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### Annotated Bibliography

In recent years there has been a pandemic of young adult literature involving the supernatural. Supernatural fiction is a subset of fiction in which paranormal ideas are central to the plot. These involve elements that cannot be explained by rational or scientific means. Young adults are pulled into the appeal of “the unknown” where we see our youth crawling towards vampires, the dead and now the undead. Bu why? When did this genre get so big? In reality, this isn’t something new. Supernatural fiction has been around since the 1700’s and has clearly only become more prevalent as time goes on. Ej Clery in his novel, *The Rise of Supernatural Fiction 1700-1800* states, “ A Rise of the supernatural fiction? The idea appears paradoxical. It’s popular success has more often been described as a spread or even a contagion than a rise.” The truth is that Supernatural fiction is more popular than ever before. As future teachers it is vital to recognize the things that are students are gravitating towards. Cadence Robillard from The Alan Review, mentions, “If our students are willing to spend so much time and energy on a novel, whether it is a novel that an adult would have selected for them or not, then we must take their efforts seriously.” With that being said it is essential for teachers to find young adult literature that fall into that category that our youth is interested in. This annotated bibliography has been created in hopes to find ways to reach

students and draw them into young adult literature but at the same time classic literature from the literary cannon as well.

### Annotated Bibliography

1. Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein: A Norton Critical Edition*. ed. J. Paul Hunter. New York: W. W. Norton, 1996. Print.

This is a novel about a man named Robert Walton. He tells the story of a man that he met named Victor Frankenstein. Frankenstein has a dark story to tell and Walton is all ears. He tells the story of love, passion, and tragedy. Frankenstein creates a creature that will change his life forever.

This is a perfect example of a classic novel that involves supernatural. I have personally read this novel and enjoyed it. I think that people are hesitant to read this novel because they think it is dry and not entertaining like most literature for their age group. I do feel that high school is a good age to bring this in and introduce the gothic and supernatural genres. This will allow students to see the early workings of the gothic and supernatural and from there they can develop an interest.

2. Meyer, Stephanie. *Twilight*. New York: Little, Brown and, 2005. Print.

In the novel *Twilight*, Bella Swan falls in love with a vampire named Edward Cullen that she meets at her new high school. Edward keeps to himself and only associates with his family, until he meets Bella. The town does not know that the entire Cullen family has a secret; they are vampires. Bella is intrigued by Edward's uniqueness

and vice versa. Edward is a gifted vampire; he can hear everyone's thoughts except for Bella's. They fall in love with each other and it is a constant battle for a vampire to be with a human. The dangers the couple will face are revealed in this novel and the rest of the Twilight Saga.

This novel incorporates the Supernatural genre with the use of vampires. The vampires along with the werewolves are gifted with supernatural qualities. Vampire novel have hit an all time high and Twilight is still topping the charts for Supernatural fiction. This novel is important to the genre because it brought forth so many novels that would follow. This novel opened door for all teen vampire novels to come. This is also a series where young adults are able to grow with the characters because they are roughly the same age as the target readers. An article in The Alan Review suggests teachers taking advantage of the huge popularity and fondness of this novel and it's component novels that come after. I have personally read all of the novels in this series and I can see why it is such a hit. It truly draws in its readers and keeps them hooked until the end. There is also a movie series out that follows the novels. This can be a benefit when teaching one of these novels.

3. Harris, Charlaine. *Dead Until Dark*. New York: Ace Books: Berkeley Pub. Group, 2001. Print.

This novel follows the life of Sookie Stackhouse. She's just a regular cocktail waitress until a man walks in and she realizes something. She can't hear his thoughts, which is a gift she's had her whole life. She is instantly attracted until she realizes he's a

vampire. Vampires are slowly being accepted into the community but can Sookie handle all that comes with the territory?

This is definitely an easy read. It is something that could be brought in as a recommended title to enhance the unit of study on the supernatural. I have personally read this novel and would caution that it is for more mature audiences but its reading level is quite low. This novel also has a very popular television show that was created from the novels; there are thirteen. This novel may appeal to students of an older grade because they will be familiar with the show and take interest in knowing that this genre brought them things as such.

4. Clare, Cassandra. *Mortal Instruments: City of Bones*. [S.I.]: Margaret McElderry Books, 2013. Print

Clary Fray witnesses a murder while at a New York club. She is surprised to see three teens around her age with strange tattoos covering their bodies committing the murder. She is horrified when the body suddenly vanishes and the attackers are equally curious as to how she can even see them. They are invisible to anyone that is not like them. Within a short amount of time Clary's life is taken on an adventure where she finds she's not the normal teen she thought she was. ( Summary taken from the authors homepage: [shadowhunters.com](http://shadowhunters.com)

I have not read this series yet, but I have heard a lot of great things about it. I have seen the first movie that has come out in this series. I don't think it did very well though and there is no signs of the series continuing. This novel is considered supernatural because of the unknown elements that run through this novel. The

main character finds out that she is a shadow hunter; which is a half-human half-angel being that's sole purpose is to protect the world from the evil demons "the shadow beings." After finding more information on this novel, I am not sure that it is something that can be worked into a lesson plan because of the religious context that flows throughout the novel. I do believe, however; that having it as a suggested title where students can choose to read or not is best.

