These activities can include gruesomely depicted

murders, violence, bloody assaults, gore and sexual acts including graphic rape scenes and other types of sexual assaults. A bleak outlook to the future can also help to distinguish splatterpunk from the other genres of horror fiction. Perhaps one of the most distinctive features of splatterpunk is that there is often no good to oppose evil. According to Kies (1992) “[i]t is a harsh, gritty, urban scene full of weird punk people involved in unsavory activities. Music, drink and drugs are often found in splatterpunk, and sexual morality of any sort is missing...even the most sheltered reader cannot deny that the world has changed and that splatterpunk may well be no worse than a reality we do not want to face (Kies, 1992, p. 139). One of the most well known authors of the genre is Clive Barker. Some of the other favorite splatterpunk authors include Richard Christian Matheson, Ray Garton, and David Schow. Splatterpunk is believed to share characteristics with the “nasty” school of writing embraced in Great Britain during the 1970s. These writers used graphic violence and abnormal creatures to capture a wide audience. Splatterpunk is also known for its graphic violence and brutality. According to Kies one of the traits that causes splatterpunk to appeal to readers is the gruesome descriptions of what really happens to flesh and blood during and after brutality is inflicted upon another human.

Elements of Horror Literature

Horror has only recently begun to be considered a separate genre of fiction. According to Herald (2000) “[h]orror has close links with many of the other genres. In works of literary history...it is often grouped with mysteries and gothic tales. Often the horrific elements in horror are scientifically

derived...linking it with science fiction...the horror novels dealing with the supernatural and paranormal have a close link with fantasy...[horror] wasn't considered a separate genre until recently" (Herald, 2000, p. 424). One of the characteristics that helps to distinguish horror from these other genres is that the books that appear in this genre either portray an ending that is unhappy or lack any kind of closure at all. According to Fonseca (1999) "...horror fiction may be called fiction that attempts to warn its readers of a certain danger, of an action or believe that can have negative results" (Fonseca, 1999, p. 5). The reader is often left with a sense of foreboding that good may only prevail for a short time and that evil will ultimately regain the upper hand.

The genre is composed of characters who symbolize evil and corruption; and supernatural characters are important rudiments of the horror literature genre. According to Magistrale and Morrison (1996), the monster is an important trait of the horror genre; this being appears in order to interrupt the personal and social relationships which exist between the characters (Magistrale and Morrison, 1996). This creature violates the social norms and values, which are so important to people and thereby, compose the fears and anxieties of society. The monster is an unexplainable creature whose mere existence is denied by the knowledge that human beings possess. This creature is perhaps so frightening simply because there is no rationale for its existence. Sometimes these monsters are created through a laboratory experiment gone bad such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (Shelley, 1983). Often though, these creatures are simply supernatural phenomena, which appear from nowhere and must be vanquished. According to

Carroll (1999), “[m]onsters, then, are creatures -- fictionally concocted out of either supernatural lore or science fiction fantasy -- whose existence contemporary science challenges” (p. 148).

Setting can vary from one novel to the next. One popular setting is the small town or village. Authors often introduce a “...small town horror, that scares the reader with the realization that there are places where “normal” civilization does not rule; where anything, no matter how horrific, is possible” (Fonseca, 1999, p.141). Many writers tend to use a small community where the characters and the reader feel safe and gradually introduce supernatural evils into the setting. Another popular setting is the decrepit castle “...the centrality of setting -- that atmosphere of gloom and decay which adheres to the crumbling abbey and the ruined castle...setting is destiny” (Bailey, 1999, p. 4).

The plot of horror fiction is often similar from one novel to the next. According to Carroll (1990) the plot structure has four important characteristics: onset, discovery, confirmation, and confrontation. (p. 97). The onset varies with the story. Sometimes the evil is introduced immediately to the reader through the malevolent acts of a monster or terrible person. Occasionally the reader is not made immediately aware of the horror but is introduced to it gradually. The next step according to Carroll is the discovery step. This is the step wherein the characters in the novel resist the idea that there is a great evil at work in the horrific events occurring. While some of the characters are aware of what is really going on, most of the characters are still skeptical. The confirmation stage occurs when the people who believe in the evil being convince those who

previously have not believed that the danger is indeed derived from an evil force. The confrontation stage involves good versus evil in a battle to the end, where either good or evil will be completely destroyed, and the reader awaits the outcome with the characters (p. 106).

As Dale Bailey (1999) states, horror novels comment on class, gender, history, and economy. They enact the clash of good and evil and present a wide variety of different horrific situations. This evil is present in many of the most popular writers of the horror novel. V.C. Andrews's novels, for example, tend to re-introduce the same characters dealing with a variety of horrors. Christopher Pike and R.L. Stine also tend to re-introduce characters for their readers. R.L. Stine writes many series, such as the Fear Street series which uses the same characters facing a wide variety of evil forces. Many of these books tend to end with the question of whether or not evil has truly been defeated. While the characters are breathing a sigh of relief, there is often something scary happening in the background that only the reader notices. The reader is often left knowing that while good may appear to win at the end of the book, evil, like Freddy Krueger, evil will prevail and cannot truly be defeated. "In horror fiction there is a reason for evil. The bad guy is evil as a result of something. Frequently it is his own evil that does him or her in, not the good guy... Just as power corrupts, evil destroys" (Bodart, 1994 p. 25).

Young Adult Readers

There has been a significant increase in the number of young adults reading horror fiction. Over the last few decades horror novels have quickly

replaced the literary classics as the books of choice for young adults. According to David Budge (1995) the classics are now being read by only a tiny minority of young adults. Twenty-four out of 46 of the most popular books for young adults are from the Point Horror series. This is a series of horror novels, which have attained their greatest popularity in Great Britain. The books read in the 1970s, literary classics such as Jane Eyre and Treasure Island don't even appear in the top 12 now. Budge reports that as of 1994, 6 out of 12 of the most widely read books for young adults are from the Point Horror series. (Budge, 1995, p. 8).

Horror novels have become increasingly popular among adult audiences as well as young adult audiences. Books intended for an adult audience have in turn attracted young adults as well. Stephen King currently has over 200 million books in circulation; a figure which is being challenged by the author of adolescent horror novels R.L. Stine. (Edmundson, 1997, p. 5).

Critics have suggested the genre attracts readers because it allows them to explore an alternate form of the terrifying reality that they see portrayed in daily life. Readers enjoy the genre because they can explore the horrific events that they ordinarily isolate themselves against. According to Magistrale and Morrison (1996) the genre is symbolic, and beneath the archetypes horror reminds people of human vulnerability. Horror can be viewed as a social satire that reveals and critiques the collective cultural fears and personal anxieties of daily life and what it means to be human.

Another characteristic of horror, which attracts readers to the genre, is the repulsion that they feel for the monster or evil character that is an integral part of

the story. These creatures are either so physically disgusting or are so mentally or emotionally repulsive as to promote fear and revulsion in the reader. At the same time that the reader is afraid and repulsed by the horrific characters presented in the work, he is captivated by them as well. According to Dickson, 1998, "All these monsters are curiosities, existing outside the realm of what is known. They are both compelling and repellent because we are fascinated by their oddity and yet disturbed by that same quality" (Dickson, 1998, p.117). Emotionally the readers are conditioned to feel exactly as the characters are feeling. The reader feels the same fear and repulsion that the character in the novel is feeling except the reader is sharing these feelings from a safe distance. This helps to create a genre that the readers are unable to tear themselves away from, even if they want to.

