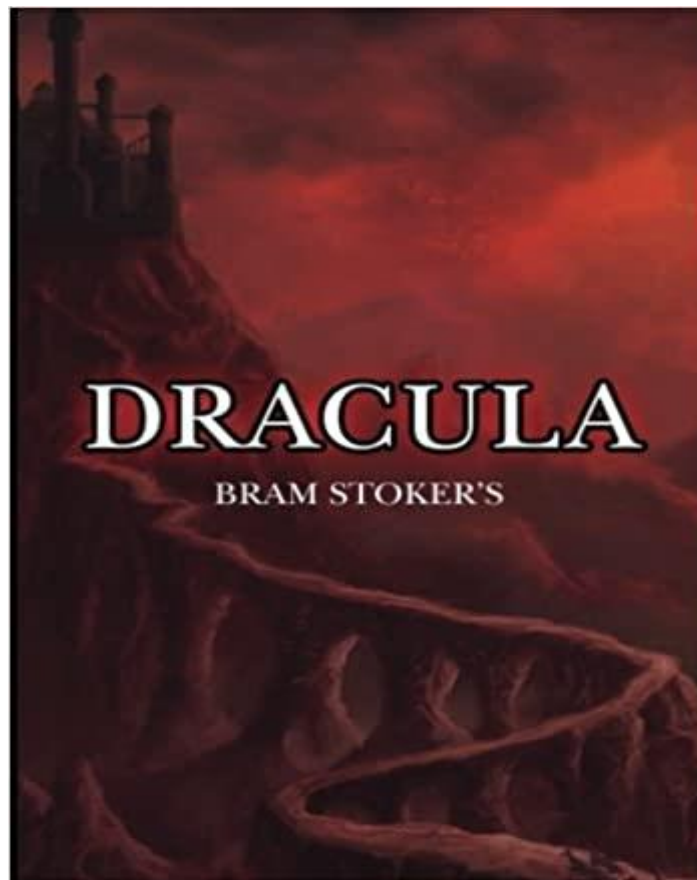


A Level English Literature

Paper Two:

