

INDEPENDENT STUDY COMPANION

DRACULA



A LIVING BOOK STUDY - LEARNING BOOKLET

Name: _____

TASKS: DAY 1

Week 1 - Chapters 1-2: Into the Mountains

READ:

The solicitor Jonathan Harker journeys deep into Transylvania to help Count Dracula buy a house in England, and reaches the Count's strange castle.

NARRATION:

Describe Harker's journey and his first meeting with the Count.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: what small, uneasy details warn us that something is wrong, before Harker admits it to himself?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 2

Week 1 - Chapters 3-4: A Prisoner

READ:

Harker realises he is trapped in the castle with something inhuman, and makes a desperate attempt to escape.

NARRATION:

Retell Harker's growing horror and his daring escape attempt.

EXTENSION:

Art: illustrate Castle Dracula, perched high in the Carpathian mountains.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 3

Week 1 - Chapters 5-6: England

READ:

The story shifts to England, told through the letters and diaries of Mina, Lucy and Dr Seward, as an unseen danger draws near.

DISCUSS:

How does Stoker weave together letters and diaries from different people to tell one story?

EXTENSION:

Geography: research Whitby, the real Yorkshire town where the story now moves.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 4

Week 2 - Chapters 7-8: The Ship

READ:

A violent storm drives a ship ashore at Whitby, its crew gone and its captain dead at the wheel - and Lucy begins to sleepwalk.

NARRATION:

Retell the ship's last log and the eerie events that follow at Whitby.

EXTENSION:

Literacy: discuss why telling this through the captain's log makes it so chilling.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 5

Week 2 - Chapters 9-10: The Illness

READ:

Lucy falls mysteriously ill, losing blood no one can explain, and the wise Professor Van Helsing is called from Amsterdam.

DISCUSS:

What baffles the doctors about Lucy's illness?

EXTENSION:

Science: research Victorian blood transfusion, and why it was so dangerous before blood groups were understood.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 6

Week 2 - Chapters 11-12: Loss

READ:

Despite everything the friends try, and after further shocks, Lucy dies.

NARRATION:

Retell the events leading to Lucy's death.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does Stoker keep the reader dreading what is coming next?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 7

Week 3 - Chapters 13-14: The Bloofer Lady

READ:

After Lucy's funeral, small children are found harmed by a mysterious 'bloofer lady', and Van Helsing begins to fear the impossible.

DISCUSS:

What does Van Helsing suspect, and why is it so hard for the others to believe him?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: discuss how difficult it can be to accept a truth that seems impossible.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 8

Week 3 - Chapters 15-16: The Un-Dead

READ:

The friends face the terrible truth about Lucy and act, solemnly, to set her soul at rest. (A dark and tense sequence.)

DISCUSS:

Why does Stoker make this scene so solemn and difficult, rather than exciting?

EXTENSION:

Literacy: how do the different narrators' voices add weight to this moment?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 9

Week 3 - Chapters 17-18: The Hunters Unite

READ:

The friends pool their diaries and letters, and Van Helsing teaches them what they face and how the Count can be beaten.

NARRATION:

Retell how the band of hunters comes together and forms its plan.

EXTENSION:

History: research the up-to-date technology the hunters use - typewriter, telegraph, phonograph.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 10

Week 4 - Chapters 19-20: The Hunt Begins

READ:

The hunters track down and spoil Dracula's hidden boxes of earth, and puzzle over the strange prisoner Renfield.

NARRATION:

Describe how the hunters turn the Count's own hiding-places against him.

EXTENSION:

Discuss: how does going on the attack change the mood of the book?

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 11

Week 4 - Chapters 21-22: Mina in Danger

READ:

Dracula strikes back and marks Mina as his own, and the friends rally around her.

DISCUSS:

How do the friends respond when Mina is put in danger?

EXTENSION:

PSHE: discuss finding courage and hope in the face of dread.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 12

Week 4 - Chapters 23-24: The Count Flees

READ:

Cornered, Dracula escapes by sea for his homeland, and the hunters use Mina's strange link to him to give chase.

NARRATION:

Retell how the hunters pick up the Count's trail as he flees England.

EXTENSION:

Geography: map the route of the chase back across Europe toward Transylvania.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 13

Week 4 - Chapters 25-26: The Race

READ:

The friends race across Europe and up into the Carpathians, closing in on the Count before he can reach his castle.

DISCUSS:

How does Stoker wind the tension tighter and tighter as the chase nears its end?

EXTENSION:

Science: research what hypnosis really is, and how Van Helsing uses it to track the Count.

Your response:

TASKS: DAY 14

Week 4 - Chapter 27: The Reckoning

READ:

The pursuit ends in a final confrontation near the castle walls, at a heavy cost to the hunters.

WRAP-UP:

Was the ending satisfying? Who paid the price, and was it worth it?

EXTENSION:

What were Victorian readers really afraid of, and how does Dracula give those fears a shape?

Your response:

The story is told through many documents. Keep your own journal of what each one reveals - and what the characters still do not know.

Chapters	What we learn	What they still don't know

HOW STOKER BUILDS FEAR

Dracula is a masterclass in suspense. Collect the tricks Stoker uses to frighten the reader, with an example of each from the book.

Technique (e.g. weather, silence, delay)	Example from the book