

THE (NEW) WEIRD: EDGAR ALLAN POE AND OTHERS

EXERCISES

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Exercise 1

Critics and scholars spend a lot of time thinking about why weird fiction has been widespread and popular for so long. They suggest it may have something to do with fears in modern society – fears of the city, fears of machines, of science, of other people (especially those who seem different), of changing societies, of immigration, of things we cannot control. Read some pieces of weird fiction. Are they just scary stories? Notice that all the writers of weird fiction mentioned here are men. Are there any women writers of weird fiction? Also notice that H.P. Lovecraft believed some very strange things. Maybe these stories are themselves a kind of madness. Write 500 words on this topic with your take on these issues.





Exercise 2

Write your own piece of weird fiction – a part of a story or a whole story. Model your story on the work of one of the writers mentioned in this pack.

Exercise 3

Find some sites in your home town or city that would be good ones for weird fiction or a weird film. Make up a photo essay on “Weird Places.”

Exercise 4

Make a short film that has some of the features of a weird story. If you can draw or work with someone who can draw, prepare the first couple of pages of a weird graphic story (pictures and text).

Exercise 5

Write a crime story modelled on one of Poe’s Dupin stories. “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841) is a good example to take. Can you use settings that are like those of a weird story?