Joe Gixti (1982) indicates that horror fiction provides the reader with a safe context for exploration. The reader can imagine what it is like to be on the brink of disaster, but the exploration is taking place in a carefully controlled atmosphere. The reader has now been exposed to fears which were previously unimaginable. This exposure may help the reader emerge from the experience with a different view of self. The reader confronts these fears from a safe distance (Gixti, 1982 p. 243). According to Heller (1987) the novelist attempts to make the fiction similar to the world of the reader. The novels typically begin with a setting that is similar to one which the young adult audience experiences in daily life. The characters in horror fiction typically are average people leading normal lives when a horrendous event alters their entire world. (Heller, 1987, p. 7-12).

By beginning the novel with characters that the reader can relate to, in real life situations that the reader can relate to, the audience becomes more engaged in the novel, reading it through to completion to see that the characters have survived the evil influences and destructive forces that have attempted to overwhelm them.

Another thing that attracts young adults to the genre is the adventure that they experience in these books. According to Heller (1987), “[t]he uncanny tale of terror in its simplest form offers vicarious risk...we are allowed to escape temporarily from the normal limitations of social reality and to practice or pretend mastery of some fears” (Heller, 1987, p. 192). There is usually some type of mystery involving the evil person responsible for killing or threatening to kill someone, and it is up to the protagonist to figure it out or his own life is forfeit. The evil grows in strength throughout the book as more and more goes wrong for the protagonist. It is only when things are at their worst, when no one else believes the protagonist, or when the main character is accused himself that the killer exposes himself to the protagonist for the final battle. The reader knows that the narrator is responsible for winning out against evil. Bodart writes, “[i]f we can beat the monsters in the books, then maybe we can beat the ones we meet in the school corridors, the classroom, the malls... learning that evil exists in all kinds of forms, and that in many of them it can be vanquished, will remind us that we can fight back just as hard as the characters in the books we read” (Bodart, 1994, p. 25). The power struggle between good and evil is an important element of the horror genre. Humans have no choice but to fight the evil that is threatening their very existence.

Another attraction for young adults is the cover art on the books. These covers can portray evil and fear through a variety of techniques. Not showing too much of what the book is about seems to be the best way to inspire the readers to pick up the book. "[T]he most popular genre for teenagers today is horror. This has resulted in many thrillers and mysteries being designed with the current standardized horror cover: dark background, white (or pale) lettering and something (or someone) to suggest something pretty awful taking place in the book" (Kies, 1995 p. 89). She goes on to explain that this type of cover prevents the book from acquiring a dated appearance, and is more likely to catch the young adult's eye as being something fascinating to read. Additionally, covers with a skeleton, or a frightening looking creature or person are apt to catch the eyes of both teens and adults. The teens want to be the next person to read that book, and the adults might wonder why anyone would want to read something like that.

The new horror written specifically for young adults is well received by its intended audience. According to Publisher's Weekly (1996), "[w]ith the 70th title due this month and more than 41 million copies in print, Fear Street (R.L. Stine) has proved a chance worth taking" (p. 28). Caroline Cooney, Christopher Pike, R.L. Stine, Carol Ellis, Annette Curtis Klaus, and Lois Duncan are just a few of the current popular young adult horror writers. According to Christenbury (1993), ". . . what seems currently in vogue is a series of recognizable horror writers turning out numerous titles specifically for young adults . . ."

(Christenbury, 1993, p. 3). Young people find it easy to relate to these books. Characters tend to be the same age as the young readers or older, and do have

normal teen problems at the beginning of the story. These novels tend to begin in a normal life setting that young adult readers have experienced in their daily lives. It is only with the development of the story that the problems of the protagonist become life threatening. This is exciting to those who enjoy the genre; as it takes them beyond the limits of reality, their own problems pale in comparison to those that the young adults in the books are facing. The novels produced by these writers tend to be formulaic, the differences between them minimal.

Problem Statement

The characteristics of young adult horror fiction include literary conventions, incidents and patterns that are unique to the genre and appealing to the reader.

Hypotheses

1. Ninety percent of protagonists in young adult horror fiction will be teenagers (13-19).
2. Ninety five percent of the main characters in young adult horror fiction will be female.
3. Ninety percent of the protagonists will be popular with their peers.
4. Ninety percent of the evil characters in young adult horror fiction will be older than the protagonist.
5. Ninety percent of the young adult novels will have a killer in them.
6. One hundred percent of young adult horror fiction will have a theme which displays the fight between good and evil.

Purpose Statement

The purpose of this research is to investigate the characteristics, conventions, trends, and patterns of the new horror written specifically for a young adult audience.

Definitions

Adult horror = characterized by gruesome effects, uncanny and monstrous beings and an obsessive ness with an evil which appears to readers as plausible, physically and morally threatening and impure. Adult horror novels display corruption, decay, and a horror, which attacks the mind and body threatening physical, psychological, and cosmic damage. (Cuddon, 1998, p. 113).

Gothic literature = a type of literature began in the 1800's which is full of spookiness, lurid romance, supernatural happenings and dramatic style.

Occult = related to supernatural occurrences and phenomena. (Cuddon, 1998, p. 115)

Splatterpunk= a term coined in 1984 by David J. Schow and refers to a style of horror that is loud and uncultured. It is heavily influenced by television, movies and music, and often uses gore, blood, and graphic violence. (Cudon, 1998, p. 124)

Young adult horror = characterized by the major force of evil which tends to be an outraged, angry teenager who has suffered many indignities and is now seeking revenge upon a group of peers. (Cuddon, 1998, p. 139).

Assumptions

All of the variations of horror literature share characteristics that account for its appeal to the teenage reader. This researcher assumes that the texts analyzed in the young adult horror genre will display trends, patterns, and conventions, and will have these trends, patterns, and conventions in common with other books within the genre.

Limitations

This research will not deal with adult horror novels read by young adults. This research will also not deal with the literary merits of the works classified in the horror genre. The research presented here will also not deal with the censorship issues that surround some of the works that appear in the genre. This research will not deal with issues of witchcraft or satanic worship, but will focus on the incidents and patterns apparent in the novels in the genre and young adult appeal to these works.

Significance

Young adults are indeed interested in the horror, and adults do have a concern about that interest. The concern is so great in some cases that censorship becomes an issue. There is a need for research on what it is that appeals to young adults about books that deal with the supernatural and the horrifying. This enjoyment goes beyond simply wanting to be scared. There is something that young adults genuinely enjoy about reading this type of book, and there is a need to explain that to parents and the other adults who play a role in the lives of these young adults.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Young adults read horror literature, and more horror novels are being produced just for them. Research has shown that young adults read for pleasure and that they enjoy reading a variety of books. Studies have established that the horror genre is one that young adults read for pleasure, and that there are certain effects and feelings that the works of the genre generate.

