

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

a. Research Design

The study employs a descriptive qualitative method to analyse the symbolism of horror in Stephen King and Joe Hill's novella *In the Tall Grass* (2012). According to Creswell (2014), qualitative methods rely on text and image data, focusing on presenting, interpreting, validating, and indicating the potential outcomes of the study. Qualitative design encompasses various approaches, including narrative, phenomenology, ethnography, case studies, and grounded theory. This method involves analysing the text to identify patterns, themes, and meanings related to the symbolism of horror.

b. Procedures of Data Collection and Analysis

The data are dialogues among the characters and the narrative in the form of text from the novella. To collect the data, first, the writer identified the dialogue between characters and the narrative. Second, the writer identified the symbols related to horror in the dialogue and narrative. Third, the writer categorizes the symbols into three categories, each of which is in line with the narrative development of the story. Fourth, the writer described the effect of each category of the symbol to the characters. Fourth, the writer described the effect of each category on the characters. Lastly, the writer interpreted the symbolism and its meaning. The process involves interpreting the meaning of the symbols in the context of the novella using the theories from H.P. Lovecraft's "Supernatural in Horror Literature" (2013) and Dan Sperber's "Rethinking Symbolism" (1975).