Structure 10 – The Gothic Spirit

Stimulus material
The Villa Diodati

Performance focus
Create a solo performance based on the character of the Gothic Spirit. Determined to enshrine itself in literature, the meddlesome Gothic Spirit visits the Villa Diodati at Lake Geneva during the summer of 1816. Creating an atmosphere of ‘delicious fear’ through a series of pranks and conspiring with the ‘weather gods’ to ensure that it rains, the Gothic Spirit keeps the guests at the villa indoors and influences their writing. The Gothic Spirit does this by:

– highlighting the circumstances by which the writers came to be at the villa and the establishment of the ghost story writing competition
– showing examples of the Gothic features within one of the stories written by an author who visited the villa
– exploring how what frightens people has changed over time.

Performance style
Eclectic with aspects of Gothic theatre
The Gothic spirit

Do this if the following intrigue you:

- 1. Supernatural events, trickery, physical manipulations, dark imagery
- 2. Quality & specific historical and style research required (famous writers)
- 3. Storyteller, vivid imagination, prankster, physically dynamic

Potential dramatic element:
Space/Sound/Rhythm: Creating the gothic horror atmosphere and supernatural trickery.

Potential Convention:
Movement/Language: Creating the world of The Villa Diodati and the authors who inhabit it.