

Bram Stoker

When people talk about horror stories they often think of Dracula. Many people don't know that this spooky tale about a vampire was written by a Dublin man – Bram Stoker.



Bram, or Abraham, was born on 8th November, 1847 in Clontarf in Dublin. He studied mathematics in Trinity College and was always interested in drama and writing. He would later go on to manage the famous Lyceum Theatre in London.

In 1878, Bram married Florence Balcombe from Dublin. Florence was very beautiful and had been a girlfriend of another famous writer, Oscar Wilde. Bram and Wilde would later become good friends. Bram and Florence had one son, Irving Noel Thornley Stoker.

Bram and Florence lived in London while he managed the Lyceum Theatre. He travelled to many countries. He visited the USA a lot and was even invited to the White House on two occasions. Bram never travelled to Eastern Europe even though his most famous work Dracula would be set there.

Bram began writing Dracula in 1897. This horror story is based on Vlad Dracula, a vampire, who lives in a castle in Transylvania. In the beginning he called the book *The Undead* but Bram later changed the title to *Dracula*.

Stoker died in London on 20th April, 1912.

Nowadays, Dracula is famous because of the many films and T.V. series that have been based on it. In Ireland, the Bram Stoker festival is held in Dublin each year to remember the writer's famous work. He remains one of the country's most famous writers.

Bram Stoker Questions

Read each question carefully. Fill in the gaps to complete the answers to the questions. Check the text as you do this.

1. Where was Bram Stoker born?

Bram was born in _____ in _____ .

2. What was Bram like when he was a student in Trinity College?

Bram studied _____ and was a talented _____ when he was a student in Trinity College.

3. How many children did Bram and his wife, Florence, have?

They had _____ son.

4. Name a famous place Bram visited when he travelled to the USA.

Bram visited the _____ twice.

5. Why do people know so much about Bram Stoker's Dracula nowadays?

Dracula has been made into many _____ and TV _____.



Bram Stoker **Answers**

1. Where was Bram Stoker born?

Bram was born in **Clontarf** in **Dublin**.

2. What was Bram like when he was a student in Trinity College?

Bram studied **mathematics** and was a talented **athlete** when he was a student in Trinity College.

3. How many children did Bram and his wife, Florence, have?

They had **one** son.

4. Name a famous place Bram visited when he travelled to the U.S.A.

Bram visited the **White House** twice.

5. Why do people know so much about Bram Stoker's Dracula nowadays?

Dracula has been made into many **films** and TV **series**.