Young Adults and Reading

Moffit (1992) attempted to determine the popularity of leisure reading among young adults. Her study surveyed 500 students from four different high schools in ten different English classes on whether or not they read for fun, how that compared to other types of leisure activities, and what their favorite types of books were. She found that reading for pleasure is popular, and 78% of both male and female students surveyed indicated that they did read for fun (Moffit, 1992, p. 12).

Higginbotham also surveyed young adult readers about their reading interests. Middle school students in the southeast completed a survey, which revealed statistically significant categories of reading interests and differences in reading interest by gender. The students indicated whether they would read a book or not based on the title and annotation provided with the book. The survey had thirty titles and annotations placed in fifteen categories, ten fiction and five

non-fiction. Students were encouraged to be honest in indicating on a Likert-like scale which books they would or wouldn't read. The students indicated that they enjoy fictional books and take pleasure in reading horror, humor, mystery, historical fiction, adventure, and science fiction. The results of the study indicate that students have preferences for literature from certain genres (Higginbotham, 1999, p.112).

It is also important to know how students choose what they like to read. Another researcher conducted a study of ninth grade leisure reading in a rural setting to determine what these students chose to read for fun, and how they chose these materials. These students were given a twenty-five-item questionnaire asking them what they read for fun, and how they chose the materials that they read. Seventy percent of students indicated that they did read for entertainment and information, and many indicated that they chose the books they did based on friends' recommendations (Mellon, 1990, p.224).

Horror Literature

The characteristics of horror novels may help explain why these books are read. Wood (1995) descriptively analyzed characteristics of horror from its earliest aspects to its contemporary expression in literature, television, and film. He critiqued individual titles in an attempt to identify the structural characteristics in terms of the effect they have on the reader. He analyzed a number of contemporary literary examples and suggested that horror has an aesthetic value that is beneficial for society (p. 39).

Northram (1990) analyzed the issues that horror raises as they relate to the human condition specifically in relation to gothic novels. Northram critiqued individual books in an effort to display how the gothic novel focuses on issues of significance in relation to the supernatural, how there is an undermining of the metaphysical relationship between self and other, and finally how the gothic novel focuses on violence. He also suggested that readers of gothic literature must make moral interpretations of the genre (p. 78).

Tudor (1997) studied what the appeal of horror is to readers and what kind of person enjoys horror. Tudor examined other research done about the appeal of horror and drew the conclusion that horror is appealing to people because it gratifies pre-established desires and that there is a widely diversified heterogeneous audience, which is capable of taking different pleasures from this favorite genre (p. 132).

Genre Characteristics

Horror has certain features that appear throughout the genre. Pace (1980) examined the development of character in modern novels in order to illustrate how these characters offer a model of human courage to readers. By examining the characters in the novels Pace attempted to display how the image of these characters encompass the horrors and nobility of modern culture. Pace contended that the novels' central characters are the embodiment of courage and nobility that is needed to survive in modern culture (p. 63).

Snyder (1984) analyzed the hero's role in horror, science fiction, and fantasy films. Snyder critiqued the Star Wars Trilogy, Raiders of the Lost Ark,

and Steven Spielberg's horror movies in order to determine the hero's role in each context. Snyder suggested that the archetypal hero has to overcome barriers of his environment and that the hero's journey differs from one tale to the next dependant upon his social role. Snyder also contended that the hero undergoes a sacred encounter with a beast that exists in a real physical sense and the beast that exists within the hero to ensure the hero's redemption (p. 54).

Narrative pattern also contributes to the composition of the genre. Pribek (1986) surveyed the use of supernatural phenomenon which he contended is the central source of the horror story and which incites the principal action. Pribek analyzed individual titles in order to demonstrate that the gothic machinery which appears is treated by the characters as supernatural, despite the fact that it is clearly natural (p. 142).

Luciano (1983) examined the history of science fiction and horror criticism with regard to its treatment of the characteristics of the genre. Luciano suggested that the qualities of both horror and science fiction films are best understood in psychological context, and that each genre relies upon projections of psychic material from the unconscious mind to elicit meaning and value in the films. Luciano contended that there are two basic narrative patterns or myths that compromise the alien invasion films and that these center on invasion from outer space and an accidental scientific creation. Luciano proposed that horror and science fiction combine to create the alien invasion film (p. 14).

Another important aspect of horror is the feelings that it inspires in readers. Baird (1995) analyzed horror and thriller films in order to understand

how they inspire fear and disgust in spectators. According to Baird these films contain scenes in which the characters are often threatened by an off screen menace, which endangers characters and therefore causes the viewer feelings of fear and disgust even when off screen (p. 26).

Attracting Young Adult Readers

Horror is one genre of fiction that young adults find pleasure in reading. Diaz-Rubin conducted a study in 1993-4 in which 254 students in Pennsylvania grades 9-12 in English and reading classes responded to a reading checklist. The purpose of this checklist was to determine which topics students liked to read about. The study found that students were interested in horror novels along with humor and adventure (Diaz-Rubin, 1994, p.174).

Sarland (1988) studied the interaction between young adults and fictional texts. Sarland studied 36 young people between the ages of 11 and 14 at one school in a large town in England and the relationship they had with the fictional works that they chose to read. The adolescents chose the fictional books they wanted to read and responded to them. The study focused on how the cultural and ideological repertoire of young people contributes to their response to fiction. The study determined that violence in the male culture and fears and superstitions in the female culture contributed to the popularity of the horror story among both males and females (Sarland, 1988, p. 47).

Responses of young adults to the works in this genre are also an important factor. Silliman (1997) attempted to analyze the appeal of horror novels to young adults. She conducted a qualitative study, which involved four adolescent girls

selected by Silliman through an extensive interview process. These four girls read books by Christopher Pike and were separately interviewed by Silliman upon completion in order to determine what it was that appealed to them about the young adult horror novels. Based on the girls' responses upon reading the novels, Silliman found that the readers were attracted to young adult horror fiction because of the effects and feelings that death and other gruesome occurrences aroused in them (Silliman, 1997, p. ix).

Smith (1998) studied the attraction and interest that middle school students displayed in regards to R.L. Stine's horror fiction. Smith gathered the data using a variety of methods. She used interviews, group discussions, questionnaires, and a textual analysis of some of Stine's books. Readers reported that they were attracted to the books because of the mystery/horror elements which composed the works. Smith's study found that young adults who read these books improved their reading fluency.

Burggraf (2000) conducted a study which determined that horror films could be enjoyed despite their elicitation of negative emotions such as fear and disgust. Burggraf's study assessed affective reactions to a 14-minute segment from a popular horror film in a 2 x 3 design varying social setting and stimulus condition. This study found that the feelings of disgust and fear after the film were as high as the feelings of excitement and interest. People were found to enjoy watching the film more in a group, and the disgust rating was higher in video-only and audio-video than it was for audio-only. Burggraf's study also

found that fright and disgust reactions cause feelings, which contribute to the enjoyment of horror.

Summary

Moffit (1982) surveyed young adults to determine the popularity of leisure reading among young adults. Her study surveyed 500 students from four different high schools in ten different English classes to determine whether or not they read for fun. Moffit found that reading for pleasure is popular among 78% of young adults. Mellon (1990) conducted a similar study of ninth grade students and found that 70% of those students read for entertainment and information. Diaz-Rubin (1994) studied what students liked to read for enjoyment. She had 254 students 9-12 grades respond to a reading checklist which indicated what they liked to read about. The study found that students were interested in reading horror novels.

