

MOTIVATION

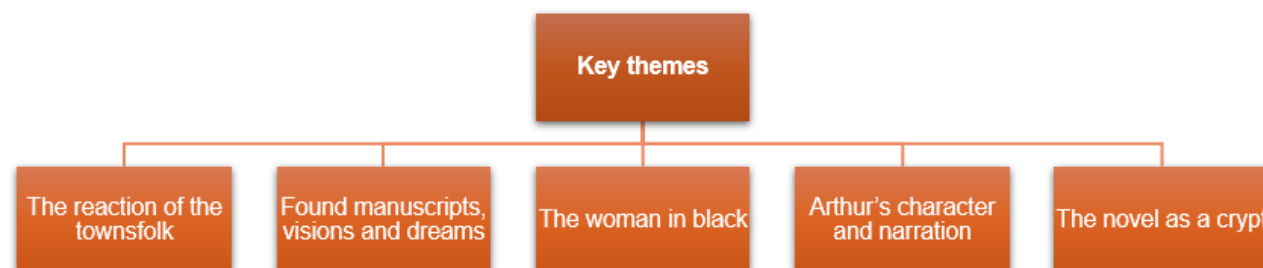
The main motivation behind my analysis is to explore the connections between literature and trauma, and how the gothic genre reflects psychological processes of mourning, focusing on the concept of cryptic mourning.

OBJECTIVES

- Explore the representation of grief and trauma through narrative form.
- Investigate the concept of cryptic mourning and its relation to language breakdown
- Compare pathological vs. adaptive mourning processes (incorporation vs. introjection)
- Demonstrate how gothic conventions convey the unspeakable nature of trauma

METHODS

Through the close reading of Susan Hill's novel *The Woman in Black* (1983) and the application of the psychoanalytic theory of cryptic mourning as well as trauma theory, the analysis is structured around five key narrative elements:



MAIN RESULTS

- ✓ The novel's fragmented and indirect narrative mirrors the inexpressibility of trauma
- ✓ Silence, ambiguity, and gothic motifs act as substitutes for failed language
- ✓ The woman in black embodies pathological mourning (melancholia and acting out), while Arthur represents a potentially adaptive response, using narration as a tool for working-through
- ✓ The novel itself functions as a "crypt"
- ✓ Narration emerges as essential to process grief and restore meaning.

MAIN REFERENCES

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