

Dr Faustus

By Christopher Marlowe

Written some time between
1588 and 1592,

it is the story of a man
who sells his soul to the
devil in exchange for 24
years of power and
pleasure.

Dr Faustus can be considered
a morality play.

A Very Succinct Definition:

an allegorical play popular in the
15th and 16th centuries;
characters personified virtues and
vices

Source: wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn

with many gothic elements.

Textual characteristics of a gothic text include:

- a fascination for the past, particularly — but not exclusively — the medieval era
- a liking for the strangely eccentric, the supernatural, the magical, and the sublime, sometimes subtly intermingled with the realistic
- psychological insights, especially into sexuality, through (at best) fascinating and intricate characterisation, or (at worst) stereotypical caricatures
- representation and stimulation of fear, horror, the macabre and the sinister, within the context of a general focus on the emotional rather than the rational
- frequently exotic settings and locations, although this tendency may be contrasted to a more 'domestic' gothic tradition, especially found amongst American texts
- plots within plots, often multiple narrators, and other stylistic characteristics such as the use of 'tableaux' and overt symbolism.

Source: <http://resources.mhs.vic.edu.au/creating/pages/origins.htm>

Motifs of the gothic text:

- Doppelganger
- Forbidden knowledge or power (also known as the Faust motif)
- Monster / Satanic hero / Fallen man
- Beast transformations
- Demon lovers / Femme fatales / Vampires
- Demons / Devils / Witches / Spirits / Angels
- Ghosts
- Dreams / Visions
- Magic Talismans / Cursed or blessed objects / Holy relics
- Graveyards / Churches / Ruins
- Haunted castle / House
- Multiple narrative / Spiral narrative
- Madness / Mad men / Characters who question their own sanity
- Blood

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