Lesson focus: To examine how far *The Pardoner’s Tale* includes features of the Gothic genre.

Opening exercise: Discuss the appeal of Gothic texts (including films)
- Students suggest examples, including those which use only a few features
- How well do you think this quotation applies to *The Pardoner’s Tale*?

Textual examination: Give each student a copy of the grid headed ‘*The Pardoner’s Tale* and the Gothic’
- Students fill in the examples column, including specific line numbers where possible
- There is a teacher’s version with some possible answers

Discussion ideas: Discuss the results which are produced
- Can students think of any other Gothic features for which they can find examples?

Recreative task: Imagine that the Old Man appears in the grove after the deaths of the three rioters
- Write a short monologue that he might deliver as he stands amid the bodies and money
- Try to be Gothic in style!

Critical task: ‘The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear, and the oldest and strongest kind of fear is fear of the unknown. These facts few psychologists will dispute, and this admitted truth must establish for all time the genuineness and dignity of the weirdly horrible tale as a literary form.’ H.P. Lovecraft

Extension task: In two columns, compare this Tale with another text that you know, which has Gothic features
- Which is most successful in integrating the Gothic?

© 2009 crossref-it.info