Stoker uses numerous gothic elements to support character and plot development in the book. For example, Stoker writes "My [Dracula's] revenge is just begun! I spread it over centuries, and time is on my side. Your girls that you all love are mine already; and through them you and others shall be mine..." (263). Stoker uses the gothic element of women threatened by a powerful, impulsive, tyrannical male. Dracula claims to have already taken possession in some way of Lucy and Mina and other loved ones of Van Helsing's group. This threat adds to both character and plot development because it brings out the protective instinct in the men of the group. This will serve to strengthen the ties between mainly Mina and Arthur. This also moves the plot forward because the group will be have more motivation to go after Dracula and to be more vigilant in defending Mina.

Stoker also uses words that define the dark and stimulated gothic atmosphere when he states "It would be impossible to describe the expression of hate and baffled malignity -- of anger and hellish rage -- which came over the Count's face. His waxen hue became greenish-yellow by the contrast of his burning eyes, and the red scar on the forehead showed on the pallid sin like a palpitating wound," (Stoker 263). Stoker clearly describes a face of hate and frustration, even comparing it to hellish rage. Anger is a bit part of gothic vocabulary, and it serves to remind the reader that the invincible Dracula the readers' knew at the beginning of the book is no longer invincible. Dracula getting angry shows weakness on his part.

"We [Harker, Quincy, and Jonathan] waited in a suspense that made the seconds pass with nightmare slowness. The slow, careful steps came along the hall..." (Stoker 262). Stoker portrays an atmosphere of suspense and mystery characteristic of gothic literature. This adds to character development in that these people have been working together to destroy Dracula's coffins for quite a while. This shared experience of waiting in suspense accentuates the brotherhood felt between these people. They are all waiting together in moments that pass very slowly. The atmosphere of suspense shows that what the group as a whole does not really know what will happen in their fight against Dracula. They each have a holy object and a regular weapon, and so are unsure whether they are really prepared to fight Dracula head on. This feeling of suspense keeps the readers on their toes.