The Horror Genre

Friday the 13th

Freddy Krueger
The Horror Genre

- An attempt to make the audience experience fright, fear or disgust.
- Narratives often involve an evil force, event, or supernatural character.
- Settings are often in small town America, in quiet neighbourhoods, or in the woods.
- Shadows and darkness play an important part.
- The colour red is often symbolic.
Horror through the ages

- Horror is a long running genre.
- Why?
- It has produced a savvy audience who aren’t easily frightened. Directors need to come up with a new angle or use comedy.
- Can you think of any films that have done this successfully?
History of Horror

- 1890s-George Melies’ ‘Monster Movies’
- 1922-German Vampire Nosferatu
- 1930s-Gothic Horror from Universal Studio (Frankenstein, Dracula).
- 1950-Alien Invasions (Body Snatchers, Thing from another World).
- 1960s-Hammer Films
History of Horror-1960-1970s

- Late 1960s-Psychological Horror from Hitchcock (*Psycho*). Michael Powell's *Peeping Tom*.
- Late 60's-70s-Occult horror (*Rosemary's Baby, Exorcist*)-*Walking Dead* (Romero's 1968 *Night of the Living Dead*)
- 1970s-Gore fests such as Carpenter’s *Last House on the Left*, Tobe Hooper's *Texas Chainsaw Massacre*
History of Horror-Late 70s/80s

- 1978-Carpenter's tension filled *Halloween*.
- Romero's Zombie's continued to shuffle along in *Dawn of the Dead* and the *Day of the Dead*.
History of Horror-1990s

- Post-modern, self-aware horror from Wes Craven and Kevin Williamson (Scream Trilogy)
- 1999- The Blair Witch Project - mockumentary.
- Japanese Horror floods the market with Ringu, Ju-On
History of Horror-2000+

- American remakes of Japanese Horror (*The Ring*, *The Grudge*, *Dark Waters*)

- Revisiting of old villains in a new guise (*Freddy V Jason*, *Halloween H2O*, *Alien V Predator*).
A sub-genre is an identifiable sub-class of the larger film genres, with their own distinctive subject matter, style, formulas, and iconography.

Can you think of any examples?
Vampire sub genre

- Fangs
- Suck blood
- Creatures of the night
- Fear of garlic
- Fear of crosses
- Killed by a stake driven through the heart
- Live in old castles
- Sleep in coffins
- Terrify local people