



## Bestsellers (19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> centuries)

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dissatisfaction with  
Victorian materialism

wave of pessimism over  
Europe and England

escape literature, or literature of entertainment

great commercial success  
of popular novels

## HORROR

first Gothic novels date  
back to 18<sup>th</sup> century

under the influence of Edgar Allan  
Poe, there was a **Gothic revival**  
at the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century

**Robert Louis  
Stevenson**

**Bram Stoker**

Gothic novel blossomed  
into **horror literature** in  
the 19<sup>th</sup> century

## MYSTERY

based on the **mystery**  
**surrounding** a crime,  
unravelling by a hero/heroine,  
with a **final explanation**

**whodunnits/detective stories**

- atmosphere of fear
- series of clues provided
- usually Manichean characters

**Arthur Conan  
Doyle**

first modern tale of the  
genre: *The Murders in the  
Rue Morgue* by E.A. Poe

great popularity of the genre,  
with famous characters who  
became protagonists of  
series of books

## FANTASY

**fantastic situations** often set  
in imaginary self-coherent  
worlds, inspiration from  
**mythology and folklore**

**Lewis Carroll**