



Key Vocabulary: Dracula by Bram Stoker

Vocabulary Word	Definition	Context
Abhorrent	Causing disgust or hatred	"I was conscious of the presence of the Count, and of his being as if lapped in a storm of fury. As my eyes opened involuntarily I saw his strong hand grasp the slender neck of the fair woman and with giant's power draw it back, the blue eyes transformed with fury, the white teeth champing with rage, and the fair cheeks blazing red with passion. But the Count! Never did I imagine such wrath and fury, even to the demons of the pit. His eyes were positively blazing, the red light in them was lurid, as if the flames of hell fire blazed behind them; his face was deathly pale, and the lines of it were hard like drawn wires; the thick eyebrows that met over the nose now seemed like a heaving bar of white-hot metal;..."
Amenable	Open and responsive to suggestion; easily persuaded or controlled	"Hitherto I had noticed the backs of his hands as they lay on his knees in the firelight, and they had seemed rather white and fine. But seeing them now close to me, I could not but notice that they were rather coarse, broad, with squat fingers. Strange to say, there were hairs in the centre of the palm. The nails were long and fine, and cut to a sharp point. As the Count leaned over me and his hands touched me I could not repress a shudder. It may have been that his breath was rank, but a horrible feeling of nausea came over me, which, do what I would, I could not conceal."
Apparition	A ghost or ghostlike image of a person	"The appearance of the three figures standing there watching me was as if, in one instant, the whole castle had been lost and gone—there were only the ruins of an old abbey to be seen. I felt that I must scream or die, and, indescribably, I felt that my tongue was tied."
Ardent	Enthusiastic or passionate	"I cannot say why, but there was an ease and a smile on the face which seemed to give assurance that it was bent on an errand of goodwill. The sight reminded me of the day when I was asked if I would play to please him—and of my omnious answer. I drew back and watched carefully, and saw the whole man emerge. A man of medium height, strongly built, with his shoulders set back over a broad, deep chest and a neck well balanced on the trunk as the head is on the neck. The poise of the head strikes me at once as indicative of thought and power. The head is noble, well-shaped, and massive, the forehead broad and fine. The eyebrows are bushy, almost meeting over the nose, and the mouth is fixed and rather cruel-looking, with peculiarly sharp white teeth."
Aversion	A strong dislike or disinclination	"The Count halted, putting down my bags, closed the door, and crossing the room, opened another door, which led into a small octagonal room lit by a single lamp, and seemingly without a window of any sort. There was an iron



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		door, which was closed; the set of the key was fresh; and the lock hung inwards. I was afraid to tackle it, lest I should hurt myself, so had to content myself with simply examining the hinges, but found that they were of recent mending, and
Aversion	A strong dislike or disinclination	"I have an aversion to eating meat."
Bestial	Resembling a beast or animals in quality or behavior	"The murderer had a bestial look in his eyes."
Capitulate	Cease to resist an opponent or demand	"After a long struggle, he finally capitulated to his opponent's demands."
Cloying	Disgustingly or excessively sweet or sentimental	"The cloying scent of the flowers overwhelmed her senses."
Conspicuous	Standing out so as to be clearly visible	"The new building was conspicuous against the skyline."
Crypt	An underground room or vault beneath a church, used as a chapel or burial place	"The crypt of the cathedral was dimly lit and eerie."
Demur	Raise doubts or objections or show reluctance	"She demurred at the suggestion, stating her reasons clearly."
Desolate	Deserted of people and in a state of bleak and dismal emptiness	"The desolate landscape was barren and uninhabitable."
Diabolical	Belonging to or so evil as to recall the Devil	"The villain's diabolical plan was revealed in the final scene."
Disconcert	Disturb the composure of; unsettle	"The sudden noise disconcerted him, causing him to lose his balance."
Disdain	The feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect	"He felt nothing but disdain for his former friend."
Disquieting	Inducing feelings of anxiety or worry	"The disquieting news sent shockwaves throughout the community."
Eerie	Strange and frightening	"The old abandoned house had an eerie atmosphere."
Enigmatic	Difficult to interpret or understand; mysterious	"The enigmatic stranger left without explanation, leaving us all puzzled."
Entreaty	An earnest or humble request	"She made an entreaty for help, hoping someone would hear her plea."
Esoteric	Intended for or likely to be understood by only a small number of people with a specialized knowledge or interest	"The subject matter was esoteric, and only a handful of people in the room could follow the discussion."
Excruciating	Intensely painful	"The excruciating pain in his leg made it difficult to walk."
Furtive	Attempting to avoid notice or attention, typically because of guilt or a belief that discovery would lead to trouble	"He cast a furtive glance in her direction, hoping she wouldn't see him."
Gargantuan	Enormous	"The gargantuan whale dwarfed the boat beside it."
Gothic	Relating to a style of fiction characterized by gloom and mystery	"The novel had a gothic feel, with its dark settings and haunting atmosphere."
Hysteria	a state of uncontrollable emotion, often manifesting as anxiety or panic	"The novel is set during the Victorian era, when hysteria was a commonly diagnosed condition among women."
Imminent	about to happen; likely to occur at any moment	"The characters are constantly aware of the imminent danger posed by Dracula's presence."
Implore	to beg earnestly or desperately for something	"Jonathan Harker implores his captors to release him from Dracula's castle, but they refuse to listen to him."
Inevitable	certain to happen; unavoidable	"The novel builds a sense of inevitability as the characters gradually realize that they are unable to defeat Dracula."



