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Annotated Bibliography: Supernatural

From a Novel to a Big Screen

The supernatural genre is a fascinating genre that should be further explored by the young adult. The incorporation of supernatural is very popular in television series and movies and many of those hits are derived from novels. Novels are sometimes also written as a companion to a series or movie. Reading the supernatural genre will allow the imagination to explore the supernatural in a different way than visually seeing it on a television.

The supernatural is often incorporated with horror and mystery. When the supernatural is connected with horror it often deals with the paranormal aspect of the genre. This includes ghost, spirits, demonic entities or hauntings. This is the spookier part of the genre which incorporates concepts of the unknown. When supernatural connects with mystery it is not as heavy on the use horror and instead utilizes more suspense.

The novels that I have included in this annotated bibliography are novels that include supernatural elements or are of the supernatural genre. I mainly added books that have a movie/show based off of the story. It is great to read a novel prior to seeing the movie because usually a lot of good parts of novels are left out of the movie. After watching the movie there is a greater appreciation for the creativity that goes into the writing of the novel. Even if the movie is

watched before reading the novel there will be much more to imagine and more of the story to learn.

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

Print.

Clary Fray witnesses an unusual murder committed by strange looking teenagers. The dead body just vanishes with no trace of a murder left behind. The murderers she sees are Shadowhunters, warriors that kill demons. Clary is not supposed to be able to see the Shadowhunters. A demon later attacks Clary and the Shadowhunters want to know why a demon would want to kill this ordinary girl, and why is she able to see them? This novel is the first in a series of six books. (Summarized from summary on <http://www.cassandraclare.com/my-writing/novels/the-mortal-instruments/>.)

I have not read any of the novels in this series but based off of the summary (I read on the author's website), the book uses a lot of supernatural elements. The Shadowhunters are invisible human-angel hybrids. There are also demons, the human-demon crossbreeds (warlocks), vampires, werewolves, and faeries. This novel seems to incorporate so many supernatural beings and it will be interesting to see how the novel combines all of the characters into one story. There are three mortal instruments (sword, mirror and cup) that an angel gave to his children. I do not know what the instruments do but they likely have some supernatural addition to them. Young adults will probably really enjoy the adventure and mystery in this novel.

Garcia, Kami, Margaret Stohl, and David Caplan. *Beautiful Creatures*. New York: Little, Brown, 2009. Print.

Lena Duchannes possess a power that she must decide to use for good or evil, on her sixteenth birthday. Lena moves to a different town and a local boy is instinctively drawn to her. Ethan Wate has been having dreams of the same girl that he does not know. Ethan must know more about this new girl but there is a chance her secret will be exposed.

(Summarized from summery at http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/6304335-beautiful-creatures?from_search=true.)

I have not read this novel yet but it does seem to carry some supernatural elements. The power that Lena has is obviously supernatural and with most magical power, there is good and evil. This could be a good novel for a young adult to read to branch into the supernatural genre. The novel still appears to have content that a young adult can relate to like, making the right decision and falling in love. If they enjoy reading this novel, there are more books in this series to continue reading.

Hinds, Gareth. *Beowulf*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick, 2007. Print.

This is a graphic novel of the original *Beowulf*. It is abridged but still seems to stay close to the original story. The story is of the warrior Beowulf, who is determined to defeat the evil monster Grendel. Beowulf will attack what threatens the safety of kingdom or his

allies, which includes Grendel's mother. This novel is full of great graphics that paint the picture of the story; yet it still has the story written out in boxes next to the graphics.

(Summarized from the summary of the graphic novel at

<http://www.garethhinds.com/beowulf.php>.)

I found this novel listed on the focus box "The Supernatural in YA Fiction" in chapter six of *Literature for Today's Young Adults*. I read the novel in high school but this is the first time hearing of the graphic novel. The supernatural comes up in this graphic novel through the story line and the graphics. Grendel and his mother are supernatural monsters that Beowulf must defeat. Young adults that do not enjoy reading long passages in novels will enjoy the graphic novel. There is less to read and more story told in the graphics.

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

Jack Torrance takes a winter job at the Overlook Hotel which is closed for the season. Jack brings his wife and son along with him to stay at the hotel. The family is isolated in this hotel for a long period of time and no way of leaving due to the weather conditions. Jack's five year old son Danny has a psychic ability called "the shining" and he can sense that something bad will happen during their stay at the Overlook. There have been numerous deaths at the overlook but it still continues to stay open. The hotel takes on a life of its own during the Torrance family's stay. Jack grows mad and dangerous and it is up to his wife and son to try and keep him sane. The hotel wants Danny's shine and will use Jack to get it.

This novel is mainly of the horror genre but there is a lot of supernatural that goes on in the story. The spirits/ghosts and hauntings that are at the hotel is what makes me want to add this to the supernatural list. The hotel also taking a life of its own and being able to make a person go mad is a fascinating use of the supernatural. This may not be a young adult novel but it would still be a great novel for any young adult to read to experience the supernatural story and also enjoy King's craft for writing fiction.

Klause, Annette C. *Blood and Chocolate*. New York: Random House Children's, 2007. Print.

