

Key vocabulary

Conflict	A clash or struggle between two forces
Justice	The treatment of something/ someone fairly
Injustice	The unfair treatment of someone/ something
Discord	A disagreement
Prejudice	Having an unfair opinion without a reason
Discrimination	The treatment of people unfairly
Morality	Doing the right thing/ knowing right from wrong
Hierarchy	Organisational structure of groups of people
Antipathy	A strong feeling of dislike

Plot

During WWII, the Carver family moves to a coastal town where strange events begin. Their new house holds secrets connected to a drowned boy and the sinister Prince of Mist. Teenagers Alicia and Max, with their friend Roland, investigate and uncover a tragic past and a deal with the demonic Prince. They must confront him to protect their family from his dark power. It's a suspenseful tale of mystery and supernatural danger.

Author

Carlos Ruiz Zafón (1964-2020) was a famous Spanish author, best known for his international bestseller *The Shadow of the Wind* and the *Cemetery of Forgotten Books* series, set in Barcelona. His work blends mystery and gothic elements.

Context

The *Prince of Mist* was Carlos Ruiz Zafón's debut, a young adult novel winning the Edebé Prize. Set during WWII, it blends gothic mystery and supernatural elements as young protagonists uncover dark secrets and a Faustian bargain in their new coastal home. It showcases early Zafón's atmospheric style and has a heavy influence from Gothic Literature: The presence of a creepy old house, unexplained events, and a sense of a dark past haunting the present clearly draws from gothic literary traditions.

Key Quotes

"Fear is a powerful weapon, Roland. But so is courage." - Alicia

"Sometimes, the most terrible monsters are the ones we can't see."
- Max Carver

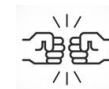
"We all have our ghosts, Alicia. The ones we carry with us, and the ones that haunt us." - Victor Kray

"We have to go back. We can't just leave them." - Roland

"He collects debts, you see. Promises made in desperation." Victor Kray

Key Themes

Conflict



Good vs Evil



Supernatural



Loss of Innocence



The Gothic Genre

Gothic Conventions

Old, Creepy Places:

Drafty castles, crumbling mansions, or shadowy forests. These places often feel alive and full of secrets.

A Sense of Mystery and Fear:

You're constantly wondering what's going to happen next, and there's often a feeling of unease or dread hanging in the air.

Supernatural:

Ghosts, monsters, curses, or strange, unexplainable events could be part of the story. Sometimes it's real, sometimes it's all in someone's head.

Big Emotions:

Characters often feel intense sadness, fear, anger, or even love that feels a bit dramatic.

Secrets and Family Trouble:

There might be hidden histories, dark family secrets, or past events that come back to haunt the present.

How to structure a paragraph
Point: What is your impression of the character?

Evidence: Pick a quotation from the book that shows that.

Explain: How does that quotation create the impression?

Analyse: Can you pick out a specific word that creates that impression? Or a technique? **Why** do you think the writer wants us to feel that way?

Link: Could you explore an alternative interpretation or link to the context of the book? Or to the intentions of the author?

Exploring Figurative Language

Metaphor - A direct comparison between two unlike things, stating that one thing is another.

Personification - Giving human qualities or actions to inanimate objects or animals.

Simile - A comparison between two unlike things using "like" or "as."

Alicia Carver	Brave & intelligent. Protective of her younger brother Max
Max Carver	Alicia's younger brother, around 13 years old. He is more sensitive and initially more easily frightened by the strange occurrences.
Roland	A local boy who befriends Alicia and Max. He is knowledgeable about the town's history and the legends surrounding the lighthouse.
Victor Kray	The enigmatic and solitary lighthouse keeper. He holds the key to the tragic past of the house and the Prince of Mist.
The Prince of Mist	The primary antagonist, a shadowy and malevolent figure who can grant wishes in exchange for a terrible price.
Maximilian Carver	The father of Alicia and Max - a clockmaker.