

Gloom

HOW TO HOST A THEME PARTY



The world of Gloom is a sad and benighted place. The sky is grey, the tea is cold, and a new tragedy lies around every corner.

That being said, it's a fabulous place to have a party!

The families and setting of Gloom provide plenty of ideas for decorations, entertainments, and deliciously creepy treats.

You can be as elaborate or as bare bones as you like, and this concept can stretch from a simple dinner party to a large in-store or convention event. Just be sure to have enough copies of [Gloom](#) and the Gloom expansion decks — [Unhappy Homes](#), [Unwelcome Guests](#), and [Unfortunate Expeditions](#) — for everyone to try their hand at the game!

SETTING

Gloom is set in the time between gaslight and gasoline-powered automobiles, so costumes and decorations from the Victorian world of Charles Dickens to the Edwardian period of Downton Abbey are all appropriate. This also encompasses the alternative histories of the Steampunk genre, as well as the monster-filled moors of the classic Hammer Horror movies.

THEMES

First send out the [Gloom party invitations](#) available from Atlas Games' website. Then build a party around the generally gloomy theme of the game, with cemetery and haunted-house decorations and party favors. Ghost stories set the party's tone well, and you

DARK'S DEN OF DEFORMITY



Font: [Carnivalee Freakshow](#)

Decorations: Circus-themed decorations for a child's birthday party (like mini ferris wheels or circus tents), sideshow posters or perhaps stand-ups for guests to pose behind!

Snacks: Boxes of popcorn, cotton candy, candy apples

Party Favors: Wax mustaches, temporary tattoos

HEMLOCK HALL



Font: [Ringlet](#)

Decorations: Lace doilies, tea sets, old porcelain dolls

Snacks: Petit fours with black fondant and white icing skulls, Rooibos tea for a lovely dark red color

Party Favors: Black lace fans, top hats

BLACKWATER WATCH



Font: [Treasure Map Deadhand](#)

Decorations: Nautical accessories (maps, ropes, a captain's wheel), mini scythes and gallows

Snacks: Red velvet cupcakes with licorice rope nooses, affogato al caffe (ice cream "drowned" in espresso)

Party Favors: Toy spyglasses, pirate hats

CASTLE SLOGAR



Font: [Trinigan](#)

Decorations: Apothecary jars (with or without body parts), laboratory glassware, plasma ball

Snacks: Geletin dessert using a brain-shaped mold, "smoking" drinks with dry ice or those with which glows under blacklight, Pop Rocks

Party Favors: Eyeball candies, lab goggles, beakers as cups, sparklers or glow sticks

can offer your guests tarot card readings or, if you're planning something more extravagant, hire a mentalist to perform feats of astonishing insight! Also, be sure to bring a camera so you can insert your guests' faces into the [Gloom card template](#) also on Atlas Games' website, and create your own ill-fated families to commemorate the festivities.

The four central families in the original Gloom deck provide a variety of themes within the larger setting. You can set up a table that represents each family, each with its own thematic decorations and desserts. Ideas for each family's table are in the center inserts.

MUSIC

Spooky music abounds, so choose whatever most closely fits your particular Gloom party theme. For a more classically Victorian feel, embrace orchestral pieces like Viennese waltzes or Camille Saint-Saens' "Danse Macabre." Movie scores are also excellent for this purpose — check out soundtracks to movies like *Gothic* or any of the Hammer Horror classics. If you're aiming for a more eccentric period feel, try some traditional Gypsy violin music or circus tunes played on the organ or calliope. Modern

bands can create everything from eerie ambience (Dead Can Dance, Rasputina, This Mortal Coil), to Steampunk flavor (Abney Park, Doctor Steel, Johnny Hollow), to flat-out goth (Bauhaus, The Damned, Sisters of Mercy). Or mix them all up to create the ultimate Gloomy playlist!