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English 112B

Dr.Warner

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Unit of Study: The Gothic Archetypes in *Dracula* and Young Adult Vampire Novels

Rationale:

Gothic literature and Gothic archetypes have become a major part of pop culture,

specifically, when it comes to young adult literature. Vampire novels are in every bookstore and

are often in the best sellers list, yet they are still not considered works of value when it comes to

literature. I want to show that young adults can learn valuable things from reading these types of

novels and to show how Gothic archetypes can be taught using vampire novels along with other

Gothic texts. There are several types of supernatural romances but I chose vampire novels

because the Gothic canonical work that I will be using is Bram Stoker's *Dracula.* I plan on using

this unit of study to teach Gothic Archetypes and also help students see the different elements

that make up Gothic literature. The archetypes that will be covered are the plot archetypes,

setting archetypes and character archetypes. I have chosen several types of books all ranging

from having strong classical Gothic archetypes to some that have Gothic aspects, but lack the full

archetypal spectrum of characters. I have also included several ways to engage students in the

unit of study by including media, worksheets and discussion topics.

Before the Unit:

Before launching into the unit, I would begin by explaining what exactly Gothic literature

is and what elements make up the Gothic story. Even though the main focus of this unit of story

is the Gothic archetypes, it is still important that students know the fundamentals of the Gothic

story. This can easily be explained through a PowerPoint presentation that explains the elements

of the Gothic story. A very useful online source that gives good examples of Gothic elements is "The Elements of a Gothic Novel" by Robert Harris and also the book *Gothic Horror: A Guide for Students and Readers* by Clive Bloom. Based on these two resources the main elements that should be discussed are:

- The importance of setting.

    o Examples: ruined buildings or decaying atmosphere

- Often have dungeons, and crypts. In modern houses, the basements or attics contribute to most of the action.

- Extreme landscapes, like mountains, forests, and is often accompanied with harsh or strange weather.

    o The metonymy of gloom and horror: Metonymy is a subtype of metaphor, in which something is used to stand for something else. (Like how it is always raining during death or funeral scenes) (Harris)

- Curses or omens

- Magic or supernatural manifestations, one or more of the characters is supernatural

- wilful villain-hero or villain, someone driven by passion

- a curious heroine who is often a damsel in distress

- an unlikely hero, sometimes thought of to be the villain

- terrifying events

- Gothic archetypes ex: Byronic hero, wanderer, damsel in distress etc.

- Is often considered a romanticized form of horror

The Gothic uses the appeal of mystery and suspense. Dracula is a great example of this because it takes place in a gloomy castle and the protagonist's mission is to defeat him. The main villain

is a vampire and, of course, there is a damsel in distress. It also has several of the gothic archetypes which will help lead into the discussion of what are the archetypes and how do they contribute to the story. Once you have explained what Gothic literature is and what elements go into a Gothic novel, you will be able to begin the unit of study.

Launching the Unit:

Since the main focus of the unit is to show the importance of Gothic literature and how vampire novels are a form of Gothic literature, I feel the best way to show this is through a short clip to address how current pop culture represents the vampire folklore. You can achieve this several ways. I chose to show a YouTube clip title "How Twilight Should Have Ended" which shows a comical alternative ending to the famous vampire franchise. Showing this video will not only lighten the mood but it will also address the fact that most modern vampire novels are not taken seriously as form of literature, let alone, Gothic literature. After showing the video I would have the class read the article, "Hopelessly Devoted: What Twilight Reveals about Love and Obsession" by Candence Malheit Robillard which discusses the different reasons that vampire novels, such as *Twilight,* have such a huge impact on young adults. This will help set the tone and hopefully get everyone in a more open minded frame of mind. I would also put some major questions on the board such as "What is Gothic Literature?" and "How has Gothic literature changed since *Dracula*?" these questions can be used as guiding points throughout the unit.

