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Where Does Dracula Come From?

The English seaside town of Whitby is a fishing port which has changed little for the past 300 years. Critics say that it was this picturesque town, with the imposing ruins of a thirteenth-century abbey perched on a promontory, which gave the writer Bram Stoker the idea for his world-famous book *Dracula*. The writer, his wife and his son spent the summer of 1890 in Whitby, while he was probably engaged in planning the novel.

Dracula, published in 1897, is the story of a vampire from Transylvania who travelled to England. When his ship was damaged in a terrible storm, Dracula -the vampire- jumped to land at Whitby in the shape of a huge dog. Stoker, the author, is known to have consulted books on legends from Transylvania, Moldavia, and the Carpatians at the local library at Whitby and later in the British Library in London.

The Dracula of Transylvanian legend appears to originate from Vlad Dracul II, Prince of Walachia (1456-1476), known for his prodigious cruelties both to enemies -the invading Turks- and his own people. However, he was not a vampire. It is suggested that Stoker's Count Dracula was a composite figure derived from Vlad Dracul and the Countess Báthori. This lady was a Hungarian aristocrat who was arrested in 1610 for murdering girls. It was her habit to wash in the blood of her victims in order to stay young and to maintain her skin in a perfect condition.

Find the words in the text that mean: (?)

a) *impressive* : imposing (imponente)

Ayuda: *impressive* (impresionante) es un adjetivo, al igual que *imposing*, uno de los muchos adjetivos que se forman a partir de un verbo (*impose*) añadiendo el sufijo *-ing*.

b) *involved* : engaged (dedicado)

Ayuda: *involved* es un verbo que está en pasado (acaba en *-ed*). Debemos encontrar en el párrafo indicado otro verbo también en pasado: *engaged*.

c) *seems* : appears (parecer)

Ayuda: *seems* es un verbo que está en presente (3ª persona -s). En el tercer párrafo encontramos un verbo, también en presente, con el mismo significado: *appears*.

d) *custom* : habit (hábito)

Ayuda: *custom* es un sustantivo, está en singular; significa costumbre. Su sinónimo ha de ser, pues, otro sustantivo en singular: *habit*.