Trends, patterns, and characteristics of young adult horror fiction

Melissa A. Buelow
University of Northern Iowa

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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
Melissa A. Buelow

September 2002
This research paper by: Melissa Ann Buelow

Titled: Trends, Patterns, and Characteristics of Young Adult Horror Fiction

Has been approved as meeting the research paper requirements for the degree Master of Arts.

Barbara Safford

9/6/02
Date Approved

Graduate Faculty Reader

Kelly Diller

9/6/02
Date Approved

Graduate Faculty Reader

Rick Traw

9/6/02
Date Approved

Head, Department of Curriculum and Instruction
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Chapter I

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 ghastly 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 hylomancy” (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. Lorrah (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 confected 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 Grixti (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 (Grixti, 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.
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 there 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of the Protagonist</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years old</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years +</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular with peers</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not popular</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only child</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Siblings</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a romance</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No romance</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Characteristics of the Antagonist</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19 years old</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years +</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plot Characteristics</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>There is a killer</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No killer</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics of the Theme</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good vs. evil</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil appears in the form of a person</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil appears in the form of a thing</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil appears in the form of death</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evil appears in the form of a dream</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
References


Appendix A

Content Analysis Instrument

Title:
Author:
Publisher:
Copyright:

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

   ______ female      ______ male
   ______ 15 - 17 years old      ______ 18 years +
   ______ has an enemy      ______ no enemy
   ______ popular with peers      ______ not popular
   ______ solving mystery      ______ not solving a mystery
   ______ life in danger      ______ life not in danger
   ______ dreams of danger      ______ no dreams of danger
   ______ only child      ______ has siblings
   ______ has a romance      ______ no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:
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


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__ 20 years +
   __ Yes__ unknown       _____ known to reader
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
- ______ suspect not guilty
- Yes ___ 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
- ______ 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
- ______ 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: Class Trip
Author: Bebe Faas Rice
Publisher: Harper Collins
Copyright: 1993

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

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

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

   Yes female   No male
   Yes 15-17 years old   No 20 years +
   Yes unknown   No known to reader
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
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

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

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

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

   --- 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 20 years +

   unknown  known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

- ______ occurs in a city
- ______ 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:

- ______ there is a killer
- Yes ______ no killer
- ______ suspect not guilty
- ______ suspect is guilty
- Yes ______ no suspect
- ______ 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
- ______ 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  _______ 20 years +

_ 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_ 20 years +

_ Yes_ unknown  _______ known to reader
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 _____  male __ Yes____
   - Yes____ 15 -19 years old ______ 20years +
   - _____ has an enemy ______ no enemy
   - Yes____ popular with peers ______ not popular
   - Yes____ solving mystery ______ not solving a mystery
   - _____ 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 _____  male __ Yes____
   - _____ 15-17 years old ______ 20years +
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  _______ 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  _____ Yes____ no killer

_____ suspect not guilty  _______ 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

_____ main character threatened  _____ Yes____ main character safe

_____ 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

_____ onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
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:

___ Yes__ female  ____ male
___ Yes__ 15 -19 years old  ____ 20years +
____ has an enemy  _ Yes___ no enemy
____ popular with peers  __ Yes___ 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
_____ 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        _____ 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  ______ 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
   ______ 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 _ 20 years +
   ______ unknown   _ Yes _ known to reader
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:

   __Yes__ female   ______ male
   __ __ 15-19 years old   ______ 20 years +
   ______ has an enemy   __ Yes__ no enemy
   ______ popular with peers   __ Yes__ 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
   ______ only child   __ Yes__ has siblings
   ______ has a romance   __ Yes__ no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

   ______ female   __ Yes__ male
   ______ 15-17 years old   __ Yes__ 20 years +
   ______ unknown   __ Yes__ known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

- unpopular
- Yes popular with peers

- 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
- no death

- Yes stranger in novel
- no strangers

- best friend is evil
- best friend not evil

- main character threatened
- main character safe

- Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters
- climax occurs earlier

- 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: 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
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  ______ 20 years +
   ___ 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___ 20 years +
   ___ 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
Title: Silver Kiss

Author: Annette Curtis Klaus

Publisher: Delacorte

Copyright: 1990

1. The characteristics of the main character included:

   Yes  female  
   Yes 15 -19 years old  
   Yes has an enemy  
   Yes popular with peers  
   Yes solving mystery  
   Yes life in danger  
   Yes dreams of danger  
   Yes only child  
   Yes has a romance

   male  
   20years +  
   no enemy  
   not popular  
   not solving a mystery  
   life not in danger  
   no dreams of danger  
   has siblings  
   no romance

