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# F. W. Murnau, *Nosferatu* (1922)

## Sample Exam Questions

- What problems/anxieties does the film address? Why is the vampire myth suited for expressing them? How does Murnau rework the traditional vampire story (What are the innovations he introduces? Why are these innovations needed?)?
- What is “expressionism”? What were its goals in cinema? What are the features characterizing E. in film? Which of these features are reflected in *Nosferatu*? What is innovative in Murnau’s approach (vs. the expressionist tradition)?

# Algernon Blackwood, “The Transfer” (1912)

pp. 203-212

- Who is Uncle Frank? What is the purpose of his visit? Why is his arrival feared? By whom? What makes him similar to a vampire?
- What makes Jamie a “special” child? What does he share w/ Miss Gould?
- What does the “Forbidden Corner” refer to? Why is it forbidden?
- What does the title of the story refer to? What is being transferred? B/w what and what?
- What happens to Uncle Frank after his visit? What happens to the “ugly patch”?
- What makes the “ugly patch” similar to a human being? To a child? To Jamie?

## Fritz Lieber, “The Girl with the Hungry Eyes” (1949) pp. 334-48

- The Girl is a celebrity, but an unusual one. What makes her unusual?
- While Papa Mensch & agency bosses are hooked immediately by the Girl’s charms, the narrator needs more time. Why this difference?
- One leitmotif in the story is, “There are vampires and vampires, not all of them suck blood.” What does the Girl suck?
- Many of the Lieber’s stories deal w/ the “horrors” of modern urban life. What horror/danger does the Girl personify?

# Catherine Moore, “Shambleau” (1933)

## pp. 255-81

- Who is NW Smith? What is he famous for?
- What is it that attracts him initially to Shambleau?
- How is Shambleau initially described? What makes her human? Non-human?
- What is it about her way of life that makes Smith suspicious?
- Who/what is Medusa? How is the myth relevant to Moore’s story?
- How is our hero seduced? What are the sensations he experiences? How are they contradictory? Does this remind you of other similar episode(s)?
- In what condition does Yarol find Smith? How does he save him? What promise does he exact from his friend? Why?
- What does the myth of the Medusa and the story of Shambleau warn us against?

# Charles Grant, “Love-Starved” (1979)

pp. 441-50

- The narrator tells the story to an ex-lover on the eve of her engagement. Why is this an appropriate context for the story?
- What is the narrator’s first impulse when he sees Alicia Chou? How is the sexual act b/w them described? What “cliches” does the narrator use?
- What is Alicia hungry for?
- Why is the experience horrifying for our hero? How does it change him?
- The last sentence in the story is, “I am hungry.” How are we to understand this?