5. Brooks, Max. *World War Z: An Oral History Of The Zombie War*. New York : Three Rivers Press, 2006. Print

This novel is about the zombie war/apocalypse. This novel is well written and really draws in the unlikeliest of readers. The book travels the world and gets the stories from people that experienced the war first-hand. It is very fast paced and has the reader wanting more as soon as it's over. This book shows humans in another light. How these people dealt with loss and surviving on almost nothing. These stories are vivid and will make anyone a believer.

I believe this novel fits in perfect into the supernatural genre because it incorporates zombies or the "undead." I had to read this book for another one of my English courses and I feel that it will reach all students. For the reader that is not into vampires and teen love this novel almost takes a war standpoint. It really does a great job at capturing the audience's attention and holding them in. This novel will get the reluctant readers a chance to get into the genre. At this time the "undead" is very popular and will encourage students to get involved in the text.

6. Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban: Book 3*. New York: Scholastic, 1999. Print.

Sirius Black is after Harry Potter, and he is suspected of murdering muggles and given up the location of Harry Potter's parents. With the help of the Marauders Map to sneak out of the castle Harry and his friends find Sirius and learn the truth. Harry and his friends have to find a way to save Sirius from the Dementors.

I have only read this book from the series and I personally loved it. It finds Harry at an age that is relatable to many teens. Although Harry is involved in a supernatural world he still deals with a lot of life issues that other young adults would go through. I think this would be a good book to bring into the classroom because it has the qualities of the genre and is already well known. I know that I was always hesitant to read the Harry Potter series because I didn't think I would be interested but it actually is very good and I highly recommend it.

7. King, Stephen. *The Shining*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1977. Print.

This novel follows the story of a man and his family as they move to a hotel for the winter season. The family looks forward to the escape from reality but they are in for a treat when they realize some strange things are going on within the walls of the hotel. No one expects what lies ahead for Jack and his family.

This novel is also an older novel and I think many young readers will be drawn into the book because Stephen King is such a well known name. This novel falls into the horror category in the supernatural genre. This novel shows the progression of the

supernatural and the genre itself in the 70's compared to the earlier novels like *Dracula* and *Frankenstein*.

8. Sebold, Alice. *The Lovely Bones: A Novel*. Boston: Little, Brown, 2002. Print.

This novel is about a young girl who one day on her way home from school is abducted. The young girl is raped and killed and buried by this man who happens to live only a couple houses down the street. The story follows her death where she wakes up realizing that she is in a limbo -like state stuck in between heaven and earth. She desperately wants to find her killer and get the justice that she deserves.

I know many people that have read this book and loved it. I chose this book because it does have the ghost aspect that some of the other books do not yet it is not horror. This is more of a story of finding oneself place in the world even after death and acceptance with grief. The fact that it does have the supernatural qualities definitely will appeal to the young readers and help them grasp the bigger message of the novel. I wasn't a huge fan of the novel myself but I did think that it brought up a lot of bigger questions and ideas and critical thinking that a classroom setting can benefit from.

9. Riggs, Ransom. *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. Philadelphia: Quirk Books, 2011. Print.

This is the story of a young boy who grew up hearing all the stories of his grandfather back when he was a kid. As the boy gets older he doesn't believe in the stories of monsters and peculiar children. So the boy sets off to find out if his

grandfather was telling the truth all these years or not and he is quite surprised at what he finds. The boy learns of the struggles of the Holocaust and the monsters that haunted his grandfather.

This novel is great because it is a very new book and it will attract Young Adult readers. This book has mystery and adventure and even things that cannot be explained. I think this book will go good in a classroom setting because it has supernatural qualities as well as bigger messages that unfold as the story progresses.

10. Stoker, Bram, Nina Auerbach, and David J. Skal. *Dracula*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997. Print.

Jonathan Harker travels to Transylvania and meets the Count Dracula. Little does Jonathan know is that he is much more than a guest. Despite the warnings from the people of the town, Jonathan gets involved a whole lot more than he bargained for. When death strikes there is no one to blame but Dracula and everyone wants Dracula dead.

I think this book is a classic. Everyone knows who Dracula is but not everyone has read his story. This is where the vampire craze began and in order to really appreciate it I think students should see it from the beginning. This is a really good story with a lot of great supernatural qualities that will help students see just where a lot of their favorite novels like *Twilight* started from. They can read this and compare to the newer novels that are still on the rise today.



