

Gifted English 10: World Literature and Composition

Dracula analysis assignment

Part I:

Record your observations and ideas about the Gothic elements of the novel in a double-entry journal. For each section, write eight entries exploring characterization, metonymy, motif, plot, and/or setting.

1. Chapters I-IX (pages 1-101)
2. Chapters X-XIX (pages 102-223)
3. Chapters XX-XXVII (pages 224-325)

Part II:

Like parts of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Dracula* is narrated in first-person through letters, journals, diaries, and newspaper clippings. This technique lends to the novel's *verisimilitude*, the semblance or appearance of truth, so that no matter how far-fetched events seem there is a perception of reality.

- Sections of *Dracula* are narrated by Jonathan Harker, Mina Murray Harker, Lucy Westenra, Dr. Seward, and Dr. Van Helsing. Though the text is titled *Dracula*, Dracula himself does not narrate at any point. Choose a pivotal scene and rewrite them with Dracula as narrator, making sure to reveal his character through his first-person point of view.

BONUS Part III:

1. Locate SAT-level vocabulary. Record sentence from book (with page number in parenthetical citation), define word and identify synonyms, and compose a sentence that uses the word in a contextually accurate way.
2. For one character of your choice from *Dracula*, complete a body biography—a hand-drawn representation of your character. Include the following:
 - a) visual images that reveal who the character is
 - b) seven most important quotations illustrating the character (might be the character's own words, statements made about the character, descriptions of character's actions, etc.)

Possible elements to include in body biography:

- **Placement:** Carefully choose the placement of your text and artwork. For example, the area where your character's heart would be might be appropriate for illustrating the important relationships within his or her life. The hands might refer to actions or accomplishments of the character. The character's internal conflict might be best portrayed at his or her head.
- **Spine:** Actors often discuss a character's "spine." This is his or her core objective within the work. What is the most important goal for your character? What drives his or her thought and actions? The answers to these questions are his or her "spine." How can you illustrate it?
- **Virtues and Vices:** What are your character's most admirable qualities? His or her worst? How can you make us visualize them?
- **Color:** Colors are often symbolic. What color(s) do you most associate with your character? Why? How can you effectively weave these colors into your presentation?
- **Symbols:** What objects can you associate with your character that illustrates his or her essence? Are their objects mentioned within the work itself that you could use? If not, choose objects that especially seem to correspond with the character.
- **Mirror, Mirror:** Consider both how your character appears to others on the surface and what you know about the character's inner self. Do these images clash or correspond? What does this tell you about the character? How can you illustrate this mirror image?
- **Changes:** How has your character changed within the work? Trace these changes within your text and/or artwork.

Final Exam Essay Topic:

Write a persuasive essay in which you analyze the importance of the narrative technique of *Dracula*. Using textual examples (at least eight quotations from different narrators), explain how Stoker's use of letters, journals, and diaries lends the plot of *Dracula* a sense of verisimilitude, reinforces Gothic elements, and contributes to the meaning of the work.