

EDGE i e

Before vampires first appeared in literature in the 18th century, they had lurked in legend for hundreds of years. Almost every ancient culture, including the Babylonians, Greeks and Romans, had an evil mythological figure that drank blood.

Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, which is considered the quintessential vampire novel, entrenched much of the modern vampire lore—bats, the decrepit castle, the gentlemanly count, the wooden stake (although in the book, Dracula is killed by two knives) and the bite on the neck.

The strong sexual overtone of the Dracula story is one reason why it is so popular and enduring, says Golz. "He transgresses all boundaries—between the sexes, life and death, night and day. He defies our laws and morals." To learn more about vampires in literature and film, visit Golz's course website at web.uvic.ca/geru/487/.

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