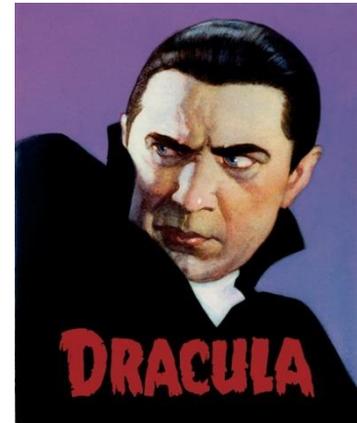


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Character #17 Count Dracula

Dracula is an **1897 Gothic novel** by Irish author **Bram Stoker**. The novel centers on the Romanian Count's attempt to move to England on the lookout for fresh blood, and of the battle between Dracula and **Jonathan Harker** (helped by **Prof. Abraham Van Helsing**) to wrestle Jonathan's fiancée **Mina** from the Count's clutches. Stoker drew inspiration for his wicked character from the historical figure of **Prince Vlad III Dracula of Wallachia**. During his reign (1456–1462) this Prince had earned the nickname of "**Vlad the Impaler**" on account of the killing of numerous people ranging from political rivals to criminals and war captives, mainly by impaling. After his death, Vlad III would be looked up to as a folk hero by Romanians for driving off the invading **Ottoman Turks** before being transformed into a gory folk tale featuring such supernatural elements as **long fangs**, **flying skills** and other **dark superpowers**. Bram Stoker 'imported' this Romanian legend to Western Europe and enriched it with further dark details from other traditions and legends, including Irish folklore – thus, the legend of **Dracula the Vampire** came into being to be turned into one of the most popular legends ever by the later **movie industry**.



Click on the Pictures for two **VIDEOS** on Dracula