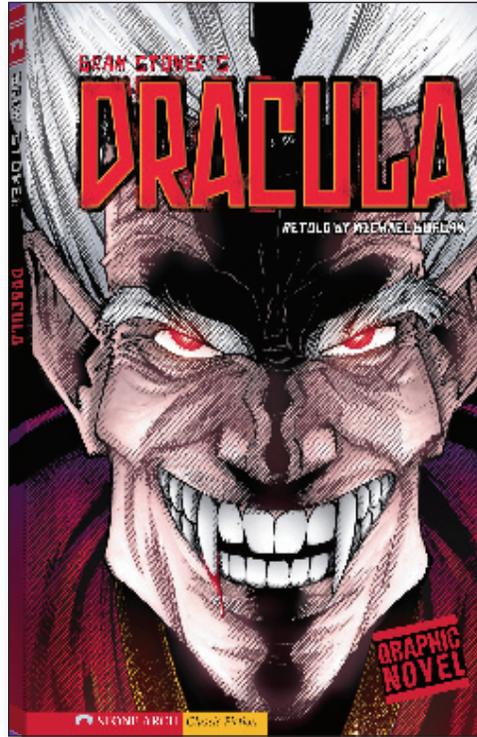




READER'S THEATER



Bram Stoker's Dracula retold by Michael Borgan

Characters: **Narrator 1**
 Narrator 2
 Man
 Woman
 Jonathan Harker
 Count Dracula

Genre: **Classic Fiction**

Ages: **10-15**

Dracula page 1

- Narrator 1:** On a dark and gloomy night, Jonathan Harker, a lawyer from London, journeyed by carriage through the mysterious mountains of Transylvania in Eastern Europe.
- Narrator 2:** Jonathan had been sent by his company to a strange address: Castle Dracula.
- Narrator 1:** A man and woman also traveling in the carriage reacted with shock and fear when Jonathan revealed his destination.
- Jonathan:** I am on my way to meet with a local man. He is moving to England and needs help finding a home. His name is Count Dracula.
- Woman:** Dracula?!
- Man:** Oh dear sir, I beg you not to go! Evil things await all who enter Castle Dracula.
- Jonathan:** I cannot refuse. Count Dracula has hired my company to help him and I must go.
- Woman:** If you have no other choice, at least take this and wear it.
- Man:** Yes, it will provide the protection you need.
- Narrator 2:** Confused and concerned, Jonathan took the item from the couple. It was a small crucifix, or cross, dangling from a chain. Jonathan placed it around his neck.
- Narrator 1:** At the next stop, the frightened couple exited the carriage quickly. Jonathan was left to continue his journey to the castle alone.
- Count Dracula:**
(howling like a wolf) Hooooooooowl!
- Narrator 2:** Soon, surrounded by the gloomy shadows of the castle, Jonathan stood before the entrance and nervously knocked.
- Narrator 1:** The door opened with a loud creak. Jonathan saw the face of Count Dracula appear from behind the door. The glow from a lantern shined on his pale skin.

Dracula page 2

- Count Dracula:** You must be Mr. Harker. I am Count Dracula. Welcome to my home. I expect you are tired and hungry from your journey. I have prepared food and a bed for you.
- Narrator 2:** As the Count showed him to his room, Jonathan dismissed his earlier concerns about the Count.
- Jonathan:** He might be a bit odd, but he is certainly not dangerous.
- Narrator 1:** The next morning, Jonathan rose before dawn. As he was shaving, a voice startled him, causing him to nick himself with his razor blade.
- Count Dracula:** Mr. Harker?
- Jonathan:** Ouch! Count! You startled me. I didn't see you in the mirror.
- Count Dracula:** You seem to be bleeding, Mr. Harker. You should be more careful.
- Narrator 2:** Count Dracula's outstretched hand moved toward the wound on Jonathan's cheek.
- Narrator 1:** As his hand slid down Jonathan's cheek and closer to his neck . . .
- Count Dracula:** AH! No!!!
- Narrator 2:** Count Dracula had accidentally touched the cross hanging from Jonathan's neck. The metal seemed to burn the Count's fingers.
- Narrator 1:** The warnings from the frightened couple in the carriage rang in Jonathan's head. He began to wonder. Was the Count someone to be feared? Did the crucifix save him from an unknown evil? Why was Count Dracula sneaking around the castle at such an early hour?
- Narrator 2:** Jonathan's fears grew as he explored the castle halls. Every door was locked and not a single servant could be found in the huge building.
- Jonathan:** How can there be no servants in a castle this big? Am I all alone with the Count?

Dracula page 3

Narrator 1:

He raced toward the doors leading outside and found them locked as well. In a panic Jonathan returned to his room.

Jonathan:

Why is he keeping me here?

Narrator 2:

Looking out the window of his room, Jonathan saw something unbelievable.

Jonathan:

What is that? It's the Count! He's climbing down the wall as if he were an insect, or a lizard. How is it possible? This is madness. I have to get out of here before it's too late!

Narrator 1:

Will Jonathan escape from Castle Dracula or will he suffer the evil he was warned about? And is the castle really empty, or does it hold a terrible secret?

Narrator 2:

Read the rest of the story to uncover the truth about Count Dracula and his real plans for Mr. Jonathan Harker.

THE END