The next thing would be to introduce the centerpiece book, *Dracula*, and have the students read the book. The first thing that needs to be mentioned is how Dracula is Gothic Literature and you can tie it in to modern time by explaining how much of an impact it had when it first came out. It romanticize the horror genre and that is what gives it its appeal, much like how vampire novels today have such a huge cult following. Once the students have finished

reading the book, it is time to explain the different archetypes within the story. You can do this as a class or have them do it individually. Appendix A is a worksheet, that is similar to one I found from high school teacher Bethen Jones from Marblehead schools, which will help the students keep track of the different characters in the novel and also assign each of them an archetype. They must each give examples of traits or plot development that contributes to the archetype they have given each character. The easiest way to do this is by presenting them a list of the most common archetypes found in Gothic literature, or any literature, such as the following list which is shortened list provided by the website ahealy.diplomaplus.net :

<div align="center">Character Archetypes:</div>

1. The Mentor – Mentors are the teachers in literature who counsel other characters in the story. They are very wise and have often faced evil many times before. They show examples, sometimes magical, to teach the initiate skills and information.
2. Loyal Companions/Sidekicks – These loyal companions are there to protect the hero at all costs. They usually have their own reasons for joining a specific quest. They are willing to face hardships, dangers and death either because they believe in the hero, or the ultimate cause.
3. The Seductress/ Femme Fatale – Beautiful, female character always gets her man. The stunning beauty and her ability to manipulate men can cause a hero to fall into a trap. Sometimes this character is just evil, but most of the time this woman has had to use this seduction to get ahead or survive.
4. Vampire/Villain- a tyrant, recluse. Obsessed with power. He/she may have started their journey with good intentions or may have been cursed, but now they only want power and control and destroy anyone who gets in their way. Many have a two-faced quality sending others to do their dirty-work, or tricking people into doing their bidding.
5. The Matriarch/Patriarch – This mother/ father is the leader of the family. The dark side of this archetype is controlling, sometimes annoying and never sees his/her children as quite good enough. The good side of this archetype is often loving, supportive and strong. Willing to do anything for the family.
6. The Byronic Hero- has some hero qualities but is often confused for the bad guy. Have several moral dilemmas. Bad Boy image that may or not actually be bad. Arrogant and rude but with a tender side.
7. The Damsel in Distress –an archetype with two distinct points of view, the damsel in distress may be a true victim who cannot save herself. She may be an idiot who is too stupid or full of herself to be of any importance. She is vulnerable and must be saved by the hero. Used as a trap most of the time.

8. The Prophet– The prophet serves as a way to warn heroes of the dangers to come. Many prophets get ignored and the heroes are always sorry about it later. Sometimes predicts the future.
9. Scholar- a bright young man/woman who studies endlessly. Often a doctor or some other high profession. Usually helps in defeating the bad guy but often dies in the process. (Think Milton from "the Walking Dead")
10. Wanderer- this character often wanders trying to find his place in the world. Sometimes a neutral but can also turn into the main protagonist.

Setting Archetypes:

1. The Castle/Gothic Mansion – This setting can symbolize many things. The castle is a huge building bustling with life and high ideals back in its heyday but now may lie in ruins. The castle you get in a Gothic story often includes a run-down, gloomy, nearly empty, gothic mansion. The owner of the neglected estate is usually the descendent of a dying royal bloodline or is some form of tyrant. This is a common setting for creepier stories who have characters with family "secrets" or who are cursed.

2. The Small Town – Everyone knows and judges everyone else. Is often gloomy but can have some good representations. Small towns in literature are notorious for expecting everyone to act the same. Small towns usually persecute, or run off characters that are different or "sinners". The small town often symbolizes intolerance or ignorance and the main character usually hates it here. (Think "Forks" in twilight)

3. The Forest/Wilderness – The thick forest usually represented a dangerous world full of beasts and evil. The forest, or sometimes the jungle, is a wild and uncontrolled place. The forest, as a setting, has a rich history of characters who find themselves leading a solitary life such as Dracula. Christian values depict the forest as where sinners loose themselves in the "wilderness" or stray from the "path" of righteousness which is why sinners go there for refuge.

