

Menu

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 - *Daughters of Darkness*
- Sample questions (review)
- Tony Scott, *The Hunger*—discussion
- S. Le Fanu, “Carmilla”
- F. M. Crawford, “For the Blood Is the Life”
- R. Matheson, “Drink My Blood”

Sample Exam Questions

1. Which ancient myth is referenced in C. Moore's story "Shambleau"? Which episodes/motifs of the myth are reproduced in the story? Identify the moments in Moore's text derived from the mythical narrative.
2. Choose two texts—literary or filmic—and show the ways in which they exploit the theme of hunger. How do these texts transform/displace the traditional concept of hunger? To what ends? What is being consumed/threatened? What do these particular texts warn us about?
3. How is female vampirism different from male vampirism? What issues are at stake when a woman is cast as a vampire? What issues are not at stake (but are addressed in connection w/ male vampirism)? Give examples from the texts that you've read/seen to support your thesis.

Hunger & Vampires

- Sources
 - Belief that in afterlife dead need nourishment (sacrifice, ritual meals, etc.)
 - Belief that dead will seek to “replenish” the life taken from them (blood seen as quintessence of life and object of the revenants’ hunger)
- Reinterpretations:
 - Threatening sexuality (female)
 - Psychological/emotional depletion
 - Dangers of mass-media/advertisement
 - Exploitation/capitalist mentality

Tony Scott, *The Hunger* (1983)

- How are medicine & vampirism (Sarah & Miriam) shown as analogous?
- How does Miriam treat the lovers she collects through the ages
 - During their life?
 - In their “death”?
- What is wrong about Miriam’s attitude? What is her failure vis-à-vis her lovers? Why is she punished by them?
- Why does Sarah commit suicide? What’s its meaning in light of what follows?
- What else could the title refer to apart from the vampire’s need for blood nourishment?
- How is the theme of domination/dependence played out in the film? Who is dominant (master)? Who is dependent (slave)?

Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu

1814-1873

- Born, lives, dies in Dublin, Ireland
- Recognized as a master of the macabre
- Best-known works include novels *Uncle Silas* (1864), *Wylder's Hand* (1864), *Guy Deverell* (1865), stories “Schalken the Painer,” “Green Tea”
- “Carmilla”—one of the first vampire masterpieces. First lesbian vampire tale. Widely-known. Influenced Stoker.
- Draws on Central European folklore. Establishes Styria as the land of vampires (initially, Stoker wanted to set his *Dracula* there)

Group Work

Le Fanu's vampire is partly drawn from folkloric belief and partly invented by its author. Which aspects of the vampire's story (activities /powers/ habits/ ways of destruction, etc.) rely on folklore? Which are Le Fanu's invention?

"Carmilla" I 71-137

How many stories make "C"? How are Laura's & Bertha's stories/situations similar? How is parenthood presented in "C"? How are relations b/w women presented? What sensations accompany the "vamping" of Laura? How does her condition change after that?

"Carmilla" II

Where does the action of the story take place? Who narrates it? To whom? How do the circumstances/ setting in which the story is told contribute to its atmosphere? Who is Angelo? Who is Cristina? What do they have in common? Why does C. become a vampire? How does she "take possession" of A.? How is his state/emotions described? How is C. destroyed? Is she?

"For the Blood..." 188-202

What marks/symptoms predestine Jules to vampirism from his birth & early childhood? Which vampiric texts is he "inspired" by? What is his "ambition"? How does he change before the story's end? Which literary hero does he remind you of? How?

"Drink My Blood" 362-70