

Dracula

Bram Stoker

Why is the mirror more disturbing to Harker than simply noticing something strange about Dracula?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The mirror supplies a fact the eyes cannot
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Jonathan Harker's Journal · 8 May
START	I had hung my shaving glass by the window, and was just beginning to shave.
END	But there was no reflection of him in the mirror! The whole room behind me was displayed; but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dra-01

THE MOVE

Use conflicting sensory evidence to destabilize a narrator's ordinary rules

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Harker can see Dracula standing behind him, yet the mirror shows only the room and Harker himself. The contradiction is disturbing because it breaks an ordinary rule of perception: two reliable sensory channels should agree about the same physical body.

MARK

Underline what Harker sees directly without the mirror. Circle what the mirror displays instead. Star the point where the two sources of sensory evidence become impossible to reconcile.

NOTICE

- What would Harker normally expect a mirror to confirm?
- Why is the absence of a reflection stronger evidence than simply noticing Dracula looks strange?
- What happens to Harker's confidence in ordinary physical rules when sight and reflection disagree?

THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the mirror more disturbing to Harker than simply noticing something strange about Dracula? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the mirror more disturbing to Harker than simply noticing something strange about Dracula? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The mirror is more disturbing because it supplies a direct contradiction between two ordinary sources of perception. Harker can see Dracula beside him, yet the mirror says no body is there, breaking a basic physical rule rather than merely presenting an odd appearance.
EVIDENCE	Use Harker's direct sight, the mirror's empty reflection, and his reaction to the contradiction.
WATCH FOR	Do not say mirrors are frightening because of vampire folklore. The narrator's disturbance comes from conflicting evidence inside his ordinary world.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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Why is the mirror more disturbing to Harker than simply noticing something strange about Dracula?

START ANCHOR	I had hung my shaving glass by the window, and was just beginning to shave.
END ANCHOR	But there was no reflection of him in the mirror! The whole room behind me was displayed; but there was no sign of a man in it, except myself.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline what Harker sees directly without the mirror. Circle what the mirror displays instead. Star the point where the two sources of sensory evidence become impossible to reconcile.
2. **NOTICE** - What would Harker normally expect a mirror to confirm? Why is the absence of a reflection stronger evidence than simply noticing Dracula looks strange? What happens to Harker's confidence in ordinary physical rules when sight and reflection disagree?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why is the mirror more disturbing to Harker than simply noticing something strange about Dracula?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.