

Vocabulary & expressions - Answers

1	Scaredy-cat	Bloody, horrible	3
2	Squeamish	Shock or frighten you very suddenly	10
3	Gory	Troubling, disturbing	5
4	Gives me the heebie-jeebies	Sinister, haunted	7
5	Unsettling	Terrified of	12
6	Send shivers down my spine	Make me nervous	9
7	Spooky	Receive an unpleasant surprise	11
8	Creepy	A person who is easily frightened	1
9	Put me on edge	Trembling violently with fear or nervousness	13
10	Scare you half to death	Make me feel very frightened or excited	6
11	Jump out of our skins	Causing a feeling of horror or fear	8
12	Petrified of	Easily nauseated or disgusted	2
13	She was shaking like a leaf	Makes me feel uncomfortable / disgusted	4

II. The Early Days of Horror

Use the words below to fill the blanks in the text below.

The first horror narrative on record is *Le Manoir du Diable* (1896), created by the visionary Georges Méliès. Although it has a **running** time of a little over three minutes, this supernatural story still manages to pack in the genre paradigms. Bats, devils, witches, **cauldrons**, skeletons, ghosts and goblins all appear and disappear in puffs of smoke. It was the first movie to deliberately use special effects to **frighten** its viewers.

Méliès continued to dominate as master of the spook tale through the 1900s. He invented camera modifications and **devices** to help bring his fantastical visions to the **screen** and is believed to be responsible for many special effects firsts: split screen, double exposure, overlapping dissolves, fades in and out, and stop **motion** photography.

Horror films of the early 20th century were influenced by German Expressionist cinema where the effect of horror was usually created by means of a macabre **atmosphere** and theme. *The Student of Prague* (1913), an early German film **dealing** with a dual personality, and *The Golem* (1915), based on the medieval Jewish **legend** of a clay figure that comes to life, were the first influential horror films. In the 1920s, such German films as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (1920), *Nosferatu* (the first filming of the Dracula story in 1922), and *Waxworks* (1924) were known **throughout** the world. In the United States a number of outstanding horror films were **produced** in the 1920s. *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1920) became a classic of the silent screen, and Lon Chaney terrified audiences as *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (1923) and *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925).

Once the silent **era** had given way to technological process, we had a glut of incredible movies that **paved** the way for generations to come, particularly in the field of **monster** movies – the second iteration of *Frankenstein* (1931), *The Mummy* (1932) and the first colour adaptation of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1931). The 30s also marked the first time in the industry that the word “horror” was used to describe the genre - previously, it had just been considered romance melodrama with a dark element.

The Golden Age - CO Video 1

1.

a. - Resentment towards WWI

a post-war Weimar government (*the German Reich - power and influence of the conservative elite - several issues on all fronts, including social, political, and economic*)

- new developments in psychoanalysis

- an already established avant-garde art scene

b. To externalise internal fears

c. Its intense visuals raised the standard of horror cinema and proved the genre could be both critically and commercially successful

d. This was followed by *The Phantom of the Opera* in 1925 and *The Man Who Laughed*, starring German expressionist actor Conrad Veidt, in 1927. Universal horror would **explode** in the 1930s. Movies were now well into the talking era and Universal exploited this to the fullest with two massive **hits** in 1931 - *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*. These two films **laid the foundation** for modern horror movies and **ushered in** an age of big-budget monster movies.

2. Comments on the aesthetics of German expressionism

Architecture - Ordinary features like doors, windows, staircases and street corners appear at odd angles, or in a manner that seems to threaten the characters. Architecture seems vast and intimidating (e.g. the cities from *Metropolis* and *Sunrise*).

Characters faces

Exaggerated chiaroscuro (contrast between light and dark). A character's face thrown into shadow, which makes their actual face seem like a mask. Shadows appear to take on a life of their own; buildings and other objects cast shadows that make the landscape seem distorted.

Intertitles Use imaginative (and often chilling) fonts and even animation to make even the text expressive (e.g. the fonts used in *The Cabinet of Doctor Caligari* (1920))

CO Video 2

This film was made before the **MPAA film rating** system went into effect and shown during the Saturday **matinees**, which meant that young children were in the audience and probably **scarred for life**. Considered one of the most violent and bloody horror films of its time, it also set box office records proving that **despite** the gore and terror of being besieged by **flesh-eating zombies**, people enjoy the escape from, or perhaps the parallels to, modern day life and **political turmoil** in America.

Subgenres of horror

Psychological horror: Psychological horror films rely on mental and emotional fear, rather than violence or monsters, focusing on characters' states of mind throughout the story. Examples of psychological horror include *The Shining*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, and *Psycho*.

Slasher: Slasher films usually focus on a serial killer (think Michael Myers or Freddy Krueger) as they go after a group of people. Classic slasher films include *Halloween*, *A Nightmare on Elm Street*, *Friday the 13th*, and *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*.

