Comparing Goth & Prep

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Do you remember high school? How would you describe the atmosphere? When I think of High school I think of cliques. I went to a smaller school where the cliques aren't as bad and still anytime I run into an old classmate from high school I associate them with whichever clique they were in.

Larger schools seem to have more cliques than small schools because there are more students to separate and categorize. For example, in large schools nationalities might be categorized as a clique, but in smaller schools there usually aren't many students of different nationalities and they are grouped in a different category. At my school the cliques were the Preps, the nerds, and the Goths/druggies. The students in the gothic category were the outcasts, the druggies, the poor kids, the Emos, and of course the Goths. The Preps were the football players, basketball players, and the cheerleaders. The "nerds" were the kids that were always concerned about their grades and didn't really fit in with the Preps or the Goths, and they weren't always smart kids as many people would expect.

When someone is considered a Prep we generally assume they are like the Preps we see every day in movies. They are the popular kids in school. Most Preps are rich kids and are generally into sports. They are often viewed as snobby and stuck up. Most Preps were name brand clothes such as, American eagle, Abercrombie, Tommy Hilfiger, and Ralph Lauren. Their clothes are often sports affiliated. Letterman jackets are often worn by Preps. A popular style for preppy boys is pastel colored polo shirts and khaki's. Preppy girls often wear short shorts or skirts that stand out. A popular color is pink.
A Prep was originally a student who attended a preparatory school. This school is a private secondary school designed to prepare students for a university education. These schools were very expensive and only the more wealthy students could afford it. Along with their challenging academics require students to participate in one or more of the school's sports. They are also known for their advancement in their liberal arts classes. Some independent preparatory schools are affiliated with a particular religion or denomination.

Unlike Prep, another major clique in most high schools are the Gothic students. Although my school viewed many different types of students as the Goth/druggie students, Goths have their own distinct culture even out of the high school scene. A Goth was originally a member of the Germanic tribes which destroyed Rome and wreaked havoc on the rest of Europe for several centuries. Today, “gothic” is used to describe a subculture based largely on a certain style of art, literature, and music. Some forms of gothic art and literature date back to the 12th –15th centuries, however gothic music as we know it today is a relatively new development and is responsible for having the greatest impact on the development of gothic subculture. (Stinbridge, n.d.) Goths have always been considered as odd and attention seeking individuals by people who consider themselves to be normal. Goths are people who regard themselves as misfits in the mundane everyday life of mainstream culture. So, they have created a lifestyle for themselves, which gives them the freedom of portraying their distinctiveness and individuality. (Kartha, n.d.)

Modern day Goths differ from Ancient Goths. Ancient Goths were a part of a dominant culture, but modern Goths are only a subculture. The ancient Goths also had a set religious system but, modern gothic subculture accepts many different religions. Two popular religion among modern Goths are paganism and Wicca, however many Goths are Christian, Jewish, Catholic, or Atheist. The social and political views of the modern Goths seems to vary as well.
The glue which holds the gothic community together is an affinity for the macabre, a longing for romance, and an appreciation of darker aesthetics.

The modern Goths have a distinct way of dressing. They're clothing is usually black, although they may wear red, purple, dark green, and blue. The girls may wear schoolgirl skirts and fishnet stockings. Dresses from the Renaissance period are popular. Accessories they often include are chains, spikes, collars, stockings, arm socks. They generally have pale skin with black, straight hair. They're makeup is dark or black makeup, and their nail polish is generally black. Many Goths have tattoos, piercings, and studs. They are generally quiet and unsocial; some may have severe depression and a history of harming themselves. They have always been viewed as misfits and outcasts.

Goths enjoy listening to punk rock, gothic rock, alternative rock, or post punk music. Most Goths are very artistic and creative in art and design. They often use their art as a way to cope with every day issues. Because of this their art is usually dark.

Gothic literature is very popular in today's society. The Gothic alphabet was invented around middle the 4th century AD by Bishop Wulfila (311-383 AD), based on the Greek alphabet, with a few letters from the Latin and Runic alphabets. The gothic language is now extinct and modern Goths rarely use the alphabet, except when using it for symbols. There are many symbols that represent the gothic culture. According to "Ultimategothguide," 2011 the main Gothic symbols are Ankh, the skull & crossbones, the crucifix, the iron cross or Germanic cross, the red rose, the bat, the serpent, the pentacle or pentagram, the spider, the Eye of Ra, the grim reaper and the Celtic knot.
Although the Gothic culture is looked down on by many as a dark culture, they are also accepted by many because they are easy to relate to when you are down. Sometimes if someone is depressed and not in high spirits with the right clothing they may be viewed as gothic. As I addressed earlier not all Goths are Satanists and some are even Christians. This makes it much easier especially for high school students looking to fit in somewhere to join the Goths because they don't have to be rich or be good at sports to fit in.
References