Vivian Gandillon is a beautiful young woman that happens to be a werewolf. She wants a normal life but is expected to live similar to the other werewolves in her pack. She meets and falls in love with a human boy, who just so happens to be fascinated by magic. She wants to tell him that she is a werewolf but it would defy her loyalty to her pack. She does not feel like she belongs to the pack of werewolves or to the human world but she will have to choose one side.

A common supernatural creature is the werewolf and this novel has many of them. Aside from the supernatural creatures, there is also the use of romance and ultimatums. The story included the supernatural process of shifting and becoming a werewolf. Young adults will be able to relate to some issues that Vivian will face, like not fitting in, falling in love, and grieving.

Meyer, Stephenie. *The Host*. New York: Little, Brown and, 2008. Print.

Earth has been invaded by anomalies (“souls”) that can take over the mind and body of a human. Every “soul” will take over a human body causing what little uninhabited humans are left to hide. Melanie Stryder is found and a “soul”, named Wanderer, is planted in her. Melanie fights hard to keep Wanderer from completely taking over her body. She is able to take over her own body with enough time to escape and find shelter with other hidden humans. The battle between Wanderer and Melanie continues and the “soul” starts to yearn for human experiences.

In this novel the supernatural takes a different turn in dealing with the anomalies called souls. This type of creature is much different from the usual vampire, werewolf and fairy that come up in many supernatural novels. This book is great for young adults to experience a different type of supernatural invasion of Earth.

Meyer, Stephenie. *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 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 creature the vampire. This series of books adds a new twist the vampire creature by allowing them to function in the daylight. The vampires are not weakened or killed by the sunlight like other vampire legends. The vampires in *Twilight* sparkle beautifully in the light of the sun; so they avoid being outside on sunny days. The entire saga relates to the supernatural genre because it includes several supernatural elements. There are many vampires in this series of books that have supernatural powers. Some of the abilities include telepathy, precognition, pathokinesis (ability to feel and manipulate other's emotions), visual projection, elemental manipulation and so much more. Aside from the vampire abilities the saga also includes werewolves (another supernatural creature) which are created only to kill vampires. The story of how the werewolf turns incorporates several supernatural elements because it deals with the spirit leaving the body and transforming itself into another creature. I feel like the *Twilight Saga* is a great addition to the supernatural genre because it incorporates so many different supernatural elements. The series carries out a great story that makes a person want to finish it to discover what happens to the characters, and it is also very popular among young adults.

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

Print.

Harry Potter feels unsafe because everyone at Hogwarts thinks that Sirius Black is after him. Sirius Black is a suspected murderer of many muggles, and to have given the location of Harry's parents to Voldemort. Harry wants to enjoy his stay at Hogwarts and uses the Marauders Map to sneak out of the castle. During one of Harry, Hermione and

Ron's sneak outs, the group of friends come face to face with Sirius. It turns out that Sirius is innocent and it was the (supposed to be dead) Peter Pettigrew that committed the murders. Harry and his friends have to find a way to save Sirius from the Dementors.

This is the only book from the *Harry Potter* series that I have read. This novel contains several uses of the supernatural that could make it fit for the supernatural genre.

Hogwarts specifically has several supernatural things going on; the magic/spells and ghosts from paintings that wonder the castle. There are some Animagi which are similar to shape-shifters. The novel puts a spin on the supernatural and makes it more fun and adventurous. This is a great novel for young adults to read, even if they are apprehensive about the supernatural genre.

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

The Lovely Bones, written by Alice Sebold is a novel about a teenager named Susie Salmon and her family's desperate search to discover what happened to their missing daughter. On her way home from school, Susie was lured into an underground fort (that no one but the builder knew existed). The young girl is raped and murdered in the underground hiding place. Her family only knows that she is missing, they have no idea where she might be or if she is alive. The author creates this childlike heaven where the dead characters can indulge in anything they could not while they were alive. Susie is not ready to let go of her life and grieving family and she wants her murderer to be caught. Susie watches her family struggle with her absence and try to accept that she most likely

is dead. (Summarized from a summary of the novel that I read at <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12232938-the-lovely-bones>)

This novel was suggested in chapter six of the *Literature for Today's Young Adults* handout. I recognized it because I have seen the movie and really liked it. I have been wanting to read the novel but have not had the time to get to it. This novel incorporates mystery along with the supernatural. Throughout the novel the father and sister try to solve the mystery of Susie's disappearance. The supernatural elements that come up in this novel would be that barrier of Susie's heaven and real life which allows her to watch her family and her murderer.

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

Print.

Jonathan Harker travels to Transylvania to finish a real estate job with Count Dracula. During his stay at Dracula's castle, Harker realizes that he is a prisoner and recognizes the town's warnings about Dracula. Dracula leaves Transylvania and Harker escapes the castle. Dracula travels the same town that Jonathan's fiancé, Mina, is visiting. It is later discovered that Dracula is preying on Mina's friend Lucy. Lucy is attacked and killed by wolves and later turns into a vampire. Johnathan and a group of others (aware of the situation) commit to find and kill Dracula.

I think that this novel works well with the supernatural genre because it is a very early novel with the use of a vampire. Dracula is the known vampire that is constantly remade in television and movies. Count Dracula is supernatural because he is immortal, very strong, he can shape-shift, has hypnotic power, has no reflection and can turn others into vampires. This vampire has been altered in so many other novels to keep readers interested in the creature that feeds of human blood. Dracula could be great for young adults to read and compare to newer vampire novels.

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