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Infidel	a person who does not believe in religion or who adheres to a religion other than one's own	"The novel portrays Dracula as an infidel, since he rejects Christianity and embraces a demonic form of immortality."
Loathe	to feel intense dislike or disgust for someone or something	"Dracula's victims often loathe him, but are unable to resist his supernatural powers."
Malevolent	having or showing a wish to do evil to others	"Dracula is depicted as a malevolent force, intent on spreading death and destruction wherever he goes."
Mystic	a person who seeks by contemplation and self-surrender to obtain unity with or absorption into the Deity or the absolute, or who believes in the spiritual apprehension of truths that are beyond the intellect	"The novel explores themes of mysticism and the supernatural, with characters grappling with the existence of vampires and other paranormal phenomena."
Nocturnal	done, occurring, or active at night	"Dracula is a nocturnal creature, who is most active during the nighttime hours."
Ominous	giving the impression that something bad or unpleasant is going to happen; threatening; inauspicious	"The novel creates an ominous atmosphere from the very beginning, with its portrayal of the desolate and foreboding landscape of Transylvania."
Perceive	to become aware or conscious of something through the senses	"The characters in the novel gradually begin to perceive the true nature of Dracula's evil intentions."
Perpetual	never ending or changing; occurring repeatedly	"Dracula's immortality means that he is in a perpetual state of existence, able to live on indefinitely."
Plight	a dangerous, difficult, or otherwise unfortunate situation	"The characters in the novel find themselves in a desperate plight as they struggle to fend off Dracula's attacks."
Profane	relating or devoted to that which is not sacred or biblical; secular rather than religious	"The novel explores the tension between the sacred and the profane, with characters grappling with issues of faith and morality."
Prostrate	lying stretched out on the ground with one's face downward	"In the novel, characters are often prostrate with fear in the face of Dracula's power."
Repugnance	Intense disgust	"A feeling of repugnance washed over her as she gazed upon the decaying corpse."
Solicitor	Lawyer who handles legal matters	"The solicitor informed the family of their rights regarding the inheritance."
Transylvania	Region in central Romania	"The Count was said to have come from Transylvania, although his true origins were shrouded in mystery."
Undead	Dead person who has been brought back to life	"The villagers were terrified of the undead creatures that roamed the countryside at night."
Vampire	Mythical creature that feeds on blood	"The young woman was lured into the vampire's lair, where she was never seen again."
Vial	Small container used for holding liquid	"The Count carefully poured the contents of the vial into the goblet, stirring it gently before offering it to his guest."



Key Vocabulary: Dracula by Bram Stoker

Viscous	Thick and sticky	"The black, viscous liquid oozed slowly out of the wound, staining the white sheets."
Werewolf	Mythical creature that transforms from human to wolf	"The villagers warned the travellers to stay inside during the full moon, when the werewolf was said to be on the prowl."
Xenophobia	Fear or hatred of foreigners	"The Count's xenophobia was well known, as he refused to hire any servants who were not from his homeland."
Yearning	Strong desire or longing	"Mina's heart was filled with yearning as she gazed at the portrait of her beloved Jonathan."
Zest	Enthusiasm or excitement	"The Count approached the task with great zest, eager to complete his mission and claim his prize."

Historical and political context of the book

"Dracula" was published in 1897, during the Victorian era in England. At that time, Britain was one of the world's most powerful and prosperous nations, with a vast empire that spanned the globe. The Victorian era was marked by a strict moral code and a fascination with science, technology, and progress.

However, the late 19th century was also a time of great anxiety and uncertainty in Europe. Rapid industrialisation and urbanisation had led to overcrowding and poverty in many cities, and political tensions were high as various nations jostled for power and influence.

In addition, the 19th century saw a renewed interest in supernatural and mystical themes, as people grappled with the mysteries of the universe and the unknown. This fascination with the occult was reflected in popular literature of the time, including horror stories like "Dracula."

In terms of political context, "Dracula" was written at a time when the British Empire was expanding and exerting its influence around the world. The novel can be seen as a reflection of the fears and anxieties of the British people



Key Vocabulary: Dracula by Bram Stoker

about the potential threats posed by other cultures and societies. This is particularly evident in the portrayal of the Eastern European character of Count Dracula, who is depicted as a dangerous outsider seeking to infiltrate and corrupt English society.

Overall, the historical and political context of "Dracula" is characterized by a mixture of progress and anxiety, as the world grappled with the challenges of modernity and the unknown.