Meet A Game Changer: What exactly is the attraction of Vampires?

“Well I know you all have to be here, so I am not going to ask why you are here. But I will convince you why you should be more than just Team Edward.”

Are They Real?

1816 “A year without summer: The villa Diodati (Painting by Dirk Berger): How it all began....

The particular summer of Mary Shelly, there was a huge volcanic eruption up in the mountains, and the attraction to gothic writing was born. Probably why we have a conception that vampire are bad, is because of the times of which Vampires were born. “Relief of the light brigade”, 1897, the British were our enemies. However where does the enemy from within come from?

Thomas Phillips “Byron in Albanian Dress” 1813. Identities were becoming hard to read, and hard to profile. “Your faces could be a type of window to who you are; what your race is, what your profile is.”

One of Shelly’s favorite painters, Henry Fuseli, painted “The Nightmare” (1781), where a beautiful white blonde women with a dark “Little Monster” on top of her. Henry Fuseli, painted his artwork during the times of racism for the British.
“Nightmares are nightmares; they are not real.”

Mary Shelley is reading a “dirty erotic book before bed” and strange things are about to happen to her....

[She shows us a video of a white blonde girl who goes through a nightmare in real life.]

Bram Stoker’s Dracula (1897) creates one of the first additions about Dracula. There is a victorian concept she shares with us, social darwinism. “Man is but a worm.” “If species are more, or less, involved with each other, victorians ask themselves the question, Wouldn’t it be the same for human beings? Which human beings are more sophisticated than each other? Which species as a whole could survive? You out rank any species you can eat.” So on the topic of the vampire, is the vampire beneath a human being, “or is it above us because it is the only thing that could eat us (except for mosquitos) [the class giggles].”

But what is missing? The 50% of population, women. The main female character from Dracula is susceptible, much like how most women were portrayed at the time; able to run, speak their minds, and be comparable to their loved one.

James Atkinson Grimshaw “Hampstead” [Actually her home town in London] she compares how London’s images changed in comparison to the vampire beliefs of the time. Where a beautiful street became a place of smoke, pollution, and hell. “It is where you wondered who was the killer.”

“Each night father fills me with dread when he sits on the foot of my bed; id not mind that he speaks in gibbers and squeaks, but for seventeen years he’s been dead.”

How do you become a Vampire? I want to fly, but don’t want wings. - You should probably be more of a 19th century Vampire. But because they are shapeshifter and you do not want wings, I would say you’re looking more at superman which is quite different.

What is the old history of Vampires? - Vampires are called the chewing dead. They attack their families, and then loved ones, so that is the old history.

Biography: Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the Director of the Program in Comparative Literature and chief administrative and financial officer of the American Comparative Literature Association. She holds degrees from U.C. Berkeley, Oxford University and Columbia University and has held both Mellon and Fulbright Fellowships. Trained in Greek as well as modern aesthetics, she works actively in eight languages. Her research concentrates on Orientalism, the Gothic, Cleopatra, Oscar Wilde, and European drama. She is currently finishing a study of decadent culture at the end of the nineteenth century. Richmond-Garza is renowned for her creative, multi-media approach to teaching. Among other honors, she has been awarded the Chad Oliver Plan II Teaching Award, the 16th annual Friar Centennial Teaching Fellowship, and the Minnie Piper Stevens Teaching Award. She was elected to the Academy of Distinguished Teachers in 2004 and was awarded the Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2009.