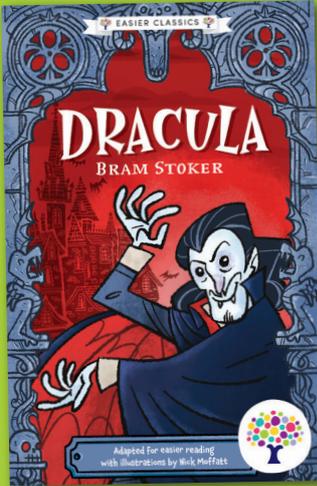




Big stories, fewer barriers.



DRACULA

Teaching and Learning Resources

Summary

Jonathan Harker visits Count Dracula on a business trip. However, he didn't know the danger he faced. When Jonathan finds out that Count Dracula is a vampire, he escapes and goes home. At the same time, his girlfriend Mina is with her friend Lucy. They are on holiday in Whitby, a seaside town in England. After telling ghost stories, Mina finds that Lucy has gone sleepwalking at night. Luckily, Mina finds Lucy in a graveyard. Mina and Lucy were unaware that Lucy had encountered Dracula himself!

A few days later, Lucy became unwell. Dr Van Helsing sees that she was bitten by a vampire. They were unable to save Lucy. Sadly, she dies.

Jonathan, Mina and their friends, work together to find Dracula and kill him so that he cannot hurt any other people. This is a very dangerous and difficult task, one that only Van Helsing can help with.

Context

Dracula was written by Bram Stoker in 1897. Bram was inspired by the gothic genre but made his story more modern by including an English seaside town, Whitby, as one of the settings. The story of Dracula has been rewritten several times and turned into many films. When it was first published, people didn't like it as it was too frightening. Eventually, that changed. It is now one of the most popular gothic stories of all time. The character Dracula is known by many people and features in many films, television shows and plays.

Glossary

Count

An important man with power in an area of the country.

Activity 1: Create your own Dracula manor. Looking at the front cover on the book, create your own manor using small boxes, drawing, painting or collage.

Activity 2: Dracula only goes out at night just like a bat. Research bats and think about how they might have inspired the character of Dracula.

2. Questions based on the book cover

Activity 1: Front Cover Analysis

Label the book cover, looking for:

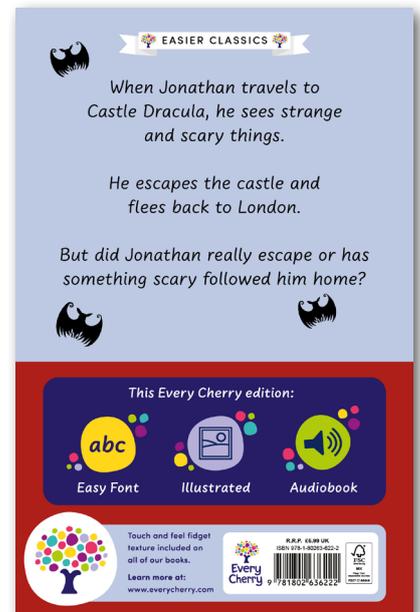
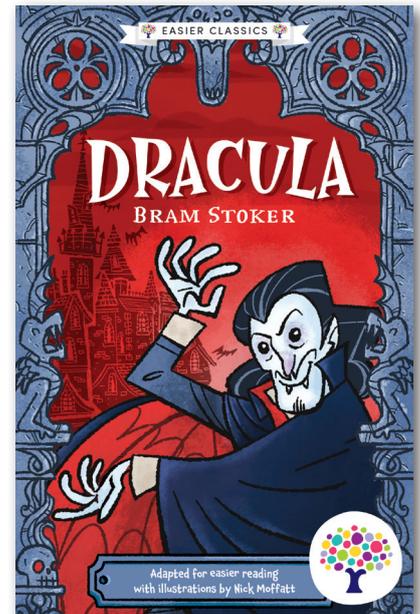
- Its main features.
- Potential main themes.
- Genre clues.
- Inferences about the text.

Discussion questions:

- What does the title tell us about the story?
- Who is the main character and what do you think they will be like?
- Who wrote the book?

Activity 2: Back Cover Analysis

- What have you learnt already about the story?
- What genre do you think the story is? Why do you think this?
- Who do you think followed Jonathan back home? Explain your answer.



Challenge: Can you think of two predictions for the story? Your predictions can be presented verbally, written, drawn or painted.

Activity:

As you read the story, collect examples for each theme on a post-it note and add them to a working wall.

Good vs Evil

The theme of good vs evil can be seen throughout the book. The story has an evil main character, Dracula, being challenged by good characters such as Jonathan. It becomes a battle of who will win, the good or the evil.

Science vs Superstition

From the start of the story, superstition plays a key role when Jonathan is given a cross to keep him safe even though he doesn't understand why. But as the story continues and he doesn't feel safe, he uses the cross and realizes how important it is. Later on, Van Helsing then talks about how a cross will scare off vampires and that vampires do, in fact, exist. They also see a ghost of their friend in the graveyard.