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

   female  
   15-17 years old  
   unknown  
   known to reader

   male  
   20years +  
   known to reader
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

3. The characteristics of the setting include:

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

no killer

suspect not guilty

suspect is guilty

Yes no suspect

death in novel

no death

stranger in novel

Yes no strangers

best friend is evil

best friend not evil

Yes 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

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:

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<thead>
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<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 - 19 years old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has an enemy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular with peers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solving mystery</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life in danger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dreams of danger</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only child</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a romance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The characteristics of the evil character include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 years old</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 years +</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Known to reader</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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___ 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
  ______ 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___ 20 years +
  ___ Yes___ unknown         ______ known to reader
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
- 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
- ______ 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 ______ 20 years +

_ 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 ______ 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 ______ 20 years +

__ Yes ___ unknown _____________ known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

- Yes occurs in a city
- No occurs in a small town

- Yes occurs in isolation
- Yes away from home

- No at home
- Yes murder happened in area

- Yes no murder nearby
- Yes happens at night

- Yes happens during the day

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

- Yes there is a killer
- No no killer

- Yes suspect not guilty
- No suspect is guilty

- Yes no suspect

- Yes death in novel
- No no death

- Yes stranger in novel
- No no strangers

- Yes best friend is evil
- No best friend not evil

- Yes main character threatened
- No main character safe

- Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters
- No climax occurs earlier

- Yes main character running from something
- No not running

- Yes killer revealed at end
- No killer revealed early in the book

- Yes no one believes evil happening
- No people believe in evil

- Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation
- No 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:

   _ Yes_ female   _____ male
   _______ 15-19 years old   _ Yes_ 20 years +
   _ 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
   _____ 15-17 years old   _ Yes_ 20 years +
   _____ unknown   _____ known to reader
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
   _ 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 _ Yes _____ 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 ______ 20 years +

___ 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 ______ 20 years +

____ unknown ______ Yes____ known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

- Yes ___ unpopular ___ popular with peers

- Yes ___ 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
- Yes ___ death in novel ___ no death
- Yes ___ stranger in novel ___ no strangers
- Yes ___ 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
- Yes ___ 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:
   
   _ Yes___ female   _____ male
   _ Yes___ 15-19 years old   _____ 20 years +
   _____ has an enemy   _ Yes___ no enemy
   _____ popular with peers   _ Yes___ 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
   _____ 15-17 years old   _ Yes___ 20 years +
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
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 ______ 20 years +

   ______ 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____ 20 years +

   ______ unknown __ Yes__ known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

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

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

- Yes there is a killer
- No no killer
- Yes suspect not guilty
- No suspect is guilty
- Yes no suspect
- Yes death in novel
- No no death
- Yes stranger in novel
- No no strangers
- Yes best friend is evil
- No best friend not evil
- Yes main character threatened
- No main character safe
- Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters
- No climax occurs earlier
- Yes main character running from something
- No not running
- Yes killer revealed at end
- No killer revealed early in the book
- Yes no one believes evil happening
- No people believe in evil
- Yes 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: 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 ______ 20 years +
______ 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___ 20 years +
___ Yes___ unknown ______ known to reader
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
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

- unpopular

- Yes unpopular
- popular with peers

4. The characteristics of the plot include:

- There is a killer

- Yes there is a killer
- No killer

- Suspect not guilty

- Yes suspect not guilty
- Suspect is guilty

- Yes no suspect

- Death in novel

- Yes death in novel
- No death

- Stranger in novel

- Yes stranger in novel
- No strangers

- Best friend is evil

- Yes best friend is evil
- Best friend not evil

- Main character threatened

- Yes main character threatened
- Main character safe

- Yes climax occurs in the last 2 chapters

- No climax occurs earlier

- Main character running from something

- Yes main character running from something
- Not running

- Yes killer revealed at end

- No killer revealed early in the book

- Yes no one believes evil happening

- Yes no one believes evil happening
- People believe in evil

- Yes onset, discovery, confirmation, confrontation

- 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    _____ 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

   _____ 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____ 20 years +

   _____ unknown     _ Yes____ known to reader
3. The characteristics of the setting include:

____ unpopular  
___ popular with peers

____ 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:

___ 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:

   ____ Yes ___ female          _____ male
   ____ Yes ___ 15-19 years old    _____ 20 years +
   _____ has an enemy            ___ Yes ___ no enemy
   _____ popular with peers      ___ Yes ___ 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 ___ 20 years +
   _____ unknown                  ___ Yes ___ known to reader
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  ______ 20 years +

_____ 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___ 20 years +

___ Yes___ unknown  ______ known to reader
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