

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Number

Date

Constrained by Femininity in The Haunting of Hill House

**Banks, Emily. "Elusive Allusions: Shirley Jackson's Gothic Intertextuality." *The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, vol. 55, no. 1, 2022, pp. 117–48.**

Banks (2022) examines the intertextuality of a novel "The Haunting of Hill House" by Shirley Jackson and presents an analysis of how the allusions promote the gothic tone of the novel (117–48). She analyzes the repetition and allusion used by Jackson and proposes that the text employs the approach of prompting people to explore further, based on both literary and psychoanalytic analyses. The article is critical to comprehend how the allusions made by Jackson formed layers of meaning, adding to the nagging vagueness of the narrative. It serves as an important guide to scholars who are studying the literary methods employed by Jackson and the significance of intertextuality in the creation of an eerie atmosphere and multi-layered thematic presentation of the novel.

**Berg, Fanny. "The Haunting of Hill House: The Heterosexual Horror of the Home." BA Thesis, Department of English, Spring 2023.**

The thesis Berg (2023) is a queer reading of a novel by Shirley Jackson, "The Haunting of Hill House", discussing the effects of patriarchal oppression internalized by the main character Eleanor on her gender and her sexuality (1). Applying the concepts of self-surveillance introduced by Foucault, Berg points out that Hill House can be viewed as a form of discipline that inhibits the part of queer sexuality in Eleanor and eventually leads her to commit suicidal

acts. The thesis emphasizes the way Jackson uses Eleanor as a tragic character to critique heteronormativity and presents a new argument about gender, identity, and non-normative repression of sexualities in America.

**Sanko, Grace. *The Feminist Gothic Journeys of Shirley Jackson*. 2023. Trinity College Digital Repository. JSTOR, <https://jstor.org/stable/community.36794831>.**

The thesis by Sanko (2023) discusses how Shirley Jackson uses the Gothic as a genre to convey the theme of feminism through the plot of a female protagonist struggling with mental and social expectations (51). She discusses *The Haunting of Hill House* and the short stories of Jackson, discoursing on how the female characters in her books, written by Jackson, defy the patriarchal order. Sanko contends that Jackson employs Gothic as a means of reflecting on the female experience of the 1950s, trying to explore the problems of identity, self-agency and familial victimization, providing a complex perspective on the female experience of Gothic horror.

**Rysavy, Tracy Fernandez. "Faye Ringel, *The Gothic Literature and History of New England: Secrets of the Restless Dead* Sarah E. Maier and Brenda Ayres, Eds., *Neo-Gothic Narratives: Illusory Allusions from the Past*." *Victoriographies*, vol. 13, no. 3, Nov. 2023, pp. 350–53. DOI.org (Crossref), <https://doi.org/10.3366/vic.2023.0511>.**

Fernandez Rysavy (2023) examines the nature and development of American Gothic literature and discusses it in the context of the cultural and historical environment of New England (353). She focuses on ways in which Puritan beliefs and anxieties, especially those attached to guilt and sin, helped shape the genre. Ringel follows the impact of prominent authors like Nathaniel Hawthorne, Edgar Allan Poe, and contemporary writers like Stephen King, as well as focusing on such themes as Indigenous and Black Otherness. The current work offers a

valuable contribution to the study of the history of the American Gothic and its continued cultural presence.

**Castricano, Jodey. *Gothic Metaphysics: From Alchemy to the Anthropocene*. University of Wales Press, 2021.**

*Gothic Metaphysics* by Castricano (2021) focuses on the overlapping of Gothic literature with metaphysical concerns, covering topics such as alchemy and Anthropocene (136). The essay deploys a Gothic perspective to philosophical and psychological theories, such as the unconscious mind and telepathy, to interpret *The Haunting of Hill House*, a novel by Shirley Jackson. Castricano (2021) explores the tension between subjectivity and objectivity in Jackson's work, employing Gothic style tropes to examine the unfathomable and often speculative impact of the metaphysical on the human mind's ideology (137). It is a critical piece that contextualizes Jackson's novel within wider literature and theories.

**Skugge, Siri. "Gothic Horror as an Expression of Class Oppression in Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House*." Undergraduate Degree Project, Department of English, Spring 2025.**

The paper by Skugge (2025) provides a Marxist interpretation of "*The Haunting of Hill House*", with class being one of the primary determinants of horror in the novel (1). Through Eleanor's lower-class background, Skugge (2025) contends that the haunting of the house represents the oppression of the lower classes, and the socioeconomic weakness of Eleanor makes her more vulnerable to the supernatural force in the house. Conversely, the characters of higher socioeconomic status like Luke and Dr. Montague are not affected. The essay also criticizes capitalist systems that restrain freedom and autonomy using the metaphor of the Hill House to define the alienation and exploitation of the working population.