



Zombies

As fictional undead creatures, zombies are regularly encountered in horror and fantasy themed works. They are typically depicted as mindless, reanimated corpses with a hunger for human flesh and particularly for human brains. Those unfortunate enough to be bitten by a zombie, become one, and the pestilence, the pandemic, spreads throughout the population, endangering all of civilization. Many consider George A. Romero's film "Night of the Living Dead" to be the progenitor of these creatures. Zombies have a complex literary heritage, with tales of the undead ranging back to Mary Shelly's Frankenstein, and beyond, drawing on European folklore and the mythologies of the Caribbean and Africa.

The "zombie apocalypse" concept, in which the civilized world is brought low by a global zombie infestation, has become a staple of modern popular art. In the recent film: "World War Z", with Brad Pitt and in the continuing popular TV series "The Walking Dead" we thrill to testing the courage and resourcefulness of living in surviving the zombie plague.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is among the organizations that have sought to capitalize on the American appetite for all things zombie. In 2012, the CDC raised some eyebrows when it unveiled a page on its website devoted to "zombie preparedness." On the page, the CDC's director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response, notes, "If you are generally well equipped to deal with a zombie apocalypse you will be prepared for a hurricane, pandemic, earthquake, or terrorist attack." Hey, if you can survive these guys, you can beat anything.

