Gothic Fiction

* Gothic fiction is a genre combining horror and romance, believed to be invented by English author, Horace Walpole, with his 1764 novel “The Castle of Otranto.”
* Primary features of gothic fiction include, terror, mystery, the supernatural, gothic architecture, death/murder, darkness, madness, secrets, and inherited curses.
* Common characters include tyrants, villains, bandits, Byronic heroes, insanity, religious figures, Damsels-in-distress, monsters, the un-dead, fallen angels/demons, and even the Devil himself.
* Charles Dickens uses death, villains, secrets, murder, and maniacs (of which Fagin becomes in his final days.) in his novel, Oliver Twist.
* In Sikes’s last moments, he sees an apparition of Nancy while on the roof, and falls, hanging himself, showing insanity, guilt or the supernatural.
* Fagin also went insane, in his final hours, another example of the use of insanity.
* Nancy was brutally beaten to death by Sikes. This shows the use of violence, murder, and also death.