

Stanford House Classics - Elementary

DRACULA

Bram Stoker

literature analysis and response



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Stanford House Classics - Elementary
(Introduction)

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This series of simplified Stanford House Classics readers has a vocabulary of approximately 600 head words.

They are suitable for students aged between 12 and 15. These books are particularly useful as support material for teachers of English as a second language, since they have been structured to encourage active reading: on the left-hand page there is the story, complete with explanatory notes in English, and on the right-hand page there are exercises which refer exclusively to the text opposite.

Some exercises review his grammatical knowledge of the English language, others are just good fun. By the end of the book the student will know the story and should be able to recount it, too!

BRAM STOKER was born in Dublin in 1847. He wrote various novels and short stories but his most famous work is *Dracula*, first published in 1897. *Dracula* is one of the great classics of the horror genre. Set in the grey atmosphere of Transylvania, it is inspired by a historical figure – Vlad Dracula, a Romanian prince who lived in the 15th century. Bram Stoker died in London in 1912.



Stanford House

DRACULA

CHAPTER ONE.

My dear Jonathan Harker,
I have booked¹ a seat for you on the public carriage² to
Bukovina. It leaves at three o'clock in the morning.
My own carriage will be waiting for you at the Borgo
Pass. Welcome to my beautiful land,
Your friend,
Dracula.

Jonathan Harker's diary.

5 May. Here was I, a young English lawyer³, alone in a strange land, amongst⁴ the hard dark shapes of an enormous castle, waiting alone outside a huge door...

The door opened. A tall old man stood inside, holding a lamp. He was dressed all in black with a deathly white face, and a hand, as it took mine, as cold as ice.

“I am Dracula. Come Mr Harker, you must eat and rest,” he said courteously, and led me up several flights⁵ of stone steps to a well-lit room warmed by a wood fire. Supper was ready on the table. My fears and doubts receded⁶. I handed the Count a letter from my boss, Mr Hawkins. He read it carefully and invited me to sit down. He watched me eat the delicious meal, making sure my glass was full of fine wine, and asked me about my journey.

- 1. Choose the correct description for each of the following:**

Jonathan Harker	a tall, old man
Count Dracula	Jonathan's boss
Mr. Hawkins	a young English lawyer
the Count's house	destination of the public carriage
the Borgo Pass	a big castle
Bukovina	where Jonathan must get out

2. Write a letter similar to Count Dracula's addressed to a pen-friend that you have invited to stay (in the present day!)

[illegible]

1. **booked:** *reserved.*
2. **carriage:** *vehicle pulled by horses.*
3. **lawyer:** *advocate.*
4. **amongst:** *in the middle of.*
5. **flights:** *stairways.*
6. **receded:** *vanished.*

The Count has a strong face, with a rather cruel mouth. When he smiles, his sharp white teeth are like a cat's. His fingernails are cut to a sharp point. Once, he leaned¹ close to me; the smell of his breath² was horrible.

I saw the first grey of dawn³ outside. In the valley wolves were howling. "What sweet music," said the Count listening, bright-eyed. He got up. "Please sleep, Mr Harker. I will be out until late afternoon." He left the room. I felt strangely afraid.

I met the Count later in his small library of books about London. "I wish to live in London, to lose myself in its crowds, sharing their lives, a stranger in a strange land... to be free. Here everyone knows me. Tell me about the house you have bought for me: Carfax - an interesting name."

I brought the papers from my room and gave him the details of the large and rather gloomy⁴ house, and of the hospital for mad people next door. The Count signed the papers, said, "You may go where you wish in the castle, Mr Harker, except where the doors are locked", and left the room.

Later, I met the Count for supper. He said he had eaten earlier, and talked to me as I ate.

8 May. There is something terribly strange about this place. Sometimes I have the feeling that I am the only living person here.

As I was shaving this morning I felt a hand on my shoulder. I jumped, shocked. Mine was the only reflection in the little shaving mirror. I turned and saw the Count right⁵ behind me. I had cut my neck slightly⁶ when I jumped. As soon as the Count saw the blood he seized my throat⁷, but when his hand touched the cross

3. Make a list of all the strange things about Count Dracula

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4. Answer the questions:

1. What is Carfax?
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2. Where is it?
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3. Why does Dracula want to live there?
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4. Where must Jonathan not go in the castle?
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5. Why did Jonathan jump while he was shaving?
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6. What did the Count do when he saw the blood on Jonathan's neck?
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1. **leaned:** *bent.*
 2. **breath:** *air coming out of mouth.*
 3. **dawn:** *early morning.*
 4. **gloomy:** *dark, depressing.*
 5. **right:** *directly.*
 6. **slightly:** *a little.*
 7. **throat:** *passage between mouth and stomach.*

around my neck he snatched¹ it back with a fleeting², wild, angry look in his eyes.

“Please try not to cut yourself,” he said, taking my mirror and throwing it out of the window. He left without another word.

Later on I went exploring. Upstairs I found a room facing south. The castle sits like a bird on the edge of a dark rock.

The cliff below falls sheer³ for hundreds of metres. When I tried to explore further, door after door was locked. I realised that I was a prisoner!

Back in my bedroom I found the Count making my bed. So there are no servants here. I touch the cross around my neck. Why do I feel more comfortable when I touch it?

12 May. I will begin with facts. Last night the Count asked me endless⁴ questions about taking his things to England by ship.

“Have you written to anyone? No? Then write now to Mr Hawkins to say you will be here another month.” My blood ran⁵ cold.

Later, I went up to the room that looked south. I looked out at the mountains in the silvery moonlight. How beautiful. Then I looked down. The Count was just climbing out of a window below, and crawling⁶ head-first down the wall, his cloak⁷ spread out like wings! A horrible bat⁸-like animal! Am I going mad? God, help me!

25 June, morning. Heavy carriages have been coming to the castle carrying large wooden boxes. Digging⁹ has been going on for several days now. I must do something before it is too late! I am sure the Count

5. Complete the following sentences:

1. The Count was angry when he
2. He threw Jonathan's mirror
3. Jonathan found many rooms
4. The cross round Jonathan's neck makes him feel
5. The only people in the castle are
6. Dracula wants Jonathan to stay
7. Jonathan saw Dracula
8. Jonathan thinks he is

6. Write Jonathan's letter to his boss

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1. **snatched:** *pulled.*
 2. **fleeting:** *quick.*
 3. **sheer:** *vertically.*
 4. **endless:** *many.*
 5. **ran:** *here, flowed (to run; ran; ran).*
 6. **crawling:** *moving on hands and knees.*
 7. **cloak:** *mantel.*
 8. **bat:** *flying animal similar to a mouse.*
 9. **digging:** *excavating.*