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# An Extract from Dracula by Bram Stoker - Teacher Notes

There was the sound of rattling chains and the clanking of massive bolts drawn back. A key was turned with the loud grating noise of long disuse, and the great door swung back.

First paragraph:

"rattling", "clanking", "loud grating noise": Sensory imagery immerses the reader in the scene and emphasises the strength of the fortifications.

"massive", "great door": Emphasises the size of the door, hinting that it will be difficult to escape once inside.

"long disuse": Raises questions in the reader's mind: why is the door so seldom opened?

Within, stood a tall old man, clean shaven save for a long white moustache, and clad in black from head to foot, without a single speck of colour about him anywhere. He held in his hand an antique silver lamp, in which the flame burned without a chimney or globe of any kind, throwing long quivering shadows as it flickered in the draught of the open door. The old man motioned me in with his right hand with a courtly gesture, saying in excellent English, but with a strange intonation.

Second paragraph:

"black from head to foot": The colour black has connotations of death and mystery.

"without a single speck of colour": This makes Dracula sound less than human – it hints at his supernatural qualities.

"in which the flame burned without a chimney or globe of any kind": This indicates that something against the laws of nature is happening – by rights, the flame should be guttering or extinguished when the door is opened.

"long quivering shadows": Implies mystery and reminds the reader of the dark surroundings. By personifying the shadows, they become menacing.

"strange intonation": This adds to Dracula's alien quality and reinforces his contrast with Jonathan.

# An Extract from Dracula by Bram Stoker - Teacher Notes

"Welcome to my house! Enter freely and of your own free will!" He made no motion of stepping to meet me, but stood like a statue, as though his gesture of welcome had fixed him into stone. The instant, however, that I had stepped over the threshold, he moved impulsively forward, and holding out his hand grasped mine with a strength which made me wince, an effect which was not lessened by the fact that it seemed cold as ice, more like the hand of a dead than a living man.

Third paragraph:

'enter freely and of your own free will': The repetition of "free" implies the opposite. It is juxtaposed with the imagery of imprisonment – chains, keys and heavy doors. It also sounds like a warning.

'stood like a statue': A simile which conveys the stillness of Dracula and makes him sound supernatural.

'into stone': Stone is inanimate and cold – it has no feelings. This is a hint about Dracula's character.

'impulsively': This implies there is something dangerous or uncontrolled about Dracula.

'strength which made me wince': Another hint to the reader that Dracula has the potential to be dangerous. It emphasises that Jonathan is vulnerable.

'cold as ice': A simile to emphasise the supernatural qualities of Dracula.

'dead than a living man': A hint to the reader about Dracula's true nature.