

Edgar Huntly, or, Memoirs of a Sleep-Walker
English 253 / Ramsey

Due beginning of the period Tuesday, Oct. 21: Provide typed (MLA) responses to all of the following questions. Brief responses are fine for most questions, but **choose two of the questions to go into more depth**. Shoot for a total of two or more full pages of response.

Preface

1. In his preface, Brown says that "America has opened new vistas to the naturalist and politician, but has seldom furnished themes to the moral painter." What does this quotation suggest is his purpose in writing this novel (at least in part)? Does this contrast with or complement the purpose stated later in the preface ("to exhibit a series of adventures, growing out of the condition of our country . . .")?
2. How does Brown say America and Europe are similar and different? Does he imply the superiority of one over the other?
3. What, according to Brown, makes America better suited to the Gothic novel than Europe? Can landscape be as effective a gothic setting as gloomy, ruined medieval castles?
4. To what type of reader is Brown directing his novel?
5. What similarities do you see between Brown's preface to *EH* and Rowson's preface to *Charlotte Temple*? What differences do you see?

Chapters 1-2

6. How does Brown create suspense in the first chapters? List at least five things, whether based in content of the chapters or style of the writing.
7. Summarize the first two chapters with a paragraph each.
8. Write a paragraph connecting the "codes of sentimentality" from your notes on Sentimentalism (also called "Domestic Fiction") to the excerpt from *EH*. (I know this is vague. Find something interesting to say. You don't have to address all of the codes of sentimentalism; you don't even have to address more than one.)



Ramsey