



Dracula



*Retold from the Bram Stoker original
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STERLING CHILDREN'S BOOKS
New York

What Do *You* Think? Questions for Discussion



Have you ever been around a toddler who keeps asking the question “Why?” Does your teacher call on you in class with questions from your homework? Do your parents ask you questions about your day at the dinner table? We are always surrounded by questions that need a specific response. But is it possible to have a question with no right answer?

The following questions are about the book you just read. But this is not a quiz! They are designed to help you look at the people, places,

and events in the story from different angles. These questions do not have specific answers. Instead, they might make you think of the story in a completely new way.

Think carefully about each question and enjoy discovering more about this classic story.

1. As Jonathan sets off for the castle, all of the townspeople seem extremely scared. Why do you think this is? What are you afraid of?

2. Why do you think Dracula was so angry to find Jonathan with a mirror? Have you ever made someone angry without knowing why?

3. When Jonathan realizes what a monster Dracula is, he tries to kill him. Why do you think he is unable to go through with it? What would you have done in his place?

4. Renfield says that he eats bugs because they are alive and eating them gives that life to him. Do you believe this? What is the strangest thing you've ever eaten?

5. Why do you suppose Mina is so concerned about Lucy's sleepwalking? Have you ever walked in your sleep? Do you know anyone who has?

6. Van Helsing says that the key to understanding Lucy's illness is "to believe in the very things you cannot." What do you think he means? Have you ever believed something even though it was difficult to accept as true?

7. Van Helsing says that the only way to kill Lucy is to drive a stake through her heart. Why do you think Arthur insists on doing it himself? Have you heard of any other ways to kill a vampire?

8. Why do the men want to keep Mina out of the hunt for Dracula? Do you agree with their reasons? Have you ever been told that you couldn't take part in something?

9. Dracula seems certain that no one can beat him. Why do you think this is? Have you ever known anyone like him?

10. Were you surprised that Jonathan and Mina returned to Transylvania after killing Dracula? Where is the scariest place you've ever been? Would you go back?