

## **The comparison of two characters: Dracula and Sweeney Todd**

### London in Literature

For my final paper I've chosen a comparison of main characters of two movies I had seen: the character of Dracula and the character of Sweeney Todd. First I would like to mention what kind of persons they were. In what way they were similar and in what they differed and the thing I find the most interesting is the reason why they were killing people.

The main difference between Dracula and Sweeney Todd is in their own nature. In contrast to Dracula, who is a vampire – so-called dead body, Sweeney Todd, with his real name Benjamin Barker, is an ordinary living person, who used to work as a barber at 186 Fleet Street, London, next to St. Dunstan's church. Sweeney Todd is actually a very unhappy man who longs for revenge. He used to have a beautiful wife but in the present he lives alone in his barber shop, because he doesn't know about having a daughter. Dracula has on the other hand a lot of supernatural abilities. He is able to change himself into an animal like such as a rat, a wolf, a fog or into a vapor. He also controls the weather, he is stronger than twenty men and he is absolutely immune to attacks, because he's immortal. He is also able to change other people into the vampire. People can drive him away only with the help of garlic, sacramental bread or with crucifixes. He can't enter the house if he's not invited and can't get too far from his castle in the Carpathian Mountains in Transylvania so as to rest and recover his strength. He wears black clothes, he hates sunshine and sleeps in the coffin such as a true vampire. He lives in Transylvania with his three brides. They differ in several points but they have also one important thing in common. They both kill people. Why?

In my opinion Sweeney Todd actually kills people only because he is unhappy. Before he lost his loved beautiful wife because of another man, he was perfectly satisfied man who loved life. But when he lost his wife, his home, his job and was sentenced to hard work in Australia, he became an angry, cruel man who wants to take vengeance on judge Turpin who was behind all of it, simply because he was in love with beautiful Lucy – the wife of Todd. These are the reasons why he is so miserable and full of sorrow. He has to kill everyone who stands in his way to kill judge Turpin the person who had destroyed his life. But he wouldn't be able to do all those murders only by himself, he has Mrs. Lovett who secretly loves him so she helps him with pleasure to take care of dead bodies or to make some future plans. Todd kills people in his barber shop by cutting their throats with his silver razors. He throws his victim from the barber chair into the basement of his shop where is Mrs. Lovett well-prepared to use their meat to cook her meat pies from. Nevertheless, his desire for killing the judge Turpin is so big that he accidentally kills his own wife, the insane beggar that he didn't recognize before.

In contrast to Sweeney Todd, Dracula kills people from several reasons. The most important reason is to survive. Dracula needs human blood for living. Unlike Todd, Dracula doesn't use a weapon such as razor. He is perfectly capable to kill his victim by himself. He bites his victim in the neck and sucks his blood. We can also find there Dracula's desire for revenge after he escapes from Van Helsing's Piccadilly house.

The last thing I would like to compare is their death. As for Dracula, who was followed by many people to be killed, he was killed by being cut through the throat by special kind of knife and being stabbed in the heart. Finally he crumbled to dust. On the other hand Sweeney Todd was killed by little boy who saw everything that Todd had done

and he was dying over his dead wife's body which is actually quite poetic, or happy ending?

To die with his wife in his arms?

I must admit it was not easy to compare those two similar characters, but I find interesting to see what they have in common and in what they differ.