

NAME: _____

DATE: _____



1. What is the main subject of the lecture?

the history of zombies

the different types of zombies

zombies in popular culture

zombies in video games

2. When was the earliest known depiction of zombies?

1915

1968

1990

2000

3. Which film popularized modern zombies?

White Zombie

Resident Evil

Night of the Living Dead

World War Z

4. What is a common theme in depictions of zombies?

They are robots.

They are reanimated by magic.

They are space aliens.

They are caused by a pandemic.

5. What reason is mentioned for the popularity of zombies?

Working people relate to them.

People think they look funny.

They often walk very slowly.

They are in many kinds of stories.

6. What does the lecturer suggest is the future of zombies in popular culture?

They will become less popular.

They will no longer be in books.

They will still be important.

They will only be in video games.

Discuss these questions with a friend or classmate.

1. What information from this lecture did you find the most interesting? Why?
2. Do you like to watch zombie movies? Why? / Why not?
3. Why do some people like to watch movies that make them feel afraid?
4. Might it be possible for a virus to really turn humans into zombies? Why? / Why not?
5. What would you do if most of the people you know turned into zombies?
6. What three questions would you like to ask a zombie?

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Audio Script

Zombies are a popular subject in popular culture, appearing in movies, television shows, and video games. The idea of the zombie is that they are dead people who have been reanimated, usually through some sort of virus or other means, and are now hungry for human flesh. They are often portrayed as being slow, clumsy, and not very intelligent, but some depictions of zombies have them being faster and more agile.

The origins of the zombie as a cultural phenomenon can be traced back to the early 20th century, with the earliest known depiction of zombies appearing in the 1915 silent film *White Zombie*. However, it was not until the release of George A. Romero's 1968 film *Night of the Living Dead* that the modern zombie as we know them today was established. This film, and its sequels, popularized the idea of zombies as the walking dead who are reanimated by an unknown virus and are driven to eat the living.

Since then, zombies have appeared in countless forms of media, including the *Resident Evil* series, *The Walking Dead*, and *World War Z*. In these depictions, the zombies are often portrayed as being the result of a global pandemic, with the virus spreading rapidly and turning most of the population into the undead. This idea taps into the fear of a worldwide catastrophe and taps into the human fear of death, decay and our own mortality.

One of the reasons why zombies are so popular is because they are a blank slate, which means that creators can use them to tell all sorts of different stories. Zombies can be used to tell stories about survival, about the collapse of society, about the human condition, or about the importance of community. They can also be used as a metaphor for different things, such as consumerism or fascism.

There are also different variations of zombies, such as fast zombies, smart zombies, and even zombies that can talk. These different variations allow creators to tell different types of stories and explore different themes.

ANSWER KEY

1. zombies in popular culture
2. 1915
3. *Night of the Living Dead*
4. They are caused by a pandemic.
5. They are in many stories.
6. They will still be important.