Challenging Gender Roles

The book explores the roles of gender in the early 19th century. Men and women were expected to behave in a certain way and not push these boundaries. On one hand, Mina is a nurturing friend to Lucy and girlfriend to Jonathan. However, she challenges gender expectations by putting herself in dangerous situations to fight Dracula, as well as working as a team with the men in the book (which wasn't common during these times). The men in the book are brave and strong at times, but they do often question their decisions and show fear in a world where men were not allowed to be vulnerable.

Fear of the Unknown

Dracula comes from Transylvania, a place that the western world knew little about. This created an element of the unknown. Dracula's strange behaviour in his castle was against social norms - this made Jonathan question who Dracula was. The fact the Dracula was a vampire created a huge amount of fear of the unknown, since only Dr Van Helsing knew a small amount of how to deal with such a beast.

Glossary

Superstition

A belief in things that can't be explained by science.

Think about the character of Dracula and how he treats people.



Starter Activity:

- Collect words to describe Dracula. Think about how he looks and his personality.

Interview:

- Think of questions you would ask Dracula if you met him. What would you want to know? After compiling a list of questions, have an adult play the role of Dracula whilst the pupils ask the questions.

Letter:

- In the role of Dracula, write a letter to Jonathan apologising for his actions. Think about how he would explain why he hurt people.

Challenge: Can you create a character spotlight for Dracula using all the information you gathered for your drama piece?



Challenge: Can you create a character spotlight for Dracula using all the information you gathered for your drama piece?

Word Bank

Draw a Picture

Character Description



- Why did the maid give Jonathan a wooden cross? What stories do you think she had heard?
- **Page 20** - why do you think Jonathan suddenly felt cold?
- **Page 26** - Why do you think Jonathan couldn't find Dracula?
- **Page 30** - What happened when Dracula saw the cross on Jonathan's bed? Why do you think he acted that way?
- Why does Dracula sleep in a coffin? What does this tell you about him?
- **Page 42** - What do you think was missing from the box in the shipwreck?
- What did Mina see when Lucy was sleepwalking?
- **Page 84** - What did Dracula do to Lucy?
- How do you think Jonathan felt when he heard that Lucy had been bitten by a vampire?
- What plan did they make to kill Dracula?
- How do you think Arthur felt when they had to kill Lucy as a vampire?
- Jonathan, Arthur, Dr Van Helsing and Dr Seward all went to find Dracula. What words can you think of to describe their actions?
- How did Mina find out where Dracula was? Can this happen in real life?
- How do you think they all felt when Dracula had been killed?
- In the story how did the Author write about Dracula in a way which made people fear him?

20

21

“Welcome,” said Dracula. “I will take you to your room. It is easy to get lost in the castle.”

Jonathan suddenly felt cold.

Dracula showed Jonathan to his room.



suddenly - Quickly and not expected to happen.

30

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“Yes,” Jonathan said. “I was looking for you. I have some papers for you to sign.”

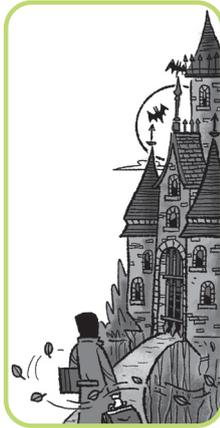
“I’m sorry,” said Dracula, “I have been ... busy.”

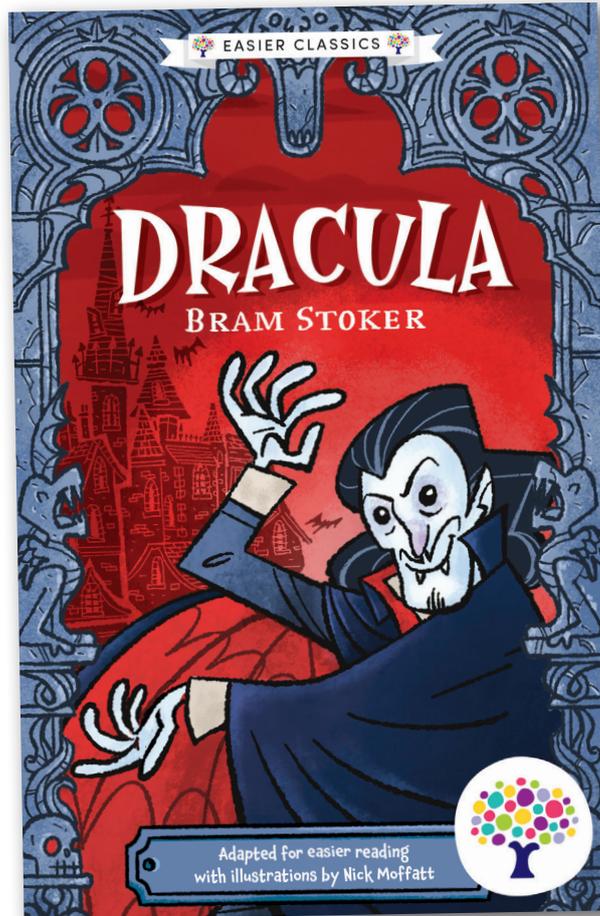
Dracula looked at Jonathan’s bed and saw the small wooden cross. He looked angry. He covered his face and left the room.



Activities:

1. Create story map or story mountain for the story- verbally retell the story to a friend.
2. Rewrite the end of the story, with them teaching Dracula to be a kind vampire.





*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by
Katie Corrigan as part of Every Cherry Publishing.*

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