Pace (1980) examined the development of character in modern novels in order to compare them with the nature of the characters in the horror novel. Some of these characteristics include the gender of the main character, the age, details of the characters social life and home life. Pace found that these characters encompass the horrors and nobility of modern culture. Snyder (1984) also analyzed the hero's role in horror to determine how his/her journey differs from one tale to the next dependent on their social status. Baird (1995) found that characters are often threatened on and off screen in movies by an unknown menace. The characteristics of the characters in the young adult horror fiction are essential to the young adult readers interest.

Silliman (1997) found that young adults are attracted to young adult horror novels because of some of the plot characteristics, which occur in the novels.

Young adults enjoy reading young adult novels because of some of the gruesome events, which occur in them. Sarland (1988) found that superstitions and violence in the novels inspire young adults to read them. This could include characteristics such as mysteries surrounding the main characters and events that are occurring in the novels. The trends and patterns of the plot are integral in involving the reader in the novel.

Sarland (1988) found that the cultural and ideological repertoire of the young adults contributes to their appreciation of the young adult novel. This is indicative in the setting of the young adult novels. Burggraf (2000) conducted a study to determine whether or not horror films could be enjoyed despite the feelings of disgust and fear that these films elicited in the young adult audience. This study determined that fright and disgust reactions caused feelings which contributed to the enjoyment of horror.

Chapter 3

Methodology

This researcher investigated trends, patterns, and conventions of young adult horror novels, which make them appealing to the reader. The research investigated whether the trends of adult horror appear in the young adult horror novel with the same intensity. This study made this investigation through a quantitative content analysis of the young adult horror literature.

This study employed content analysis as its methodology. According to Weber (1985) content analysis is a research methodology, which employs procedures to help draw conclusions from the text. The conclusions tend to be about the sender of the message, the message itself, or the intended audience of the message (Weber, 1985, p. 9).

According to Bekkedal (1973) “Content analysis offers a good approach to research on children’s books because it is objective, systematic, and a quantitative method of describing content” (Bekkedal, 1973, p. 110). Analyzing the content of a variety of young adult horror novels will help to provide a thorough picture of the trends, patterns, and characteristics of young adult horror novels.

A review of the literature displayed the structure for a content analysis instrument (see Appendix A), which was used to analyze each book included in the study. Each novel was examined in regards to characters, plot, setting, and theme.

Procedures

The researcher chose the books to be analyzed using a variety of criteria. Availability of the book was important to this study. She analyzed books that were available through the University of Northern Iowa Rod Library, Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Hudson Public Libraries as well as through interlibrary loan. Books available through booksellers such as B. Dalton, Barnes and Noble, and Amazon.com were also identified. The researcher sought to expand upon Cosette Kies, Presenting Young Adult Horror Fiction (1992) by selecting books that were written specifically for a young adult audience. These books were identified through the Library of Congress's online catalog. The researcher used the keywords **horror, supernatural, occult, gothic, and vampire**. As there are a large number of horror books, the researcher used the following criteria to limit the books that are analyzed in this study. There was a supernatural causation of death, and more than one death occurred in these books, and finally, they were written from the third person perspective. The books selected had to be written at a reading level appropriate for students in seventh through twelfth grades. This researcher analyzed 25-30 books balanced among the following subgenres: vampire, gothic, splatterpunk, occult and psychological. The lists generated from the Library of Congress when the researcher entered the key terms and searched for sub-genres selected these books. Once this list was generated the researcher chose the books randomly. By taking books from each of these genres comparisons were made between the different genres to determine if the same

conventions, trends, and patterns exist within them. The list of books analyzed is Appendix B.

In analyzing the content of each text, the author was aware of the characteristics that other research has attributed to the genre, and what the previous research determined as being attractive to the readers of the horror genre. The individual analysis forms are Appendix C.

Chapter 4

Analysis of Data

The characteristics of young adult horror fiction include literary conventions, incidents and patterns that are unique to the genre and appealing to the reader. This research paper investigated the characteristics, conventions, trends, and patterns of the new horror written specifically for the young adult audience. Table 1 shows the data relating to the hypotheses.

Table 1: Trends, Patterns, and Conventions

<u>Characteristics of the</u> <u>Protagonist</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Female	22	88%
Male	3	12%
15-19 years old	25	100%
20 years +	0	0%
Popular with peers	20	80%
Not popular	5	20%
Only child	19	76%
Siblings	6	24%
Has a romance	18	72%
No romance	7	28%

Characteristics of the Antagonist	Number	Percentage
Female	9	36%
Male	17	68%
15-19 years old	11	44%
20 years +	14	56%
Plot Characteristics	Number	Percentages
There is a killer	20	80%
No killer	5	20%
Characteristics of the Theme	Number	Percentage
Good vs. evil	25	100%
Evil appears in the form of a person	8	32%
Evil appears in the form of a thing	9	36%
Evil appears in the form of death	4	16%
Evil appears in the form of a dream	4	16%

Hypothesis 1 was that 90 percent of the protagonists in the 25 books analyzed would be teenagers. The protagonists ranged in age from 15 – 19, with the over 90% being between the ages of 15-17. The youngest protagonist, Annie (15), appears in The Boxes (Sleator, 1998). Annie lived with her aunt Ruth because her parents were killed in an accident. Annie has few friends and no interest in boys, although she does develop a friendship with a boy named Henry with whom she attends school. When Annie agrees to watch the boxes for her uncle Marco she does not know that she will mature quickly from her experience from what is in the boxes. The oldest protagonist was Marie McKean in Sorority Sister. Marie was 18 years old and a member of a sorority at her college. Marie was pretty and popular with a boyfriend. Marie's maturity is further displayed by the fact that her parents make no appearance in the novel at all. Hypothesis 1 was confirmed.

Hypothesis 2 was that 95% of the protagonists would be female. In 22 out of 25 of the young adult horror novels the main character was female. Annie Kiernan in The Dead Girlfriend (Stine, 1993) is an example of this. Annie was a pretty, sweet, popular girl who was new in town and made a lot of friends quickly. She is a good example of the common female protagonist. Only 3 books of the 25 surveyed had a male protagonist. The main character in Something Upstairs (Avi, 1988) is named Kenny. Kenny is a nice, shy, intelligent boy. Of the 25 young adult horror novels 88% of the protagonists were female. Hypothesis 2 was rejected.

Hypothesis 3 was that 90% of the main characters would be popular with their peers. In Final Exam (Bates, 1990) Kelly, was very popular with the people with whom she went to school. Kelly is about to graduate from high school and is enjoying her senior year by partying, dating, and hanging out with her friends. Having a boyfriend or girlfriend was an important determinant of popularity; in 72 percent of the novels the main character did indeed have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex. Bart Hawkins in Ghost Host (Singer, 1987) had a serious girlfriend throughout the entire novel. The protagonist of horror novels was found to be popular 80 percent of the time. In the remaining 20 percent of the novels the character was a loner, unpopular with his/her peers and remained solitary throughout the novel. Megan in the young adult horror novel The Band(Adams, 1994) did not have many friends at her new school. She was shy and new in school and made few friends. The people who Megan is friends tended to be unpopular themselves and some were even considered scary. Hypothesis 3 was rejected.