Plot Archetypes:

1. The Battle of Good vs. Evil –pretty self-explanatory. Usually good triumphs but not always in Gothic stories.
2. The Fall – A fall is usually accompanied by either a redemption or a horrible tragedy.
3. Cursed- A curse or spell has befallen the hero or a loved one

(https://ahealy.diplomaplus.net/file/233894) *modified version of list above*

Expanding the Unit:

Once students have finished reading Dracula, the next step would be solidifying their understanding of Gothic literature by having them choose another vampire novel and make them try and find the archetypes in those novels. Here are some other vampire novels the can use:

Twilight Series by Stephenie Meyer

The Vampire Diaries by L. J. Smith

House of Night by P.C. Cast

Vampire Academy by Richelle Mead

Morganville Vampire Series by Rachel Caine

Vladimir Tod series by Heather Brewer

Cirque du Freak series by Darren Shan

Vampire High by Douglas Rees

Evernight series by Claudia Gray

Etc.…

There are many more vampire books out there but these have solid Gothic elements. Students should feel free to suggest other books. Note: Not all of the vampire books out there have classic Gothic elements but most do. For those that don't you can always have students describe how the Gothic tradition has changed and maybe add new elements that they feel should be included. When students finish reading their books they can fill out the worksheet labeled Appendix B which will help them identify the different aspects of Gothic Elements that their books had.

Once students have a basic understanding of the different Gothic elements that are in vampire novels, you can begin to go more in depth on some of the archetypes. Some of them are easily defined but others are specific and sometimes require further explanation. The gothic archetype that I chose to go in depth with was the archetype of the Byronic hero which is a type that is mostly seen in only romantic and Gothic literature. The best way to start students on this subject is by using examples of Byronic heroes in literature and pop culture. In Appendix C you will find a worksheet that provides different examples of Byronic Heroes and also the traits that they have. Students should come up with their own example of a Byronic hero and give examples on why the character they chose is considered a Byronic hero. They can use pop culture examples or examples from the books that they read. When they are finished they can present their examples to the class.

Finishing the Unit:

By this time, students should know the main archetypes that make up the Gothic story. They should also have an understanding that modern Gothic vampire stories may differ greatly in content to old vampire stories but they still have plenty of the Gothic elements. To end the unit I would have a class discussion on what the class thinks current vampire novels lack compared to the canonical piece *Dracula*. Some discussion questions that you could use are:

- What are some of the major differences between young adult Gothic novels and tradition Gothic novels?
- What are the similarities?
- Did you prefer the YA novel that you read or Dracula? Why?
- How are vampires depicted in Dracula? How are they depicted in pop culture?

- Overall do you think Gothic archetypes have changed? Why or Why Not?

The Gothic story is often just glazed over in high school classrooms even though it is one of the biggest genres in Young Adult Literature. I hope that this unit of study will help show the significance of the genre and will connect more students to reading and finding the value of reading.

Appendix A

Dracula Archetypes

For each of the characters, note the following: archetype; major plot moments that show the archetype; importance to the plot and interactions with other characters. Some characters may fit into more than one archetype.

Count Dracula *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Jonathan Harker *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Mina Murray/Harker *Archetype:*	1. 2.

	3.
Dr. John Seward *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Arthur Holmwood/ **Lord Godalming** *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Abraham Van Helsing *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Lucy Westenra *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.

Renfield *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.
Three vampire sisters *Archetype:*	1. 2. 3.

Appendix B

Gothic Archetypes in _____by _____

Setting Archetypes	Character archetypes
What is the setting? How does the setting contribute to the Gothic theme of the novel?	Examples: 1. 2. 3.
Pick three characters. What are their archetypes? Give examples from the text to show the archetypes.	Examples: 1. 2. 3.

Plot Archetype
What is the plot archetype? Give examples from the text to support this.

