Bram Stoker

Read the glossary and choose the right option

- Array: variety
- Carve out: achieve or gain
- Churn sth out: produce large amounts of something quickly
- Constituency: a group or body that patronizes, supports, or offers representation
- Excise: cut out
- Footing: established position
- Garner: earn
- Juggle: try to do many things at the same time
- Land: get a very good thing
- Pen: write
- Pivotal: vitally important
- Propel: push
- Prowess: extraordinary ability
- Stroke: a serious medical condition in the brain that makes you suddenly unable to move part of your body



Irish writer Bram Stoker is best known for authoring the classic 19th-century horror novel 'Dracula.'

Who Was Bram Stoker?

Born in Ireland in 1847, Bram Stoker studied mathematics at Dublin's Trinity College and embarked on his longtime role as an assistant to actor Sir Henry Irving in the 1870s. He also began _____ out a second career as a writer, publishing his first novel, *The Primrose Path,* in 1875. Stoker published his most famous work, *Dracula*, in 1897, though he died before the fictional vampire would achieve widespread popularity though numerous film and literary adaptations in the 20th century.

Early Life

Stoker was born Abraham Stoker on November 8, 1847, in Dublin, Ireland, to father Abraham Stoker and mother Charlotte Matilda Blake Thornley Stoker. One of seven children, he suffered from illnesses that left him bedridden until around age 7 but made a full recovery.

In 1864, Stoker enrolled at the University of Dublin — founded by Queen Elizabeth I in 1592 — and attended the university's sole _____, Trinity College. He studied mathematics at Trinity, graduating with honours in 1870.

Stoker then began working as a civil servant at Dublin Castle, home to British royals in Ireland from the early 1800s to the early 1920s. (Stoker's father had also served as a civil servant at the castle, and helped his son _____ a position there.) During this period, Stoker began _____ another role: In the evenings, he worked as an unpaid writer for a local newspaper, the *Dublin Evening Mail* (later the *Evening Mail*), _____ reviews of various theatrical productions. Stoker also found time for his short stories, publishing "The Crystal Cup" in 1872.

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Lyceum Theatre

After nearly 10 years in civil service, Stoker left his position at Dublin Castle. Around that same time, Stoker established a friendship and working relationship that would soon prove to be a _____ step for his career, inspiring his literary _____ and, ultimately, his most acclaimed work. Stoker was introduced to Irving after reviewing a production of the Shakespearean play *Hamlet*, featuring Irving, and the two quickly became friends.

In the late 1870s, Irving offered Stoker a management position at his production company/venue in England, the famous Lyceum Theatre in London's West End. His duties as manager included writing letters — sometimes up to 50 per day — for Irving, as well as travelling worldwide on Irving's tours. During this time Stoker married an aspiring actress named Florence Balcombe, who gave birth to their son, Irving Noel Thornley, in late 1879.

'Dracula' and Other Books

In 1875, Stoker published what became his first novel, *The Primrose Path*. He continued to publish writings while managing the successful Lyceum Theatre, including the short story collection *Under the Sunset* (1882) and his second novel, *The Snake's Pass* (1890), earning modest acclaim. More notably, he _____ public praise for his many roles dedicated to the arts.



In 1897, Stoker published his masterpiece, *Dracula*. While the book garnered critical success after its release, it didn't achieve peak popularity until well after its author's death. After *Dracula*, Stoker continued to _____ an _____ of fiction and nonfiction works. He wrote a total of 12 novels in his lifetime, his later efforts including *Miss Betty* (1898), *The Mystery of the Sea* (1902), *The Jewel of Seven Stars* (1904) and *The Lair of the White Worm* (1911), which was later published under the title *The Garden of Evil*.

Final Years, Death and 'Un-Dead'

Stoker served as Lyceum's manager for nearly 30 years, until Irving's death in 1905. He suffered a _____ shortly afterward, and spent much of his final years battling through poor health and shaky financial _____. Stoker died in London, England, on April 20, 1912, with various reports citing the cause as complications from a stroke, exhaustion or syphilis.

Stoker's legacy has endured through his most famous work, *Dracula,* which has inspired the creation of numerous theatrical, literary and film adaptations. Among them are the 1931 film *Dracula*, starring actor Bela Lugosi, and F.W. Murnau's 1922 feature *Nosferatu*, starring Max Schreck, two early screen successes that _____ the vampire myth to the forefront of popular culture.

In 2009, the author's great-grandnephew, Dacre Stoker, made his entry into the field with the publication of *Dracula: The Un-Dead,* with collaborator Ian Holt. The two said they had based their book on Bram Stoker's handwritten notes and _____ plot threads, even including the character of Stoker in their story as a nod to the original source.

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