CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

Dracula

Bram Stoker · *1897 · original English text*

A young solicitor travels to a castle in Transylvania and finds that his host is not a man who can be dealt with by English law. Stoker tells the rest in journals, letters, and phonograph records: a hunt across England and Europe for a creature who drinks life, fears the sacred, and can be stopped only if courage, faith, and modern knowledge work together.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What is required—of faith, of courage, and of belief in things one cannot yet see—when an ancient evil comes into a modern, well-ordered world?

"I want you to believe." "To believe what?" "To believe in things that you cannot."

Abraham Van Helsing, with Dr. Seward · Mina's / Seward's record of Van Helsing's counsel

Van Helsing insists that the friends must believe in things they cannot, or Lucy and Mina will be lost. Crucifix, wafer, garlic, and knowledge are not mocked; they are used. The Count claims time and other people's blood; the little band answers with loyalty, prayer, and a pursuit that does not stop at the Channel. Mina's mind, even when wounded, helps to hunt him. The victory is costly and shared.

KEY CHARACTERS

Count Dracula
An ancient noble who lives by other people's blood, and would make England his hunting-ground

Jonathan Harker
The solicitor whose journal begins the book, and whose knife helps to end it

Wilhelmina (Mina) Harker
The organizer of the records, wounded and still essential to the hunt

Abraham Van Helsing
The physician-teacher who insists on both modern knowledge and old faith

Lucy Westenra
The first English victim, whose fate teaches the others what un-death is

Dr. John Seward
The asylum doctor who must learn to believe what his science did not expect

Arthur Holmwood and Quincey Morris
Friends who give blood, courage, and, in Morris's case, a life

TO BELIEVE IN THINGS YOU CANNOT

> *"I want you to believe." "To believe what?" "To believe in things that you cannot."*
>
> **Van Helsing and Seward** · Van Helsing's counsel

> *"We are in Transylvania; and Transylvania is not England. Our ways are not your ways, and there shall be to you many strange things."*
>
> **Count Dracula** · Harker's journal

Grades 10–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01 The Castle

HARKER'S JOURNAL, MAY–JUNE

A solicitor is welcomed to a place whose ways are not England's.

- Jonathan Harker goes to Transylvania to settle a property purchase for Count Dracula
- The Count bids him welcome; the castle doors close; Harker sees that he is a prisoner
- Dracula says they are in Transylvania, and that Transylvania is not England; their ways are not his guest's ways
- Harker survives the women of the castle and the Count's departure for England, and escapes at last, broken in mind

> *"I am Dracula; and I bid you welcome"*
>
> **Count Dracula** · Harker's journal

02 The Ship and the Friend

WHITBY; LUCY'S FIRST DECLINE

A Russian ship comes ashore; a sleepwalker is watched too late.

- Mina Murray and Lucy Westenra are in Whitby; Lucy walks in her sleep toward the churchyard
- The ship Demeter arrives with a dead crew and a wolf-like beast that leaps ashore
- Lucy's suitors—Arthur Holmwood, Dr. Seward, and Quincey Morris—are drawn into her illness
- A transfusion, garlic, and a crucifix are used, and still she is not safe

> *"Listen to them--the children of the night. What music they make!"*
>
> **Count Dracula** · Harker's journal (the castle courtyard)

03 The Un-Dead

LUCY'S DEATH AND THE TOMB

A funeral is not the end of Lucy's story.

- Van Helsing is called from Amsterdam; he asks Seward to believe in things he cannot
- Lucy dies, or seems to die, after the Count's work is finished
- She is seen as a child-stealing figure in the night; the friends go to the tomb
- They release her soul by the means Van Helsing names, and learn what they are fighting

04 The Hunt in London

THE ASYLUM, CARFAX, AND MINA

The Count has boxes of earth in England; Mina is struck in turn.

- Harker, recovered and married to Mina, joins the band; they find the Count's houses and destroy his resting-places
- Renfield, in Seward's asylum, is part of the Count's path into the house
- Dracula says his revenge is just begun, and that time is on his side
- Mina is forced to drink of his blood; she is marked, and also, painfully, linked to him

> *"My revenge is just begun! I spread it over centuries, and time is on my side."*
>
> **Count Dracula** · The friends' later record of his words

05 The Chase to the East

THE LAST PURSUIT

A race to the Count's land, and a death in the snow.

- Using Mina's link and her clear head, they follow the Count back toward his castle
- The little band splits, suffers, and holds together; the sacred wafer scars and also protects
- At sunset, on the road before the castle, they overtake the last box
- Harker and Morris end the Count; Morris dies of his wound; Mina is freed of the mark

Faith and Knowledge · Courage · Friendship · The Sacred and the Unclean · Predation · A Record of Witness

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 10–12

1. The book is a file of documents. Dates, letters, and journals are how the friends—and the reader—establish the truth.
2. Van Helsing's demand, "to believe in things that you cannot," is not a call to credulity. It is a call to face a fact that pride of intellect would deny.
3. Sacred things in this story (the crucifix, the Host) are treated as real helps, not as scenery.
4. Mina is not only a victim. After she is wounded, her mind and her records still guide the chase.
5. The hosted text is Stoker's original English (Project Gutenberg #345). The Count's "children of the night" line uses a dash: "Listen to them--the children of the night."

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text, Project Gutenberg #345, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/dracula/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.