

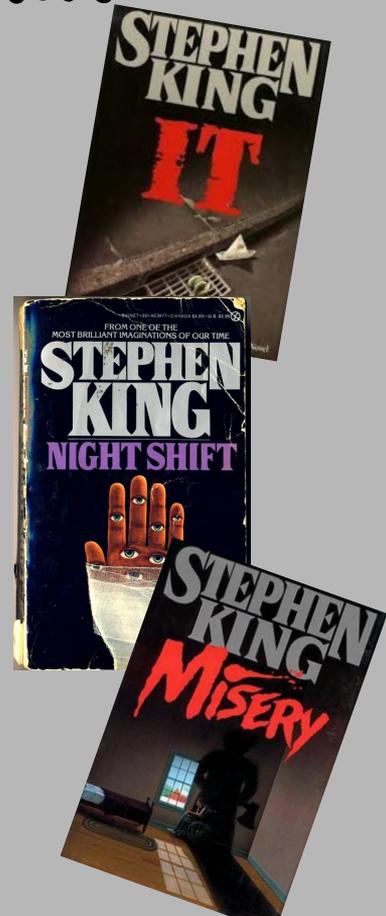


What is the Horror Genre?

Literary Criticism by Sharon A. Russell

What is a literary criticism?

Literary criticism (or literary studies) is the study, evaluation, and interpretation of literature. Sharon A. Russell was the first person to write a book for the general public analyzing Stephen King's work. She uses her expertise in the field to analyze how the horror genre works and what makes a good horror story.



Setting a Purpose:

As you read, pay attention to the points the author makes about horror stories. Do her ideas make you think about horror stories in new ways?



What is the author's purpose?

Look at the title of the essay - what can you infer the author's purpose is based on it?

To inform the reader about the horror genre

Sometimes, telling what something IS NOT is as important as telling what it IS. Examples: "Not all horror deals with monsters". Why does she begin the essay this way?

Because the horror genre deals with more than just monsters.

Why is this idea important to the idea of literary criticism?

She brings up this idea so that there is not confusion when she defines what the horror genre is to her.

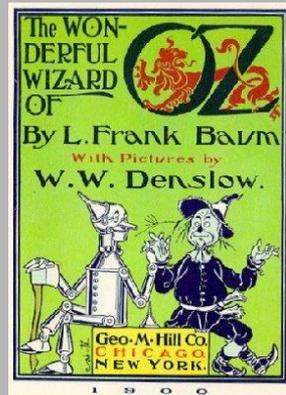


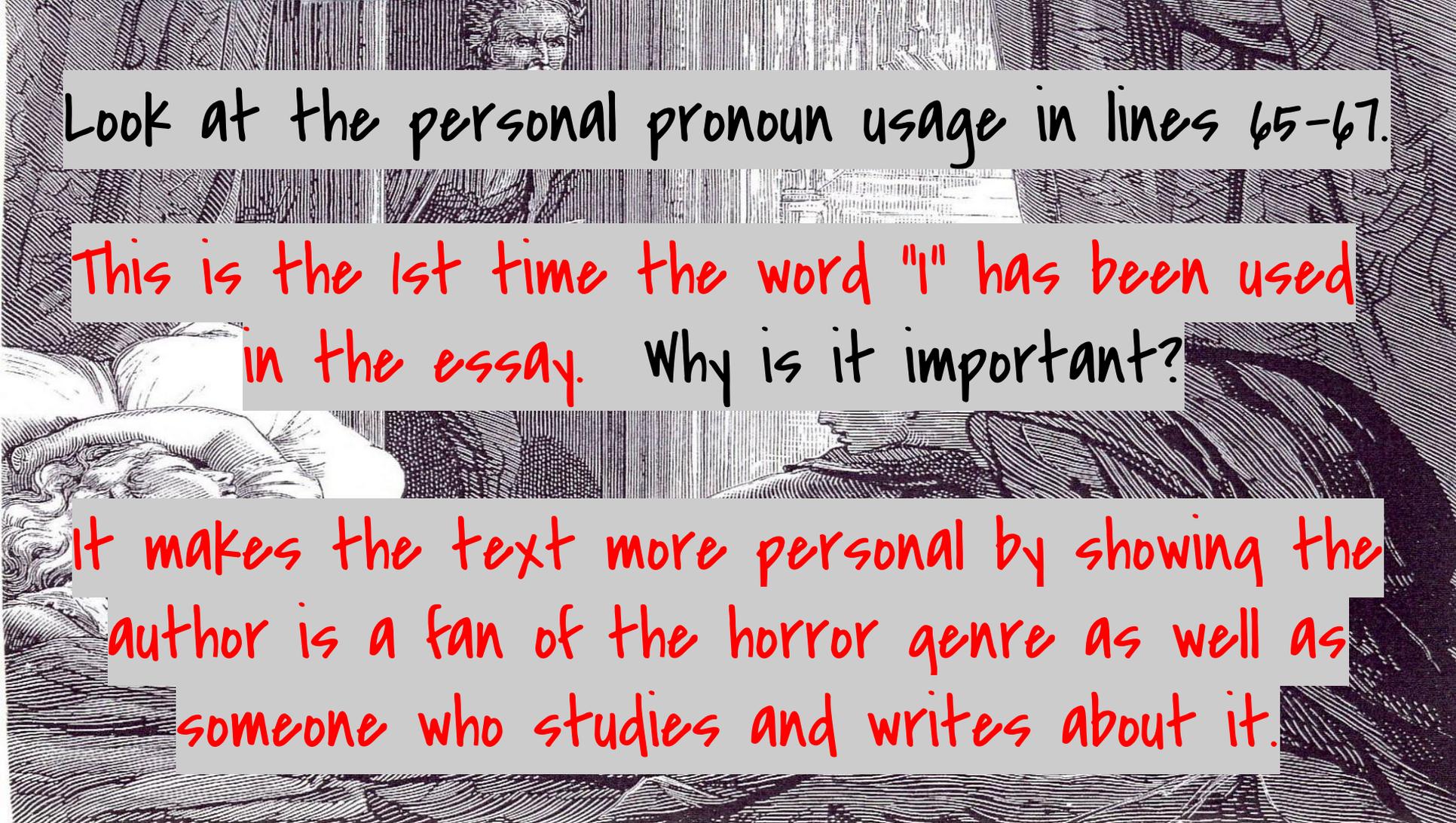
Let's reread lines 51-63 together. Can you identify two types of horror stories?

Why does she describe these two types of stories?

Stories that deal with parallel worlds, events that seems to be supernatural but have natural explanations

To support the central idea of defining what the horror genre is to her.





Look at the personal pronoun usage in lines 65-67.

This is the 1st time the word "I" has been used in the essay. Why is it important?

It makes the text more personal by showing the author is a fan of the horror genre as well as someone who studies and writes about it.

Let's reread lines 72-83 together. Can you identify two ways a person in a horror story may become a source of horror?

Something goes wrong inside, and a person turns into a monster.

An outside force may invade the character, and forces the evil out again.

What is Russell's purpose for describing the source of horror in stories?

It connects to the central idea by helping to define the characteristics of horror genre.