



7.4 Knowledge Organiser: Dracula Playscript

Characters & Story

- **Count Dracula:** antagonist, vampire with supernatural power
- **Johnathan Harker:** protagonist, solicitor who visits Dracula's castle
- **Mina Harker:** Johnathan's fiancée
- **Lucy Westenra:** friend of Mina; becomes a victim of Dracula
- **Van Helsing:** A doctor and vampire hunter; helps defeat Dracula
- **Renfield:** A patient of Dr Seward
- **Seward:** Doctor at a sanatorium; helps defeat Dracula



Synopsis: Count Dracula tries to move from Transylvania to England in pursuit of new blood. Professor Abraham Van Helsing and his group battle to prevent him from spreading the curse of the vampire.

Playscripts

Character Names:
In the margin and have a colon after

Stage Directions:
In brackets if they are about how to say a line. Start a new line for each character that speaks.

The Gothic

Fear

Gloom

Horror

Death



Key Vocabulary: Terms and Definitions

Script	Written text of a play, film or broadcast
Prologue	Separate introductory section of a play
Dialogue	Conversation between two or more people
Monologue	Long speech by one character in a play or film
Stage direction	Instruction in text of a play showing movement, position, tone or sound effects and lighting
Dramatic irony	When an audience knows more than character on stage
Symbolism	Using symbols to represent ideas
Foreshadowing	A warning or indication of something coming
Duality	Having two parts, often with opposite meanings
Supernatural	Something that cannot be explained by laws of nature

Themes

Mortality and Immortality	Human quest for eternal life and consequences of playing with boundaries of life and death
Good vs Evil	Struggle between Dracula and the protagonists
Fear and Superstition	Exploration of the fear of the unknown and supernatural
Love and Sacrifice	Relationships between characters

Historical/Cultural Context

- Bram Stoker, from Ireland, wrote the novel *Dracula* in 1897
- *Dracula* is an archetypal example of the Gothic genre
- Victorian Era (1837-1901): significant advancements in science, technology, and industry reflected in the character of Van Helsing
- Strict social hierarchies and manners reflected in female characters such as Mina and Lucy
- Fascination with the macabre (causing a fear of death), spiritualism and the occult mixed with superstition, folklore, & vampire mythology
- Explores the social anxieties of Victorian society
- Prince Vlad III of Wallachia (1431 to 1476): aka Vlad The Impaler of Romania was a bloodthirsty prince with a penchant (liking) for impaling enemies