Hypothesis 4 was that 90 percent of the evil characters would be older than the protagonists. Sixty percent of the evil characters were 15-19 years old. In Sweet Sixteen and Never Been Killed (Posner, 1993) the evil character was the same age as the protagonist. The protagonist was an extremely popular girl in the school while Dyann, the evil character, was unpopular and hated Cara for everything that Cara had that Dyann did not. Cara believed Dyann worshiped her and to be a weak nobody. Dyann did not worship Cara and wanted her dead. Forty percent of the evil characters were over the age of 20. A good example of

this is represented in Hide and Seek (McFann, 1995). The evil character in this novel is the protagonists' father. Lissa's father is thirty years older than her and is hunting her in order to kill her. Her father represents pure evil to a young adult, he beats his wife, yells at Lissa and her mother, and turns out to be a killer.

Hypothesis 4 was rejected.

Hypothesis 5 was that 95 percent of young adult horror novels have a killer. In 80 percent of the young adult horror novels there was a murderer. An example of this appears in Whispers from the Dead (Nixon, 1989). When Sarah and her family move into their new home they discover that someone that lived there before them was murdered. Sarah sees visions of dead people and blood. The murderer is still interested in the house, and when he finds out that Sarah is looking for the killer becomes very interested in killing Sarah. The murderer in this novel got away with murder once and is planning to do it again. Only 20 percent of the books did not have a killer in them. The effects of horror in that 20 percent which did not have murder in them came from a stalker, or the threat of violence or murder. This is the case in Ghost Host (Singer, 1987). This novel has the threat of violence to the main character and his family. Spooky things happen in the house where Bart lives, but no one in his family is in danger of being murdered. Hypothesis 5 was rejected.

Hypothesis 6 was that 100 percent of the young adult horror would have a theme of good versus evil. It was found that in 100 percent of the novels examined that the central theme was of good versus evil. This was evident in Class Trip (Rice, 1993). All of the young adults that went on this class trip are

being murdered; one of the young adults is evil, and it is up to the rest of them to discover who it is and how to stop them. The main difference found was in how the evil appeared within the novels. In 32 percent of the situations, evil entered in the form of another person. In 36 percent of the novels evil entered in the form of a thing, either a creature, or an event that was viewed as evil. Sixteen percent of the novels had evil enter in the form of a dream by the main character. Finally, in 16 percent of the novels, evil entered in the form of the death of a person.

Hypothesis 6 was accepted.

Chapter 5

Summary, Conclusions, and Recommendations

The characteristics of young adult horror fiction include literary conventions, incidents and patterns that are unique to the genre and appealing to the reader. This researcher investigated the trends, patterns, and conventions of young adult novels which make these novels appealing to the reader. This researcher made this investigation using a quantitative content analysis of the young adult horror literature. The researcher chose the books based on the availability of the book, by using the keywords **horror, supernatural, occult, gothic, and vampire**. The whole book was then analyzed for the trends, patterns, and conventions which it contained.

Conclusions

Some common features of young adult horror novels are displayed in the character, setting, plot, and theme. A typical teen-age female hero typically comes from a broken home, one or both of the parents are dead as the result of some unexplainable event. Forty percent of the main characters came from nontraditional families. Kelly Langston in Sixteen Candles (Pine, 1993) is typical. In this novel Kelly's parents were killed when she was a baby in a car accident, and Kelly is living with her aunt. These families were either missing one parent, or in 30 percent of the cases both parents, and were living with an aunt or other relation. In fact 24 percent of the main characters had a parent that died of mysterious causes, through sickness, or through an accident of some sort. For example, in The Lifeguard (Cusik, 1988) the main character's father drowned

mysteriously in an accident. In 36 percent of the young adult horror novels read, the parents were together, loving and caring for the main character. One of these families belonged to Annie in The Dead Girlfriend (Stine, 1993) Annie had a fully functional family with both parents present. Finally 24 percent of the main characters had no family apparent in the novel. This was evident in Class Trip (Rice, 1993), as well as in Night School(Cooney, 1995). These families were vaguely mentioned and never portrayed as being a part of the main character's life. Seventy six percent of the main characters were only children; only 24 percent had any siblings. The families of the evil character are not portrayed in the young adult horror novels. The evil character is shown to be on their own in 90 percent of the novels. There is no indication that the families of the evil characters have any kind of a role in their lives. This is evident in Spring Break (Steiner, 1996); the evil character in this novel had no family and no friends providing him with emotional ties.

Surprisingly, the setting of these young adult horror novels does not typically involve the darkest part of night, or the spookiest house in town. The settings in these novels tend to be ordinary with little indication of the danger that is awaiting the characters involved in the novels. Danger does strike in the evening more often, but certainly not exclusively, and is exclusive to no one location. Seventy two percent of the novels were set in a small town. This was apparent in Something Upstairs (Avi, 1988). The town the novel was set in was quiet small, and in fact the reader is not introduced to any other characters that live within the town. The small town was depicted as safe, everyone knew

everyone else, and there was a feeling of safety. Sixteen percent took place in complete isolation from other people. These centered on the main character, some friends, and a killer. This was the case in Spring Break (Steiner, 1996), the teenagers in this novel were isolated on a beach away from the town. Twelve percent of the novels settings were in a large city. The main character was typically in a setting that was familiar to him or her or whether the setting was a new and unusual setting for that character. In 40 percent of the novels the story was set in a place that was unfamiliar to the main character. This was the case in Whispers from the Dead (Nixon, 1989). In this story, the family has moved into a new home that is haunted by a murder victim. The other 60 percent of the novels used a setting that the main character was accustomed to, as was evident in Silver Kiss (Klause, 1990). Forty percent of the stories had a setting that had proven dangerous in the past. A murder had occurred in the area to cause the characters in the novel to feel threatened and in danger previous to the beginning of the novel. This was the case in the novel Bury Me Deep (Pike, 1991). In this novel there was a murder before the main character even arrived. In the other 60 percent of the novels there had not been any murders in the stories previous to the beginning of the novel. As is evident in the novel The Dead Girlfriend (Stine, 1993).

Finally, a key part of the setting is what time of day the danger appears in. In 64 percent of the novels the danger is apparent in the evening, and the characters are safe during the day. This is the case in Thirsty (Anderson, 1997), a novel about a teenage vampire. In the other 36 percent of the stories the characters are not safe no matter what time of day it is. The danger is all around

them, as happens in The Stalker (Ellis, 1996), Janna Richards, the main character is not safe no matter what time of day or where she is. Only 12 percent of the novels examined occurred in a setting that could be described as spooky. These 12 percent took place in haunted houses, or in old, dark and scary places. One such novel was The Boxes (Sleator, 1998), which mainly took place in the basement of a house. The other 88 percent of the novels took place in a setting that the characters would define as safe.