Appendix C

Traits of a Byronic Hero (May have all or only a few of these traits):

- Often Arrogant, disrespectful with a sense of privilege
- Cunning and intelligent
- Emotionally conflicted, very moody
- Does not agree with social institutions and norms
- Troubled past (Bad Boy)
- Hates the world
- Mysterious yet charismatic
- Rebellious (think James Dean)
- Seductive or sexually attractive
- introspective
- Socially and sexually dominant
- Sophisticated and educated (could be street or book smart)
- An exile or outcast
- Problem with authority

Examples of the Byronic Hero

Literature

Character	Book/Series	Author
Artemis Fowl II	Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer
Edward Cullen	Twilight	Stephenie Meyer
Erik	The Phantom The Phantom of the Opera	Gaston Leroux
Grendel	Beowulf	Anonymous
Lestat	Interview with a Vampire	Anne Rice
Lucifer	Paradise Lost	John Milton
Severus Snape	Harry Potter series	J. K. Rowling

Comics or Film

Character	Movie/Comic Book
Anakin Skywalker	Star Wars series
Angel	Buffy the Vampire Slayer
Batman	Batman
Captain Jack Sparrow	Pirates of the Caribbean trilogy
Eric Draven	The Crow
Q	Star Trek
Spiderman	Spiderman

You may notice that some of these "Heroes" have some villainous traits. Most Byronic heroes have some darkness to them and are often confused as villains. Choose someone from the list and explain why they are a Byronic Hero. You may also use another character from books, movies or television but be ready to explain why they are a Byronic hero. **Note: the Byronic hero is usually an archetype reserved for males. Can you think of any female characters that might fit the Byronic hero archetype?**

Byronic Hero:_____ **from** _____

Traits:

Examples:

Original source:

http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1148/ByronicExamples.pdf

Works Consulted

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Stevens, David. *The Gothic Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000. Print.

Stoker, Bram, and Tudor Humphries. *Dracula*. New York: DK Pub. 1997. Print.

Examples of Byronic Heroes:
[PDF]Website:http://www.readwritethink.org/files/resources/lesson_images/lesson1148/Byronic Examples.pdf
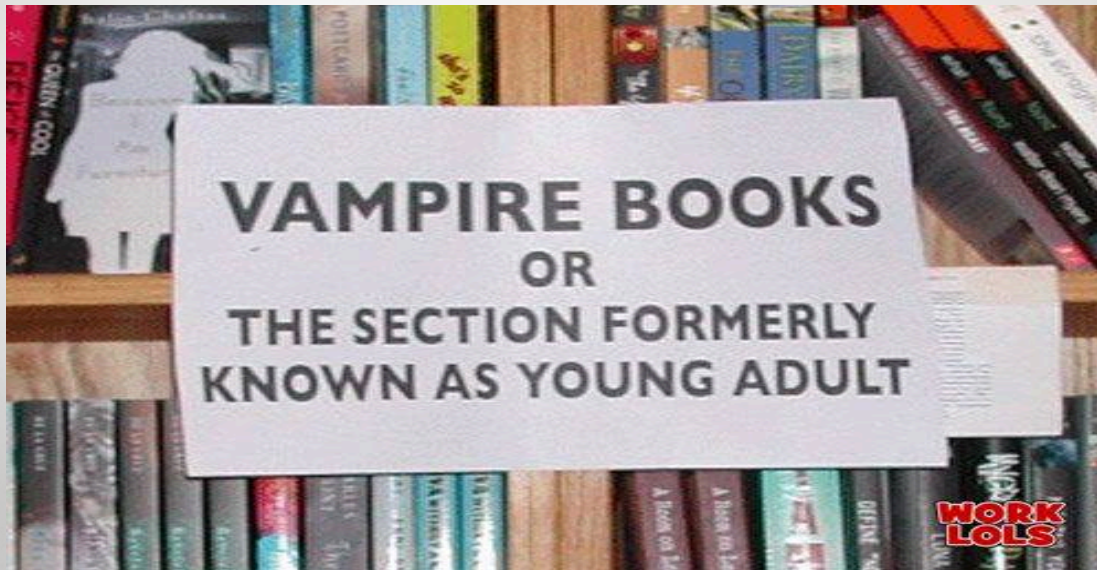
Examples of Archetypes [Word] Website:https://ahealy.diplomaplus.net/file/233894

