

Essay Ideas

1. Compare Lucy and Mina's encounter with Dracula. Cite incidents from the story to illustrate Lucy and Mina's similarities and differences. Consider the following:
 - a. Each woman's vulnerability to Dracula and why he was able to infect them.
 - b. The extent to which the men in the story are able to try and help each woman fight Dracula's power.
 - c. The extent to which each woman is able to participate in efforts to rid herself of Dracula's influence.
 - d. Whether or not Mina and Lucy recognize that they are under Dracula's power.
2. Discuss Renfield's role in the novel. In your essay cite incidents from the story to answer the following questions.
 - a. What theme(s) does Renfield's character help to support?
 - b. In what way does Renfield's behavior parallel that of Dracula?
 - c. To what extent does Dracula have power over Renfield? Why does Dracula destroy Renfield?
 - d. What is Renfield's connection to Mina?
 - e. Why is Dr. Seward fascinated with Renfield and in what sense does Renfield tempt Dr. Seward to be evil?
3. One of the thematic motifs in this story is the importance of Christian values and symbols to defeat Dracula. Define the values Stoker believes are useful in combating evil. Discuss which characters possess these values and how, using Christian symbols, these values help the protagonists defeat evil.
4. Discuss Dracula's death and whether you believe the manner of his death is consistent with earlier incidents from the story concerning vampire deaths and powers.
5. Select the character you believe to be the MOST responsible for Dracula's destruction. Cite incidents from the story to support your answer.
6. Discuss whether or not in your opinion the episodic structure of this novel adds or detracts from the story. Consider the following:
 - How well does the story maintain the reader's interest?
 - Is the plot line believable?
 - Is the plot easy to follow?
 - Does the reader understand character(s) motivation?