

Dracula: Previous Questions (OCR)

JUNE 2004

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter 2 from “By this time I had finished my supper...” as far as “... you know something of what strange things here may be.” Discuss the presentation of Dracula in this passage. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at effects of the way this character is presented;
- comment on ways in which the passage introduces the reader to the novel’s narrative methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss ways in which Stoker’s descriptions of settings contribute to the effectiveness of *Dracula*. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at effects of descriptions of the setting(s) in the passages you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which you think the passage(s) contribute(s) to the narrative and concerns of the novel.

MAY 2005

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter VII (7) from “Then without warning the tempest broke...” as far as “... which found her way so miraculously into harbour in the storm.” Discuss the significance of the passage in your reading of the novel as a whole. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in this passage;
- comment how you think the passage relates to the novel’s narrative methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss the role and significance of Lucy Westenra in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing;
- comment on ways in which you think your chosen passage(s) contribute(s) to the presentation of Lucy in the novel.

JANUARY 2006

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter 21, from “And now, Madam Mina – poor, dear, dear Madam Mina – tell us exactly what happened...” to the end of the chapter. Discuss the significance of this passage in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage;
- comment on ways in which the passage relates to the novel’s methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) *Dracula* has been described as “a novel of Gothic horror”. Considering in detail one or two passages, explain in what ways this description is appropriate. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage(s) you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which you think the term “Gothic” relates to your passage(s) and to the novel as a whole.

MAY 2006

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter 12, from “What are we to do now? Where are we to turn for help?” as far as “... You and the Dutchman will tell me what to do, and I’ll do it.”. Discuss the significance of this passage in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage;
- comment on ways in which the passage relates to the novel’s methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) First person narrative is a feature of many Gothic novels. Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss Stoker’s handling of this narrative technique.

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage(s) you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which your chosen passage(s) relate(s) to the novel’s methods and concerns.

JANUARY 2007

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter 23 (XXIII), In Dr Seward's Diary for 3 October, from 'I could not but admire, even at such a moment, the way in which a dominant spirit asserted itself...' as far as 'You must be pitiful to him too, though it may not hold your hands from his destruction.' Discuss the significance of this passage in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage;
- comment on ways in which the passage relates to the novel's methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) 'We are in Transylvania, and Transylvania is not England.' Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss Stoker presents Dracula's world in the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage(s) you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which your chosen passage(s) relate(s) to the novel's methods and concerns.

MAY 2007

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in Chapter 3 (III), from 'The Count's mysterious warning frightened me at the time...' to the end of the chapter ('Then the horror overcame me and I sank down motionless.'). Discuss the significance of this passage in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage;
- comment on ways in which the passage relates to the novel's methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) 'I have written to my old friend and master, Professor Van Helsing, of Amsterdam, who knows as much about obscure diseases as any one in the world...' Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss Stoker's characterisation of Van Helsing and his significance in the novel.

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage(s) you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which your chosen passage(s) relate(s) to the novel's methods and concerns.

JUNE 2008

Either:

a.) Remind yourself of the passage in the MEMORANDUM BY ABRAHAM VAN HELSING in Chapter 27 (XXVII) from ‘5 *November, morning*. - Let me be accurate in everything, for though you and I have seen some strange things together ...’ to the end of the ‘memorandum’ (‘Madam Mina still sleeps; and, God be thanked! She is calm in her sleep ...’). Discuss the significance of the passage in your reading of the novel. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage;
- comment on ways in which the passage relates to the novel’s methods and concerns.

Or:

b.) “My revenge is just begun! I spread it over centuries and time is on my side. Your girls that you all love are mine already...” Considering in detail one or two passages, discuss ways in which Stoker presents Dracula and his actions after he arrives in England. In the course of your answer:

- look closely at the effects of the writing in the passage(s) you have chosen;
- comment on ways in which your chosen passage(s) relate(s) to the novel’s methods and concerns.