Comparative & Contextual Study

‘THE GOTHIC’ TEXT STUDY



Jonathan Harker is travelling to Transylvania to meet Count Dracula. He is threatened by wolves and gripped with fear as he arrives at Castle Dracula.	<p>'Transylvania' means the land beyond the forest. In what ways does Stoker create the impression that this part of the world is beyond the reach of an ordinary Victorian reader?</p> <p>What do we learn about Harker from the observations he makes about his exotic surroundings?</p> <p>How does Stoker create an atmosphere of increasing suspense?</p>
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<p>Chapters 2, 3 & 4</p> <p>Harker arrives at Castle Dracula and slowly begins to realise he is a prisoner of the ever more mysterious and threatening Count. His attempt to smuggle a message out of the castle is betrayed. Count Dracula's journey to London begins.</p>	<p>How do the descriptions of Castle Dracula fit in with Gothic Literature conventions?</p> <p>How is Count Dracula described?</p> <p>How does Stoker create a sense of horror in these chapters?</p>
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<p>Chapters 5 & 6</p> <p>Lucy and Mina discuss their lives and loves; Lucy has three potential suitors (Holmwood, Morris and Seward) while Mina is increasingly worried about the missing Jonathan.</p>	<p>What do we learn about Lucy and Mina? How are they introduced?</p> <p>How is Whitby presented as a somewhat mysterious town?</p> <p>What is the significance of Mr Swales to the narrative?</p>
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<p>Chapters 7 & 8</p> <p>Dracula secretly arrives in England. The Captain of The Demeter tells of horror at sea through his logs. Lucy has a small wound to her neck. Mina discovers Jonathan is safe but suffering a strange madness.</p>	<p>How does the story of the Demeter create suspense?</p> <p>Why is a newspaper report included within the narrative?</p> <p>What changes does Dr Seward notice in Renfield?</p>
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<p>Chapters 9 & 10</p> <p>Mina and Jonathan marry. Dr Van Helsing is consulted about Lucy's mysterious illness. Renfield escapes to the grounds of Carfax. Blood is transfused to Lucy as her condition worsens.</p>	<p>How has Jonathan changed from the start of the novel?</p> <p>What do we learn about Van Helsing from Dr Seward?</p> <p>Why do you think Van Helsing asks Dr Seward to keep everything about Lucy a secret?</p> <p>How is Lucy's appearance described on the morning of 10th of September?</p>
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<p>Chapters 11, 12 & 13</p> <p>An escaped wolf breaks into Lucy's bedroom. Mrs Westenra dies of a shock. More blood transfusions take place to save Lucy. Children in Hampstead are found to have neck wounds. Harker sees a young Count in London. Van Helsing suffers a hysterical fit of laughter after Lucy's funeral.</p>	<p>What is the significance of the newspaper articles of the escaped wolf & 'the Bloofer lady'?</p> <p>How would a Victorian reader react to Dr Seward's descriptions of the sights awaiting him on 18th September?</p> <p>When Lucy tries to kiss Arthur- which other characters does she become associated with?</p> <p>What is Arthur's state of mind now that he has lost his Father and fiancée?</p>
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<p>Chapters 14, 15 & 16</p> <p>Mina read Jonathan's journal. Van Helsing meets both Mina and Jonathan. Lucy's tomb is found empty. Descriptions of the 'bloofer lady' circulate. Lucy's soul is saved. Van Helsing states Dracula must be found and destroyed.</p>	<p>Why is the moment Mina gives Van Helsing her transcript of Jonathan's journal so important?</p> <p>Why do you think both Jonathan and Seward start keeping a diary again?</p> <p>How does Stoker use language to describe Lucy's appearance and the horror of the ceremony that the men perform?</p>
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<p>Chapters 17, 18 & 19</p> <p>Mina transcribes Dr Seward's diary. Harker discovers the location of Dracula's boxes of earth. Mina is excluded from the quest for her protection. Renfield begs for his release. The Vampire Hunters go to Carfax where they discover 21 boxes have been removed. Mina suffers a nightmare.</p>	<p>What change seems to occur in Jonathan when he starts tracking down the Count?</p> <p>Why is the moment when the Vampire Hunters make a pact important to the plot and themes?</p> <p>What comment can you make regarding the description of Carfax Abbey?</p>
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<p>Chapters 20, 21, 22 & 23</p> <p>Harker uses Arthur's title and influence to gain information regarding Dracula's house in Piccadilly. Renfield is injured. Mina is forced to drink Dracula's blood. Mina describes Dracula's plan to use her. The Carfax lair is destroyed. Dracula escapes his Piccadilly home. Van Helsing hypnotises Mina.</p>	<p>How is language used to convey the sight of Mina & the Count together?</p> <p>What causes Seward to change his opinion of Renfield?</p> <p>How would a Victorian reader react to Mina's hypnosis?</p>
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<p>Chapters 24 & 25</p> <p>The men prepare for the chase across Europe. Mina appears to be changing- both she & Jonathan acknowledge their relationship has altered. Dracula evades them by changing destination. The men vow to kill Mina should they need to.</p>	<p>According to Van Helsing, why has Dracula decided to 'invade' England?</p> <p>Why does Mina insist on accompanying the men to Transylvania?</p> <p>Mina's request would have shocked the Victorian readers- how does Stoker make her request seem acceptable?</p>
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<p>Chapters 26, 27 & Closing Note</p> <p>Mina makes vital connections. The group divides into three pairs to attack from different directions. Van Helsing destroys the lair. The final battle takes place. Seven years later we discover Mina and Jonathan have a son named Quincey.</p>	<p>Why does the group split into pairs for the final stage of the chase?</p> <p>How does Mina view the countryside?</p> <p>How does Stoker resolve the themes and ideas?</p> <p>What is the purpose of the concluding note?</p>
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