

Transactional Writing

Y9 English Knowledge Organiser Autumn Term

Dracula

A speech often follows a three part structure:

- a highly engaging and motivational **opening**
- well structured **argument** with several main points that include objection handling
- a dynamic and memorable **conclusion**

Letters
Reviews
Speeches
Articles
Reports
Reviews

Recipient information
Full Name
Company
Postcode

Introducing line
(Dear (insert name),

Dear information
Full name
Full address
Today's date
Email
Phone number

Dracula written by Bram Stoker (1847-1912)

The novel tells the **story of Dracula's** attempt to move from Transylvania to England so that he may find new blood and spread the vampire curse, and of the battle between **Dracula** and a small group of people led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing.

Dracula is a work of fantasy. Its eerie effectiveness comes from its ability to play on universal human fears. But Stoker's novel also reflects the anxieties which troubled his era; the figure of Count Dracula is both a timeless vision of evil and the incarnation of turn-of-the-century England's strongest fears.

Articles are usually written in **Standard English**, but **colloquial** sayings or phrases might be used to emphasise a point. **Literary techniques** such as **metaphor** and **simile** make your writing more interesting and engaging. **Persuasive devices**, such as **rule of three**, **rhetorical questions** and **hyperbole** can encourage the reader to agree with your point of view.

1897, the year Dracula was published, was the height of the British Empire's expansion

Persuasive device	Definition
Rhetorical question	A question posed to an audience, to which the speaker predicts the answer and gains support from the audience by asking.
Rule of three	Grouping words or ideas in threes makes them memorable and persuasive.
Emotive language	Language that appeals to the emotions.
Handling objections	Consider what your opposition might say and deal with it before they do.
Hyperbole	Using exaggeration for effect.
Anecdote	Using real life examples to support your argument.
Personal pronouns	Using 'we', 'I', 'you' to make your audience feel included.

Context and Style

Victoriana	Bram Stoker's Dracula is a Gothic novel written in the time of Victorian England The Victorian era is a transitional period saturated with old doctrines and a new lifestyle filled with technology. These created the predispositions for fears and anxieties among the Victorians .
Gothic Fiction	The term Gothic fiction refers to a style of writing that is characterized by elements of fear, horror, death, and gloom, as well as romantic elements, such as nature, individuality, and very high emotion. These emotions can include fear and suspense.
Elements of Gothic Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mystery and Fear. One of the crucial components of a captivating Gothic story evokes feelings of suspense and fear. ... • Omens and Curses. ... • Atmosphere and Setting. ... • Supernatural and Paranormal Activity. ... • Romance. ... • Villain. ... • Emotional Distress. ... • Nightmares.

KNOWLEDGE

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Context

Roald Dahl	Roald Dahl was a British novelist, short-story writer, poet, screenwriter, and wartime fighter pilot. 1916 - 1990
Setting	The marital home of Mary and Patrick Maloney. A typical suburban, middle class house in England. While the opening description makes the home welcoming and idyllic this is turned on its head when it becomes a place of violence and deceit.
Period	Although an exact year is not mentioned in the story it is likely that it takes place in the 1950s. Dahl wrote it in 1953; it was published in September of that year in Harpers Magazine, an American monthly.

Key Terms

Verbal Irony	One of the most important examples of irony in 'Lamb to the Slaughter' is when the detectives are eating the leg of lamb and say, "its probably right under our noses". This is also an example of dramatic irony because the reader knows that the weapon they're looking for is literally under their noses.
Situational Irony	"Mary Maloney was waiting for her husband to come him from work." This is situational irony because since she's waiting for husband and she's a little woman, you would expect them to have a very heart-warming relationship.
Foreshadowing	"The smile was rather peculiar. She tried again...That was better. Both the smile and the voice sounded better now." This line foreshadows the alibi which Mary creates (by going to the grocer's) and the lies that she tells to the police detectives who investigate Patrick's death. This is significant because it lets the reader know that Mary has no intention of admitting to the murder; instead, she plans on getting away with it.
Narrative perspective	Third person limited view. Only know Mary's thoughts.
Metaphor	As for a standard metaphor, the title hints at the extended metaphor of the story. Mary is meek and mild like a lamb. When Patrick delivers his awful news, Mary is devastated. Then Mary, the lamb, brings an actual leg of lamb to a new slaughter. Patrick's slaughter. The lamb has now become the slaughterer.

Plot and Major characters : Lamb to The Slaughter

Roald Dahl's 'Lamb to the Slaughter' is a **short story** about the murder of police detective Patrick Maloney by his wife **Mary**. Driven to homicide after her husband's unexpected announcement that he's leaving her and their unborn child, **Mary** quickly regains her senses after fatally killing him with the leg of lamb.

The story's protagonist, Mary Maloney is the wife of Patrick Maloney, a detective. A happy and devoted housewife who is six months pregnant with her first child, Mary spends much of her time caring for and thinking about her husband while attending to domestic tasks such as cooking and sewing. After Patrick reveals that he is leaving her, however, Mary suddenly kills him with a frozen **leg of lamb**. She then cunningly covers up the murder, using her role as an "innocent," supposedly-foolish housewife to trick the investigators.

Patrick Maloney is a police detective who cares more about his work than his marriage. Despite Mary's best attempts to make him comfortable and care for him, he does not reciprocate her efforts or feeling. He callously tells Mary that he has decided to abandon his marriage. Though the narrator explicitly discusses Mary's idolization of Patrick and his masculinity, Patrick's name is not revealed until halfway through the story, after he has already died.

Mood and Themes

Mood	Peaceful, domestic middle-class home at the start of the story creates a calm and tranquil mood, however the suspense builds as we sense the husband's innate hostility to his wife.
Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Betrayal • Identity • Gender and marriage • Role reversal • Food and consumption