The plot structure was another commonality in the young adult novels. The plot of these novels tends to be similar. Earlier in this paper the research suggested that there was a pattern that appeared in the novels written for adult audiences. This researcher looked at the same pattern to see whether or not it appeared in the young adult horror novel. It was found that 72 percent of the time there was a pattern apparent in the young adult horror novels, and that pattern involved the onset of the novel, the discovery of the problem, the confirmation by other characters that there was indeed a problem, and finally the confrontation of the evil. Eighty percent of the novels were shown to have killers in them; many of the novels had suspicious characters and threatening actions in the novels, the novels had a tendency to climax within the last two chapters, and the plot pattern which existed in them is similar to that which exists in the horror novels written for adults, that is, the young adult horror novels also had onset of the novel, discovery of a problem, or evil situation, confirmation by more people that there is indeed a problem, and finally a confrontation of the evil by the other characters.

In the other 28 percent of the novels, the discovery, confirmation and confrontation took place simultaneously at the end of the novels.

The theme is primarily one of good versus evil. The characters in the novel are left to battle it out against an unknown evil that takes the shape of another human being or of a supernatural creature of one kind or another. Good wins out over evil in the end of the book and all of the characters have a happy ending, no matter what evil has befallen them before.

Recommendations

As more people research these novels there needs to be some consideration of how these novels are written, who they are written for, and who is most interested in them.

This researcher feels that one interesting study could involve who is reading the horror novels written for the young adult audience, what ages, and if the young adults reading them are predominately male or female. It is also important to research the gender roles that are appearing within these novels. There needs to be some research that deals with the gender roles that are occurring in the young adult horror novels. The characters that appear in these novels need to be examined for stereotypes existing in the male and female roles within the novels. The characters should also be examined regarding their relationships with family, friends, teachers, and peers. It bears noting in this section that in an examination of the characters, 100 percent of the main characters, their friends, and the evil characters were all Caucasian. This issue

that exists then is that these books do not fairly represent the world, as we know it.

Certainly these novels could be studied for the commonalities that they have with other books that are written in similar fashion. These novels could be compared to other pattern fiction, such as Harlequin Romance Novels. Finally these novels need to be compared to other pattern novels to determine if there are differences between these types of novels, and distinguishing between who is actually reading the different types of book.

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Appendix A

Content Analysis Instrument

Title:

Author:

Publisher:

Copyright:

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 - 17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> only child | <input type="checkbox"/> has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

female male
 15-19 years old 20 years +
 unknown known to reader
 unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city occurs in a small town
 occurs in isolation away from home
 at home murder happened in area
 no murder nearby happens at night
 happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

there is a killer no killer
 suspect not guilty suspect is guilty
 no suspect
 death in novel no death
 stranger in novel no strangers
 best friend is evil best friend not evil
 main character threatened main character safe
 climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier
 main character running from something not running
 killer revealed at end killer revealed early in the book

_____ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

_____ good vs. evil

_____ evil appears in the form of a person

_____ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix B:

Horror Books for Young Adults Analyzed for this Research

- Adams, C. (1994). The Band. New York: Avon Books.
- Anderson, M.T. (1997). Thirsty. Cambridge: Candlewick Press.
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Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Bury Me Deep

Author: Christopher Pike

Publisher: Archway

Copyright: 1991

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 - 19 years old 20 years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 Yes dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

___ Yes ___ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home

_____ at home ___ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

Yes evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Class Trip

Author: Bebe Faas Rice

Publisher: Harper Collins

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes female male
- Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
- Yes has an enemy no enemy
- Yes popular with peers not popular
- Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
- life in danger Yes life not in danger
- dreams of danger Yes no dreams of danger
- Yes only child has siblings
- Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes female male
- Yes 15-17 years old 20years +
- Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town
 ___ Yes ___ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home
 _____ at home _____ murder happened in area
 ___ Yes ___ no murder nearby ___ Yes ___ happens at night
 _____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer
 ___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 _____ no suspect
 ___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death
 _____ stranger in novel ___ Yes ___ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil
 _____ main character threatened ___ Yes ___ main character safe
 ___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running
 ___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book
 _____ no one believes evil happening ___ Yes ___ people believe in evil
 _____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
 ___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

Yes evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Dead Girlfriend

Author: R.L. Stine

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 Yes has an enemy no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes** female male

Yes 15-17 years old 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader
 unpopular Yes popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city Yes occurs in a small town
 occurs in isolation away from home
 Yes at home Yes murder happened in area
 no murder nearby happens at night
 Yes happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

Yes there is a killer no killer
 Yes suspect not guilty suspect is guilty
 no suspect
 Yes death in novel no death
 stranger in novel Yes no strangers
 Yes best friend is evil best friend not evil
 Yes main character threatened main character safe
 Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier
 main character running from something Yes not running
 Yes killer revealed at end killer revealed early in the book
 Yes no one believes evil happening people believe in evil

Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

Yes evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Dreadful Sorry

Author: Kathryn Reiss

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy Yes no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery Yes not solving a mystery
 life in danger Yes life not in danger
 Yes dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female Yes male
 15-17 years old Yes 20years +
 unknown Yes known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town
 ___ Yes ___ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home
 _____ at home _____ murder happened in area
 ___ Yes ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night
 ___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes ___ no killer
 _____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 ___ Yes ___ no suspect
 ___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death
 _____ stranger in novel ___ Yes ___ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil
 _____ main character threatened ___ Yes ___ main character safe
 ___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 ___ Yes ___ main character running from something _____ not running
 ___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book
 ___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil
 ___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
 _____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Final Exam

Author: A. Bates

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1990

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
- Yes** 15 -19 years old 20years +
- Yes** has an enemy no enemy
- Yes** popular with peers not popular
- solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
- Yes** life in danger life not in danger
- dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
- only child **Yes** has siblings
- Yes** has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
- 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
- Yes** unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

___ Yes ___ at home _____ murder happened in area

___ Yes ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes ___ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

___ Yes ___ no suspect

_____ death in novel ___ Yes ___ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Ghost Host

Author: Marilyn Singer

Publisher: Harper & Row

Copyright: 1987

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- female **Yes** male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
 life in danger **Yes** life not in danger
 dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +

_____ unknown ___ **Yes** ___ known to reader
 ___ **Yes** ___ unpopular _____ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ **Yes** ___ occurs in a small town
 _____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home
 ___ **Yes** ___ at home _____ murder happened in area
 ___ **Yes** ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night
 ___ **Yes** ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ **Yes** ___ no killer
 _____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 ___ **Yes** ___ no suspect
 _____ death in novel ___ **Yes** ___ no death
 _____ stranger in novel ___ **Yes** ___ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ **Yes** ___ best friend not evil
 _____ main character threatened ___ **Yes** ___ main character safe
 ___ **Yes** ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something ___ **Yes** ___ not running
 ___ killer revealed at end ___ **Yes** ___ killer revealed early in the book
 _____ no one believes evil happening ___ **Yes** ___ people believe in evil
 ___ **Yes** ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes** ___ good vs. evil

_____ evil appears in the form of a person

___ **Yes** ___ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Hide and Seek

Author: Jane McFann

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1995

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | female | <input type="checkbox"/> | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> | life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | only child | <input type="checkbox"/> | has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | known to reader |

Yes unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city occurs in a small town

