



## ***The Catholic High School of Baltimore*** **Summer Reading Assignment**

**Teacher's Name:** Mr. Derosier

**School Year:** 2023-2024

**Grade Level:** 11

**Course No.:** 131

**Course Name:** British Literature & Composition

**Academic Level (Honors/AP/CP/CPA):** Honors

### **ASSIGNED READING**

*Dracula* by Bram Stoker

ISBN-13: 978-0451530660

### **ASSIGNMENT**

While reading *Dracula*, it is important that you not only read but read to understand. Therefore, I encourage you to annotate as you read. Annotating is an active learning strategy that helps a reader truly absorb a book and understand the characters, underlying layers, words with which you are unfamiliar, etc. If you do not like writing in books or if you are reading an ebook, you can keep a separate notebook for the notes you take as you read. You can even write on sticky notes and add them into the book. You will not be graded on your annotations and/or notes, but they will help you remember what you thought as you read, important moments in the plot, characters, and themes much more easily.

If you find it helpful, you may read while listening to an unabridged audiobook of *Dracula*.

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Before you begin reading *Dracula*, please watch the following videos:

Bram Stoker: Resurrecting the Vampire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rMoOSjaPR0>

Vlad the Impaler: The Real Life Dracula

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2YhD3mpDIZQ>

After reading *Dracula*, respond (in a typed document) to each of the assignment prompts below.

Be sure to follow these formatting guidelines:

- Use an easily readable font like 12 pt Times New Roman.
- Include a properly formatted MLA header on the first page of your document using double spaces between each.
- Separate your responses to each assignment prompt by using subheadings.

***Per The Catholic High School of Baltimore's Honor Code, your work must be your own. Any type of academic dishonesty in completing this assignment will result in an automatic failing grade and a referral to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.***

I am not providing you with a word count for each response, but my advice to you is to make sure that your responses are well-written, well-thought out, and demonstrate to me that you have actually read the book.

### Prompt 1

One of the thematic motifs in this story is the importance of Christian values and symbols to defeat Dracula. Define the values Stoker believes are useful in combating evil. Discuss which characters possess these values and how, using Christian symbols, these values help the protagonists defeat evil. Support your response with examples and specific references to the book.



### Prompt 2

Compare and contrast Van Helsing from the beginning of the novel to the end. In what ways does he change? What relationships and events have an impact on his growth/decline throughout the novel? Support your response with examples and specific references to the novel.

### Prompt 3

Bram Stoker applies multiple narrative voices allowing the reader to feel they are reading a real life account of truth. Discuss how the style and structure work to create a successful novel. Support your response with examples and specific references to the novel.

### Prompt 4

Select the character you believe to be the MOST responsible for Dracula's destruction. Support your response with examples and specific references to the book.

***Due Date:*** The summer reading assignment is due on or before the first day of class.

## **ASSESSMENT**

There will be a closed-book test on *Dracula* during the first two weeks of the school year. The test will consist of short answer and paragraph response questions.



## OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT ASSIGNMENT

For extra credit, watch one of the following film adaptations of *Dracula* after you read the novel:

- *Nosferatu* (1922), starring Max Schreck as Count Orlok
- *Dracula* (1931), starring Bela Lugosi as Dracula
- *Dracula* (1958), starring Christopher Lee as Dracula
- *Dracula* (1979), starring Frank Langella as Dracula
- *Dracula* (2020), three-part TV series on Netflix, starring Claes Bang as Dracula

After watching the film adaptation you chose from the options provided, answer the following questions fully and in complete sentences:

1. Was the adaptation similar to what you had imagined or visualized? Explain.
2. Describe the music and what it added to the experience of watching the adaptation?
3. If you were the director, what changes would YOU make to the adaptation?

**Due Date:** This optional extra credit assignment is due on or before the first day of class.

## COMMUNICATION

I check my email regularly. If you need to contact me over the summer, my email address is **[sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org](mailto:sderosier@thecatholichighschool.org)**