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 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-Saëns’ “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!