Yes occurs in isolation away from home

Yes at home murder happened in area

Yes no murder nearby happens at night

Yes happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

there is a killer **Yes** no killer

suspect not guilty **Yes** suspect is guilty

no suspect

death in novel **Yes** no death

stranger in novel **Yes** no strangers

best friend is evil **Yes** best friend not evil

Yes main character threatened main character safe

Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier

Yes main character running from something not running

killer revealed at end **Yes** killer revealed early in the book

Yes no one believes evil happening people believe in evil

Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes**___ good vs. evil

___ **Yes**___ evil appears in the form of a person

_____ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Locked in Time

Author: Lois Duncan

Publisher: Bantam

Copyright: 1985

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 Yes dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 only child **Yes** has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes** female male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 unknown **Yes** known to reader

_____ unpopular _ Yes _____ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town
 __ Yes__ occurs in isolation _____ away from home
 __ Yes__ at home _____ murder happened in area
 __ Yes__ no murder nearby _____ happens at night
 __ Yes__ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

__ Yes__ there is a killer _____ no killer
 _____ suspect not guilty __ Yes__ suspect is guilty
 _____ no suspect
 _____ death in novel __ Yes__ no death
 __ Yes__ stranger in novel _____ no strangers
 __ Yes__ best friend is evil _____ best friend not evil
 __ Yes__ main character threatened _____ main character safe
 __ Yes__ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something __ Yes__ not running
 _____ killer revealed at end __ Yes__ killer revealed early in the book
 __ Yes__ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil
 __ Yes__ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
 _____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

Yes evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Night School

Author: Caroline Cooney

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1995

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | female | <input type="checkbox"/> | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | only child | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | known to reader |

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home

_____ at home _____ murder happened in area

___ Yes ___ no murder nearby ___ Yes ___ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes ___ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

___ Yes ___ no suspect

_____ death in novel ___ Yes ___ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

_____ main character threatened ___ Yes ___ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

_____ killer revealed at end ___ Yes ___ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

Yes evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Night Screams

Author: Daniel Ransom

Publisher: Avon

Copyright: 1996

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 Yes has an enemy no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 has a romance **Yes** no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 Yes 15-17 years old 20years +
 unknown **Yes** known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

___ Yes ___ at home ___ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby ___ Yes ___ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

_____ killer revealed at end ___ Yes ___ killer revealed early in the book

_____ no one believes evil happening ___ Yes ___ people believe in evil

___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

Yes evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Poison

Author: John Peel

Publisher: Archway

Copyright: 1994

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 Yes has an enemy no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger Yes no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes female male
 15-17 years old Yes 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ **Yes** ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ **Yes** ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

___ **Yes** ___ at home ___ **Yes** ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby ___ **Yes** ___ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ **Yes** ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ **Yes** ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ **Yes** ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ **Yes** ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ **Yes** ___ best friend not evil

___ **Yes** ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ **Yes** ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ **Yes** ___ not running

___ **Yes** ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

_____ no one believes evil happening ___ **Yes** ___ people believe in evil

___ **Yes** ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

Yes evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Silver Kiss

Author: Annette Curtis Klaus

Publisher: Delacorte

Copyright: 1990

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Yes</u> female | _____ male |
| <u>Yes</u> 15 -19 years old | _____ 20years + |
| _____ has an enemy | <u>Yes</u> _____ no enemy |
| _____ popular with peers | <u>Yes</u> _____ not popular |
| _____ solving mystery | _____ not solving a mystery |
| <u>Yes</u> life in danger | _____ life not in danger |
| _____ dreams of danger | _____ no dreams of danger |
| <u>Yes</u> _____ only child | _____ has siblings |
| <u>Yes</u> _____ has a romance | _____ no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| _____ female | <u>Yes</u> _____ male |
| _____ 15-17 years old | _____ 20years + |
| _____ unknown | <u>Yes</u> known to reader |

_____ unpopular ___ Yes _____ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes _____ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

_____ at home _____ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby ___ Yes _____ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes _____ there is a killer _____ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty ___ Yes ___ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes _____ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes _____ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil _ Yes _____ best friend not evil

_ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs
earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

_____ killer revealed at end ___ Yes _ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes _____ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes** ___ good vs. evil

_ **Yes** _____ evil appears in the form of a person

_____ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Sixteen Candles

Author: Nicholas Pine

Publisher: Berkely

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
- Yes** 15 -19 years old 20years +
- Yes** has an enemy no enemy
- Yes** popular with peers not popular
- solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
- Yes** life in danger life not in danger
- Yes** dreams of danger no dreams of danger
- Yes** only child has siblings
- Yes** has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes** female male
- 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
- Yes** unknown known to reader

Yes unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city Yes occurs in a small town

occurs in isolation away from home

Yes at home murder happened in area

Yes no murder nearby happens at night

Yes happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

Yes there is a killer no killer

suspect not guilty suspect is guilty

Yes no suspect

Yes death in novel no death

stranger in novel Yes no strangers

best friend is evil Yes best friend not evil

Yes main character threatened main character safe

Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier

main character running from something Yes not running

Yes killer revealed at end killer revealed early in the book

no one believes evil happening Yes people believe in evil

onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

Yes discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

Yes evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Something Upstairs

Author: Avi

Publisher: Avon

Copyright: 1988

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes only child | <input type="checkbox"/> has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes known to reader |

_____ unpopular ___ Yes_ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes_ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes_ away from home

_____ at home ___ Yes_ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby ___ Yes_ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes_ there is a killer _____ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty ___ Yes_ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes_ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes_ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes_ best friend not evil

___ Yes_ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes_ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes_ not running

_____ killer revealed at end ___ Yes_ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes_ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

___ Yes_ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Sorority Sister

Author: Diane Hoh

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1994

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 15 -19 years old **Yes** 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes** female male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home

_____ at home _____ murder happened in area

___ Yes ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

_____ death in novel ___ Yes ___ no death

_____ stranger in novel ___ Yes ___ no strangers

___ Yes ___ best friend is evil _____ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

_____ no one believes evil happening ___ Yes ___ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes**___ good vs. evil

___ **Yes**___ evil appears in the form of a person

_____ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Spring Break

Author: Barbara Steiner

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1996

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes female male
- Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
- Yes has an enemy no enemy
- Yes popular with peers not popular
- Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
- Yes life in danger life not in danger
- dreams of danger Yes no dreams of danger
- Yes only child has siblings
- Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female Yes male
- 15-17 years old Yes 20years +
- Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes _____ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town
 ___ Yes _____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes _____ away from home
 _____ at home _____ murder happened in area
 _ Yes ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night
 ___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes _____ no killer
 ___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 _____ no suspect
 ___ Yes _____ death in novel _____ no death
 _ Yes _____ stranger in novel _____ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ Yes _____ best friend not evil
 _____ main character threatened ___ Yes _____ main character safe
 _ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something ___ Yes _____ not running
 _ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book
 _____ no one believes evil happening ___ Yes _____ people believe in evil
 _____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation _ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

Yes evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Stalker

Author: Carol Ellis

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1996

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> only child | <input type="checkbox"/> has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> known to reader |