GOTHIC ARCHETYPES: DRACULA AND VAMPIRE NOVELS

Adilene Rogers

RATIONALE:

VAMPIRE BOOKS
OR
THE SECTION FORMERLY
KNOWN AS YOUNG ADULT

WORK
LOLS

BEFORE THE UNIT:
ELEMENTS OF THE GOTHIC NOVEL

- ❖ The importance of setting. Setting Archetypes

- ❖ Magic or supernatural manifestations, one or more of the characters is supernatural

- ❖ wilful villain-hero or villain, someone driven by passion

- ❖ a curious heroine who is often a damsel in distress

- ❖ an unlikely hero, sometimes thought of to be the villain

- ❖ terrifying events ; Plot Archetypes such Good vs. Evil

- ❖ Gothic character archetypes ex: Byronic hero, wanderer, damsel in distress etc.

- ❖ Is often considered a romanticized form of horror

LAUNCHING THE UNIT

❖ How Twilight Should Have Ended….

❖ "Hopelessly Devoted: What Twilight Reveals about Love and Obsession" by Candence Malheit Robillard

❖ Explaining the Different Archetypes:

- Setting
- Plot
- Characters
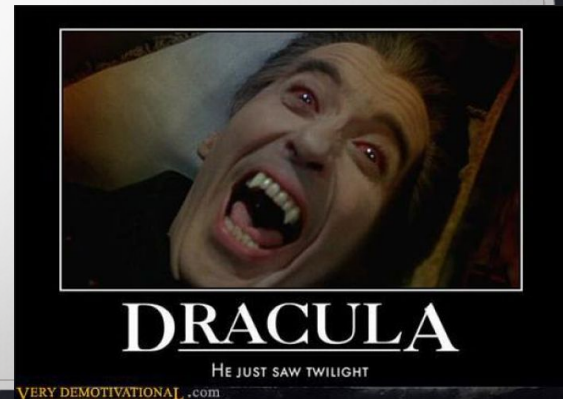
CENTERPIECE

❖ Dracula by Bram Stoker

❖ Setting Archetypes: Spooky Castle

❖ Plot Archetype: good Vs. Evil

❖ Appendix A

❖ Character Archetypes included in book
- Vampire/Villain-Dracula
- Mentor-Van Helsing
- Damsel in distress- Mina/Lucy
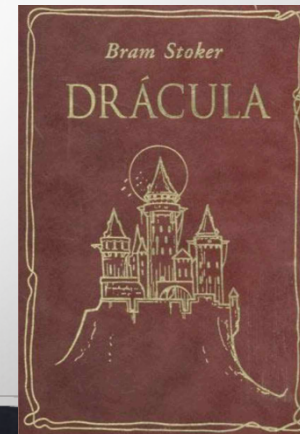
GETTING STUDENTS ENGAGED

❖ Have them pick a current YA vampire novel

❖ Use Appendix B to help them identify the different Gothic archetypes in the books they have chosen

❖ This is used as a general overview, a more in depth analysis of Gothic archetypes would take more time however you can expand on character archetypes.

BYRONIC HERO

❖ This will help students understand one of the most important elements or archetype that Gothic literature has.

❖ Explain the Byronic hero

❖ Use Appendix C

❖ Have them present in class

Major characteristics of a Byronic hero:

- Rebellious   - Selfish
- Passionate   - Sensitive
- Ambitious   - Strong
- Proud   - Arrogant
- Above/beyond societal norms

Examples include:
        Heathcliff (Wuthering Heights)
    Rochester (Jane Eyre)
        Captain Ahab (Moby Dick)
Modern vampires (such as Anne Rice's Lestat)
        Modern day Batman

FINISHING THE UNIT

❖ Class discussion:

- What are some of the major differences between young adult Gothic novels and tradition Gothic novels?

- What are the similarities?

- Did you prefer the YA novel that you read or Dracula? Why?

- How are vampires depicted in Dracula? How are they depicted in pop culture?

- Overall do you think Gothic archetypes have changed? Why or Why Not?