The language of horror

If you want to write spine-tingling, nightmarish, weird stories, choose words that will keep the reader on the edge of their seat.

GETTING STARTED

The words below are found in horror, ghost, or supernatural stories. Use your Oxford dictionaries to sort the words in the right column to match their meaning.

apparition conjuror beast ghoul warlock fiend
sorcerer phantom magician spectre crone ogre
troll enchantress sorceress hag

GHOST MONSTER WITCH WIZARD

Moving on

Use spooky words to complete the sentences below. Use the shapes in the gaps to help you choose a word.

1. The room was ____________ and the atmosphere was _____________.
   A ____________ figure came towards me and whispered in a ____________ voice.

2. It was a ____________ day in January and the graveyard was full of ____________ shapes. The ____________ sky added to the ____________ sensation that I was being watched.

3. Now write a spooky sentence of your own.

How many did you get right?

5 = Novice 15 = Expert 20 = Maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools and your Oxford Student’s Dictionary for these activities.