

Worksheet 5 – Is It Gothic?

Review: Lecture 4 Society

In the previous lecture of the unit, Prof. Nick Groom mentions a book by Charles Darwin that had a profound impact on Victorian society. What is the name of that book?

Recall: Lecture 4

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. Which TWO animals does Dracula transform into in the novel?
a) Dog c) Cat
b) Wolf d) Bat
2. What is unusual about the setting of *Dracula*?
a) It is not set in a Catholic country c) It is not set in an earlier time period
b) Parts of the novel take place in England d) It changes location
3. Which of these is NOT one of Dracula's powers?
a) Telepathy c) Control animals
b) Invisibility d) Mesmerism
4. Which of these is NOT one of the modern technologies that are used in the novel?
a) Typewriter c) Radio
b) Kodak camera d) Phonograph

Analysis

5. Dracula is an example of an epistolary novel: a novel that is written in a series of documents, e.g. letters, transcripts, logbooks etc. In the lecture Prof. Nick Groom states that this means "there is no one stable viewpoint" and therefore "the reader must take on an investigative role."
a) Why do you think Stoker did not want to provide "one stable viewpoint"?
b) Do you agree that the reader takes on an "investigative role"? Why / why not? Can you think of any examples?
6. Look again at the epigraph of the novel, copied below. What is the effect of this epigraph?

How these papers have been placed in sequence will be made manifest in the reading of them. All needless matters have been eliminated, so that a history almost at variance with the possibilities of later-day belief may stand forth as simple fact. There is throughout no statement of past things wherein memory may err, for all the records chosen are exactly contemporary, given from the standpoints and within the range of knowledge of those who made them.

Evaluation

7. Critic John Mulan said that *Dracula* “works... because it is written in the form of journal entries and letters by various characters, caught up in the horror of events. The fear and uncertainty on which Gothic literature has always relied is enacted in the narration.” To what extent do you agree with Mulan? Create an essay plan for this question, using the assessment objectives of your particular exam board. Remember to incorporate the context that you have learnt over this lecture series.

Glossary

- **Precipitous** – Dangerously high or steep.
e.g. The castle was situated at the edge of a precipitous drop.
- **Transgression** – An act that goes against a law, rule, or social expectation; a synonym for offence.
e.g. The headmaster wanted to keep an eye out for future transgressions.
- **Taboo** – Something that is prohibited or restricted by social custom; something that is inherently repulsive or offensive.
e.g. Talking about drugs was a taboo subject for his parents.
- **Telepathy** – The ability to exchange thoughts using supernatural means; to be able to read someone else’s mind.
e.g. He knew her so well it was almost as if he had the power of telepathy.
- **Metamorphosis** – The process of transformation, normally into something completely different from your original state.
e.g. Children love to watch the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly.
- **Mesmerism** – Another word for hypnotism; the act of putting someone into a sleep-like state.
e.g. The magician was determined to master the act of mesmerism.
- **Animal magnetism** – Another word for hypnotism; the act of putting someone into a sleep-like state.
e.g. The magician was determined to master the at of mesmerism.