

Vamp

Children often dress up as vampires for Halloween. Vampires have played major roles in both classic books and more recent bestsellers. There have been a number of successful movies that have featured vampires as well. Vampires do not exist, but the myth of the vampire originated at a time when people actually believed in their existence.

People may envision a pale person who is clad in all black and has fangs when they picture a vampire, but there have been a variety of vampires in ancient myths from all over the world. There have been so many different versions of vampires that it is hard to describe them all, but they have some common elements. Vampires are usually people who have passed away, so they are no longer technically alive. In most stories, vampires require energy from people who are still living, usually by the consumption of blood. Many vampire stories suggest that people who are victims of vampires usually go on to become vampires themselves.

The history of the vampire is unclear. There had been stories and myths of vampire-like creatures all over the world, but they weren't called vampires. The word vampire didn't appear in the English language until the 1700s, but the word appeared in other languages earlier. Stories about vampires who had returned from the dead to terrorize the living became very popular in Eastern Europe around the 1700s. The stories caused trepidation in many towns, and innocent people were accused and tortured as a result.

Authors began to write about vampires was Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in 1897 and was not immediately popular. The novel told the story of a vampire who moved from Transylvania to England for new victims. *Dracula* attempted to pursue two victims while two men worked to stop and destroy him.

Vampires do not exist, despite the fact that stories about them have been shared for centuries. These stories became popular at a time when people did not have the scientific knowledge to explain things they didn't understand. The vampire myth could potentially stem from certain diseases. Rabies can cause traumatizing symptoms, which likely terrified people who witnessed them. Because people did not understand the symptoms that were caused by the rabies virus, they attempted to explain what was happening in a way that made sense to them by coming up with stories.

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After these stories became widespread, vampires began appearing in works of literature. The most popular novel about vampires was Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. The book was published in 1897 and remains influential to this day. *Dracula* was not the first novel about vampires, and was not immediately popular. It became more popular as time went on and remains an important work of literature. The novel followed the story of Count Dracula, a vampire who lived in Transylvania but moved to England for new victims. *Dracula* attempted to pursue two victims while two men worked to stop and destroy him.

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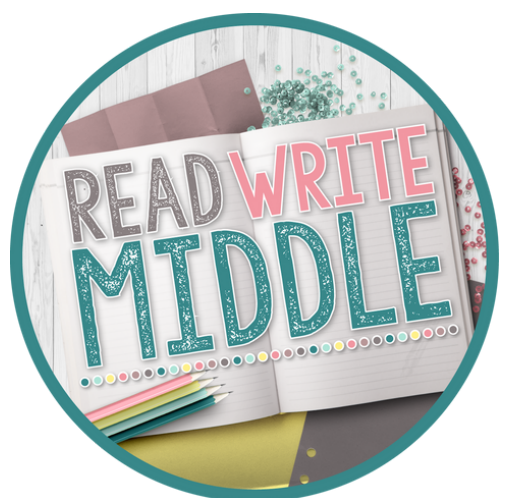
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DIGITAL & PRINTABLE
DIFFERENTIATED READING
PASSAGE AVAILABLE AT THREE
READING LEVELS



Central Idea & Supporting Details

A paragraph or passage should only focus on one or two central ideas. Paragraphs that bounce around from topic to topic are confusing and difficult to follow. The **central idea** of a text is what the paragraph or passage is mostly about. Details that support the central idea are called **supporting details**. They are directly related to the central idea. They are less important than the central idea.

Read the following paragraph:

Children often dress up as vampires. Vampires have played major roles in both classic books and modern movies. A number of successful movies that have been made exist, but the myth of the vampire or vampire-like creatures is believed in their existence.

Complete the graphic organizer by

Vampires are popular imaginary creatures.	
Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

Read the following paragraph and complete the graphic organizer.

People may envision a pale person with long, dark hair and a picture a vampire, but there have been many different types of vampires in the world. There have been so many different types of them all, but they have some common characteristics. They have passed away, so they are no longer telling us about the energy from people who are still living. The stories suggest that people who are victims of vampires are hurting themselves.

Supporting Detail	Supporting Detail

Central Idea & Supporting Details

Choose the best answer for the following questions.

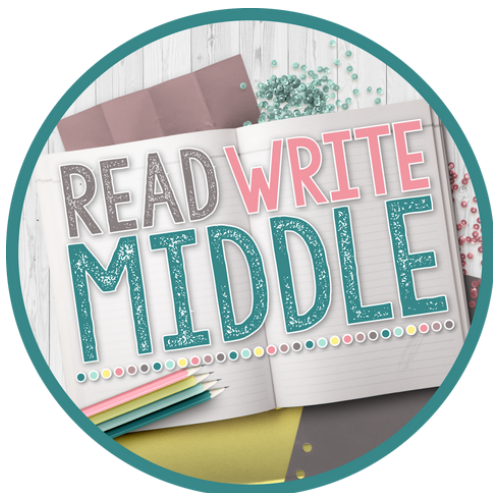
Central Idea & Supporting Details

Highlight the best answer for the following questions.

- What is the central idea of the 3rd paragraph?
A. The word vampire was used in other languages but not in English until the 1700s.
B. People are not sure exactly when or how stories about vampires began.
C. Stories about vampires caused fear, and some people were even hurt.
- Which quote from the text does not support the central idea of the 3rd paragraph?
A. "There had been stories of vampire-like beings all over the world. They weren't called vampires, though."
B. "The word vampire wasn't used in English until the 1700s."
C. "Innocent people were blamed and attacked because of those stories."
- What is the central idea of the 4th paragraph?
A. There were books written about vampires, and Dracula was one of the most popular ones.
B. There were a variety of popular books written about vampires, but none were popular at the time.
C. Dracula was not popular when it was first published in 1897.
- What is the central idea of the final paragraph?
A. Symptoms of rabies can be very upsetting to see.
B. People may have thought that someone suffering from rabies was actually a vampire.
C. Stories about vampires were potentially told to try to explain unusual things.

paragraph?
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popular in Eastern Europe.
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support the central idea of the 3rd
of vampire-like creatures all over the
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as first published in 1897.
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DIGITAL & PRINTABLE DIFFERENTIATED CENTRAL IDEA PRACTICE & QUESTIONS



Name: _____

Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Circle the answer and write down the context clues from the text that helped you determine the answer.

1. envision
a. deny
context clues: _____
2. clad
a. bound
context clues: _____
3. consumption
a. drinking
context clues: _____
4. trepidation
a. excitement
context clues: _____
5. pursue
a. purchase
context clues: _____
6. stem
a. stalk
context clues: _____
7. traumatizing
a. peaceful
context clues: _____

b. imagin

b. dresse

b. purch

b. fear

b. haunt

b. stop

b. shocki

11

Name: _____

Comprehension Questions

Answer the following questions using evidence from the text to support your answer.

passage? List two supporting details as

use to support the statement that vampires

popularity of vampire stories in Eastern

and influential novel. Why did the author
ge?

the author suggest there is between

13

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Context Clues

Look back in the passage and use context clues to determine the meaning of each word. Determine what each word means based on the way it is used in the passage, and write down the context clues from the text that helped you.

1. envision:
context clues: _____
2. clad:
context clues: _____
3. consumption:
context clues: _____
4. trepidation:
context clues: _____
5. pursue:
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6. stem:
context clues: _____
7. traumatizing:
context clues: _____

4

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ADDITIONAL READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS AND CONTEXT CLUES PRACTICE

