**Introductory Notes(***There are 387 words***)**

*Prince Dracula*

The story of Dracula was written in 1897. The author, Bram Stoker, had read about a prince called Dracula. Dracula was the ruler of a country called Transylvania in fifteenth century. Transylvania is not marked on maps today. It is now of Romania.

Prince Dracula was a very cruel man. He killed many people in horrible ways. One way was to throw them onto the sharp points of stakes fixed in the ground.

Many stories were told about Prince Dracula. The stories ware about his cruelty to the people he killed. After his death, Dracula’s grave was opened. But his body was not found the grave. The people of Transylvania believed that Dracula was not dead.

*Vampires*

At the time of this story, people in Transylvania believed in vampires. They believed that vampires did not die. Vampires rested during the day and moved about ad night. Thay attacked people and drank their blood. The people who were attacked also became vampires. They did not die. They attacked other people and drank their blood. So more and more vampires came into the world.

The people in Transylvania were very frightened of vampires. They believed many strange things about vampires. They said that vampires could climb up and down high walls and fly through the air. Vampires were able to change into birds or animals. They could become dust or thick mist. Vampires knew what people were thinking. They could make people do what they wanted.

Transylvanians protected themselves against vampires in may ways. They wore a Christian cross around their necks. They put garlic plants in their houses. They believed that praying to God would protect them from vampires. And they believed that vampires were turned away by pieces of holy bread. This is bread which is blessed by the priest in a Christian church.

Three things had to be done to destroy vampires. Frist, you had to find the place where the vampires rested during the day. Then you had to put sharp, wooden stakes through the vampires’ hearts. Finally, you had to cut off their heads.

“Dracula” is a horror story. People like to be frightened by horror stories. This is one of the most famous horror stories ever written. Do not read this book late ay night when you are alone!

**Chapter I**

**The Road Castle Dracula**

My name is Jonathan Harker. I am a lawyer and live in London. About seven years ago, some strange and terrible things happened to me. Many of my dear friends ware in danger too. At last we have decided to tell the story of that terrible time.

Part of my work is find houses in England for rich people who live in foreign countries. At the beginning of 1875, I received a letter from Transylvania, a country in Eastern Europe. The letter was from a rich man called Count Dracula. He wanted to buy a house near London.

The Count asked me to find him an old house with a large garden. The price of the house was not important. I found him a large, old house to east of London. I wrote to the Count and he agreed to but it. There were many papers which he had to sign. To my surprise, Count Dracula invited me to visit him in his castle in Transylvania. ‘Bring the papers with you,’ he wrote in his letter. ‘I can sign them here.’

I was very busy and I did not want to go. Transylvania was far away and few English people had been there. There was another reason too. I was going to get married in the autumn to my darling Mina. I did not want to leave England until we were married.

But Mina said that I should go.

‘The Count is a rich man,’ she said. ‘You may able to do more business with him. You can travel most of the way by train’. In two weeks, you will be home again.’

So I accepted Count Dracula’s invitation. I left England at the end of April. Mina gave me a book about Transylvania to read on the train.

On the morning of 4th May, I reached Bistritz, a small town un Transylvania. It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining on the great Carpathian Mountains. Somewhere, high up in those mountains, was Castel Dracula where the Count lived. The coach from Bistritz would take me to the Borgo Pass. There, the Count ‘carriage would meet me. The coach from the inn in Bistritz at three o’clock.