Fall of the House of Usher

**Suspense:** *“An irrepressible tremor gradually pervaded my frame and at length there sat upon my very heart an incubus of utterly causeless alarm”* (Poe 105).

This shows suspense by showing that Lady Madeline makes her appearance, sleep evades the narrator and he experiences a feeling of complete terror that cannot be explained or understood by him.

**Irony:** *To an anomalous species of terror I found him a bounden slave. “I shall perish,” said he, “I must perish in this deplorable folly. Thus, thus, and not otherwise, shall I be lost. I dread the events of the future, not in themselves, but in their results. I shudder at the thought of any, even the most trivial, incident, which may operate upon this intolerable agitation of soul. I have, indeed, no abhorrence of danger, except in its absolute effect—in terror. In this unnerved, in this pitiable, condition I feel that the period will sooner or later arrive when I must abandon life and reason together, in some struggle with the grim phantasm, Fear*”(Poe 111).

Of course, at the end Roderick does come to a bad end, dying from witnessing his sister's bloody escape from the vault.

**Setting:** *An unnamed narrator approaches the house of Usher on a “dull, dark, and soundless day”*(Poe 12).

This lets us know that the story has a foreboding and creepy feel, as if something horrible might happen.

Works Cited

Poe. “The Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allan Poe.” *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, by Lewis*

*Carroll*, Project Gutenberg, 1 June 1997, www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/932.