In her introduction to *The Woman in Black*, Susan Hill discusses the ingredients that go to make up a typical ghost story. Read what she says and then list the ingredients of a ghost story.

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 

5. 

Now think about other genres in film or literature and list the ingredients for one of the following: spy-thriller, western, fantasy, romantic comedy, whodunit, road movie.

Imagine you are film writers. Choose a genre that interests you all and decide on the rough outline of a film. Now think about and list ideas for main characters, a setting and a basic plot. Once you've done this, prepare a ‘pitch’ for your film to present to a rich producer who might finance it for you.

Now feed back your ideas to the rest of the class. What have you learnt about genre/the categorisation of books and films?

See if you can now write a definition of ‘genre’.
Character names

The name Drablow suggests a rather miserable and unattractive character (the name is a mixture of ‘drab’ and ‘low’ after all), while Keckwick, with its two short monosyllables might make you think of someone with a strong local accent not given to saying much.

Charles Dickens had fun choosing names for his characters. We all know Ebenezer Scrooge was a lonely and unsociable miser. See if you can match these names to the descriptions which follow:

- Daniel Quilp
- Harold Skimpole
- Mr Sowerberry
- Wackford Squeers
- Tiny Tim Cratchit
- Jack Dawkins
- Silas Wegg
- Dora Spenlow
- Josiah Bounderby
- Sally Brass
- Lucretia Tox

- Rascally market trader who tries to cheat people.
- An undertaker. Cruel to his young apprentice.
- An evil dwarf with a violent streak.
- A tall, lean woman, disappointed in love. She looks ‘washed-out’.
- Smooth talker who pretends to understand nothing about money. His friends seem to pay for everything.
- The disabled son of Scrooge’s long-suffering clerk.
- A hopeless young wife with no head for money and failing health.
- More famously known as the Artful Dodger.
- Wealthy mill-owner. Heartless and full of his own importance. Discards his own mother.
- The wife of an unscrupulous lawyer.
- The cruel founder of a school for unwanted boys.

Now think of a good name for each of the following characters:

- A sensitive dentist who hates to see his patients suffer.
- A dynamic business-woman, always ready to sack an apprentice.
- A hopelessly forgetful, but kind, sweet-shop owner.
- A spoilt teenager who just loves shoes and handbags.
- A bad-tempered but beautiful celebrity chef.