Yes unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city **Yes** occurs in a small town

occurs in isolation **Yes** away from home

at home murder happened in area

Yes no murder nearby **Yes** happens at night

happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

there is a killer **Yes** no killer

Yes suspect not guilty suspect is guilty

no suspect

death in novel **Yes** no death

Yes stranger in novel no strangers

best friend is evil **Yes** best friend not evil

Yes main character threatened main character safe

Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier

main character running from something **Yes** not running

killer revealed at end killer revealed early in the book

Yes no one believes evil happening people believe in evil

onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation **Yes** discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

Yes evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Sweet Sixteen and Never Been Killed

Author: Richard Posner

Publisher: Archway

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 Yes has an enemy no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15-17 years old 20years +
 unknown **Yes** known to reader

Yes unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city **Yes** occurs in a small town

occurs in isolation away from home

Yes at home murder happened in area

Yes no murder nearby **Yes** happens at night

happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

Yes there is a killer no killer

suspect not guilty **Yes** suspect is guilty

no suspect

death in novel **Yes** no death

stranger in novel **Yes** no strangers

best friend is evil **Yes** best friend not evil

Yes main character threatened main character safe

Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier

main character running from something **Yes** not running

killer revealed at end **Yes** killer revealed early in the book

Yes no one believes evil happening people believe in evil

Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

Yes evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Band

Author: Carmen Adams

Publisher: Avon

Copyright: 1994

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> only child | <input type="checkbox"/> has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 20years + |

_____ unknown ___ **Yes** ___ known to reader
 _____ unpopular ___ **Yes** ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ **Yes** ___ occurs in a small town
 _____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home
 ___ **Yes** ___ at home _____ murder happened in area
 ___ **Yes** ___ no murder nearby ___ **Yes** ___ happens at night
 _____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ **Yes** ___ there is a killer _____ no killer
 _____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 ___ **Yes** ___ no suspect
 ___ **Yes** ___ death in novel _____ no death
 ___ **Yes** ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ **Yes** ___ best friend not evil
 ___ **Yes** ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe
 ___ **Yes** ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something ___ **Yes** ___ not running
 _____ killer revealed at end ___ **Yes** ___ killer revealed early in the book
 ___ **Yes** ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil
 ___ **Yes** ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes** ___ good vs. evil

_____ evil appears in the form of a person

___ **Yes** ___ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

_____ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Boxes

Author: William Sleator

Publisher: Puffin

Copyright: 1998

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
 life in danger **Yes** life not in danger
 dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 has a romance **Yes** no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 unknown **Yes** known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

___ Yes ___ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

___ Yes ___ at home _____ murder happened in area

___ Yes ___ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes ___ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

___ Yes ___ no suspect

_____ death in novel ___ Yes ___ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

_____ killer revealed at end ___ Yes ___ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Lifeguard

Author: Richie Tankersley Cusik

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1988

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 Yes dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home

_____ at home ___ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

Yes evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: The Stranger

Author: Caroline Cooney

Publisher: Scholastic

Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
- Yes** 15 -19 years old 20years +
- has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
- Yes** popular with peers not popular
- solving mystery **Yes** not solving a mystery
- life in danger **Yes** life not in danger
- dreams of danger **Yes** no dreams of danger
- Yes** only child has siblings
- Yes** has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
- Yes** 15-17 years old 20years +
- unknown **Yes** known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town
 ___ Yes ___ occurs in isolation _____ away from home
 ___ Yes ___ at home _____ murder happened in area
 ___ Yes ___ no murder nearby ___ Yes ___ happens at night
 _____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

_____ there is a killer ___ Yes ___ no killer
 _____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty
 ___ Yes ___ no suspect
 ___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death
 ___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers
 _____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil
 _____ main character threatened ___ Yes ___ main character safe
 ___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier
 _____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running
 ___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book
 ___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil
 ___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
 _____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Thirsty

Author: M.T. Anderson

Publisher: Candlewick Press

Copyright: 1997

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- female Yes male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy Yes no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 solving mystery Yes not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 Yes dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 only child Yes has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female Yes male
 15-17 years old Yes 20years +
 unknown Yes known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

_____ occurs in a city ___ Yes ___ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation ___ Yes ___ away from home

_____ at home ___ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby ___ Yes ___ happens at night

_____ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

___ Yes ___ no suspect

___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

_____ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters ___ Yes ___ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ killer revealed at end ___ Yes ___ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

___ Yes ___ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

_____ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

___ **Yes**___ good vs. evil

_____ evil appears in the form of a person

_____ evil appears in the form of a thing

_____ evil appears in the form of death

___ **Yes**___ evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Watch House

Author: Robert Westall

Publisher: Greenwillow

Copyright: 1977

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | female | <input type="checkbox"/> | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 15 -19 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has an enemy | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no enemy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | popular with peers | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | not popular |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | solving mystery | <input type="checkbox"/> | not solving a mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | life in danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | life not in danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | dreams of danger | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no dreams of danger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | only child | <input type="checkbox"/> | has siblings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | has a romance | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | no romance |

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | female | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | male |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | 15-17 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | 20years + |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | unknown | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | known to reader |

Yes unpopular popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

occurs in a city occurs in a small town

Yes occurs in isolation Yes away from home

at home murder happened in area

Yes no murder nearby happens at night

Yes happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

there is a killer Yes no killer

suspect not guilty suspect is guilty

Yes no suspect

death in novel Yes no death

stranger in novel Yes no strangers

best friend is evil Yes best friend not evil

main character threatened Yes main character safe

Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters climax occurs earlier

main character running from something Yes not running

killer revealed at end Yes killer revealed early in the book

Yes no one believes evil happening people believe in evil

Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

Yes evil appears in the form of a thing

evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream

Appendix C

Content Analysis Instrument

Title: Whispers from the dead

Author: Joan Lowry Nixon

Publisher: Dell

Copyright: 1989

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

- Yes** female male
 Yes 15 -19 years old 20years +
 has an enemy **Yes** no enemy
 Yes popular with peers not popular
 Yes solving mystery not solving a mystery
 Yes life in danger life not in danger
 dreams of danger no dreams of danger
 Yes only child has siblings
 Yes has a romance no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

- female **Yes** male
 15-17 years old **Yes** 20years +
 Yes unknown known to reader

_____ unpopular ___ Yes ___ popular with peers

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

___ Yes ___ occurs in a city _____ occurs in a small town

_____ occurs in isolation _____ away from home

___ Yes ___ at home ___ Yes ___ murder happened in area

_____ no murder nearby _____ happens at night

___ Yes ___ happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

___ Yes ___ there is a killer _____ no killer

___ Yes ___ suspect not guilty _____ suspect is guilty

_____ no suspect

___ Yes ___ death in novel _____ no death

___ Yes ___ stranger in novel _____ no strangers

_____ best friend is evil ___ Yes ___ best friend not evil

___ Yes ___ main character threatened _____ main character safe

___ Yes ___ climax occurs in the last 2 chapters _____ climax occurs earlier

_____ main character running from something ___ Yes ___ not running

___ Yes ___ killer revealed at end _____ killer revealed early in the book

___ Yes ___ no one believes evil happening _____ people believe in evil

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

___ Yes ___ discovery at end

5. The characteristics of the theme include:

Yes good vs. evil

evil appears in the form of a person

evil appears in the form of a thing

Yes evil appears in the form of death

evil appears in a dream