Gore: Gore films, also called splatter films, zero in on the vulnerability of the human body, often with frequent close-ups. Examples of gore films include *The Evil Dead* and *Saw*.

Body horror: Closely related to gore, films in the body horror subgenre may feature scenes of the human body that has been severely altered. Filmmaker David Cronenberg is considered a pioneer in the body horror subgenre. Horror films that feature body horror include *The Fly*, *The Thing*, and *The Exorcist*.

Comedy horror: Horror doesn't always have to leave your skin crawling—there is an entire subset of horror movies that aims to make you laugh at the same time. Examples of comedy horror include *Scream*, *The Cabin in the Woods*, *Shaun of the Dead*, and *Tucker and Dale vs. Evil*.

Found footage: Found footage is a horror genre in which the film is portrayed as if it were "discovered" by the filmmakers rather than created by them. For instance, main characters finding footage of an unknown evil on an old video recorder. Examples of found footage films include *The Blair Witch Project* and *Cloverfield*.

Monster horror: Many horror films capitalize on the fear of the unknown by featuring frightening monsters from science fiction and dark fantasy. Werewolves, vampires, aliens are often the main antagonists of this horror subgenre. Most recently, undead and zombie films have been an especially popular form of the classic monster movie. Examples of monster horror films include *Night of the Living Dead*, *Resident Evil*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Jaws*, *Godzilla*, *Frankenstein*, *Dracula*, *The Mummy*, and *Alien*.

Paranormal horror: The paranormal horror subgenre is similar to monster horror, but rather than featuring corporeal beings, paranormal horror focuses on the monsters we can't touch—supernatural entities like ghosts, spirits, and demons. Paranormal films often feature haunted houses, possession, exorcism, or occult worship. Examples of paranormal horror include *The Exorcist*, *Paranormal Activity*, *The Conjuring*, *The Amityville Horror*, *The Omen*, *Carrie*, and *Poltergeist*.

Language focus

- a. They entered the terrifying large dark forest
- b. The path lead to a tiny abandoned green wooden cabin
- c. She peeped through the small oval cracked window
- d. Starving zombies ate the disgusting raw red flesh
- e. They hid under the blue striped duvet cover
- f. We watch an amazing old German horror film
- g. The ugly witch held out the mouth-watering round green apple
- h. I visited a spooky ancient Transylvanian castle
- i. Inside the box, she found a beautiful antique silver wedding ring
- j. He chased them with a huge sharp chopping knife

Reading Comprehension

Definition or synonym		Word from the text
a.	A small number or quantity of something	Handful (L7)
b.	An informal word for films or movies	Flicks (L16)
c.	Synonym of however	Yet (L19)
e.	Synonym of remember	Recall (L20)
f.	An aim or objective	Goal (L35)

2. Say if the following statements are *true* or *false* according to the article.

- a. Margee Kerr states that watching horror films releases chemicals in our brain that can have a negative impact on our mood.

T F Line(s): **29-31**

Quote: '**watching scary movies temporarily floods the nervous system with a cocktail of neurotransmitters and hormones, from dopamine to adrenaline, yielding mild, mood-boosting euphoria.**'

- a. According to the article, some people can suffer long-term anxiety as a result of watching horror films.

T F Line(s): **36-38**

Quote: '**And for some people that won't mean just an immediate increase in anxiety, but potentially a residual one as well - and that's not going to help anyone.**'

- b. The *Scream* slasher films were inspired by a book written by Margee Kerr.

T F Line(s): **26-28**

Quote: '**This theory features prominently in a book entitled: *Scream: Chilling Adventures in the Science of Fear*, written by fear researcher Margee Kerr.**'

- c. Researchers have found that experiencing stress in small doses can have some advantages for our health.

T F Line(s): **14**

Quote: '**Research has shown that manageable bouts of stress offer some benefits**'

3. Reformulate these expressions in your own words:

a. 'at least for those of us who dig the experience.' (Line 3-4)

This is true for the people who enjoy watching horror movies.

b. 'the good feels arise from knowing we did it.' (Lines 34)

The positive feelings come from a sense of accomplishment; we are proud of ourselves for watching it.

4. Language focus

d. Identify the tense underlined: 'Research has found that' (Line 4)

This tense is the present perfect

b. Explain why it is used in this sentence.

It is used here because the action (which may or may not be finished; this research is possibly ongoing) has an impact on the present. The precise time the action took place is not specified, it happened sometime before now but we do not know when exactly.

5. Explain in your own words what the author calls '*the controlled-environment theory*'. (Paragraph 2)

When we watch horror movies, we are purposely exposing ourselves to fear or anxiety in a safe environment (our home, the cinema etc.), which helps us learn to manage those feelings. This is similar to certain therapies treating patients with phobias where they are confronted with the thing that scares them in order to handle it better when it happens in the real life.