The male characters

Match these qualities to one or more of the five male characters in the novel, particularly as depicted in chapters 1–16: Van Helsing, Quincey Morris, Arthur Holmwood Lord Godalming, John Seward and Jonathan Harker.

- sceptic
- man of science
- foreigner
- adventurer
- diligent worker
- failed protector
- powerful
- gallant
- believer
- benevolent
- ambitious
- tempted
- honourable
- wise
- superstitious
- heroic
- rejected / broken-hearted
- resolute / stalwart
- naïve
- workaholic
- religious
- thoughtful
- open-minded
- man of action

Question: who is the most ‘masculine’ of the men?

Stoker’s use of traditional roles

Just as Stoker created the female roles of Mina and Lucy in accordance with traditional gender roles, the male characters in the novel also fall into archetypal roles. Try to decide which of these traditional roles are fulfilled by the male characters. NB a character could play more than one of these.

- guardian
- sidekick
- lover
- sage
- husband
- aristocrat
- hero
- sacrificial victim

A closer look at the men

Look at the selection of quotations on the following pages which relate to the male characters in the novel. Decide what each quotation contributes to our understanding of the character. All the quotations come from the first half of the novel.

Seward

‘To me it seems only yesterday that my whole life ended with my new hope…Oh, Lucy, Lucy, I cannot be angry with you, nor can I be angry with my friend whose happiness is yours; but I must only wait on hopeless and work. Work! work!’ (Chapter 6 p.96)

‘I am beginning to wonder if my long habit of life amongst the insane is beginning to tell upon my own brain’. (Chapter 11 p.176)

‘The Professor’s actions were certainly odd and not to be found in any pharmacopoeia that I ever heard of.’ (Chapter 10 p.171)
The male characters

‘It must have been my weakness that made me hesitate to tell it to my friend...’ (Chapter 10 p.172)

‘I am too miserable, too low-spirited, too sick of the world and all in it’. (Chapter 12 p.205)

‘I had expected a rush of gas from the week-old corpse.’ (Chapter 15 p.254)

“Do not press me too hard all at once. I am willing to accept. How will you do this bloody work?” (Chapter 15 p.259)

‘Surely there must be some rational explanation of all these mysterious things. Is it possible the Professor can have done it himself? I shall watch him carefully. I may get some light on the mystery’ (Chapter 15 p.262)

Van Helsing

‘He is a philosopher and a metaphysician, and one of the most advanced scientists of his day; and he has, I believe, an absolutely open mind....his views are as wide as his all-embracing sympathy.’ (Chapter 9 pp.147-148)

“‘You and I shall keep as yet what we know here, and here.” He touched me on the heart and on the forehead, and then touched himself the same way.’ (Chapter 10 p.156)

“‘Devils or no devils, or all the devils at once, it matters not; we fight him all the same.’” (Chapter 11 p.175)

‘a man of medium height, strongly built, with his shoulders set back over a broad, deep chest and a neck well balanced on the trunk as the head is on the neck...the head is noble, well-sized, broad and large behind the ears...Big, dark blue eyes are set widely apart, and are quick and tender or stern with the man’s moods.’ (Chapter 14 p.235)

“‘it is the fault of our science that it wants to explain all; and if it explain not, then it says there is nothing to explain...I suppose now you do not believe in corporeal transference. No? Nor in materialization. No? Nor in astral bodies. No?’” (Chapter 14 pp.246-247)

“‘there are things done today in electrical science which would have been deemed unholy by the very men who discovered electricity – who would themselves not so long before have been burned as wizards. There are always mysteries in life.’” (Chapter 14 p.247)

“‘The Host. I brought it from Amsterdam. I have an Indulgence.” It was an answer that appalled the most sceptical of us, and we felt individually that in the presence of such an earnest purpose as the Professor’s, a purpose which could thus use the to him most sacred of things, it was impossible to distrust.’ (Chapter 16 p.270)
**The male characters**

**Holmwood**

“I must not hesitate to ask, or you to act.” (Chapter 9 p.145)

‘the strong young manhood…seemed to emanate from him’ (Chapter 10 p.159)

“‘My life is hers, and I would give the last drop of blood in my body for her.’” (Chapter 10 p.159)

‘His very heart was bleeding, and it took all the manhood of him – and there was a royal lot of it, too – to keep him from breaking down.’ (Chapter 12 p.197)

“‘I have a duty to do in protecting her grave from outrage; and, by God, I shall do it!’” (Chapter 15 p.265)

‘He saw, too, what we all did, the infinite kindness which suggested that his should be the hand which would restore Lucy to us as a holy, and not an unholy memory; he stepped forward and said bravely…’ (Chapter 16 p.276)

‘But Arthur never faltered. He looked like a figure of Thor as his untrembling arm rose and fell, driving deeper and deeper the mercy-bearing stake… His face was set, and high duty seemed to shine through it; the sight of it gave us courage, so that our voices seemed to ring through the little vault.’ (Chapter 16 p.277)

**Harker**

‘He has won all hearts by his sweetness and his gentleness.’ (Chapter 8 p.132)

‘Faugh! Mina is a woman, and there is nought in common. They are devils of the Pit!’ (Chapter 4 p.73)

‘I felt impotent, and in the dark, and distrustful’ (Chapter 14 p.242)

**Morris**

‘Well, he did look so good-humoured and so jolly that it didn’t seem so hard to refuse him as it did poor Dr Seward’ (Chapter 5 p.80)

“‘I think I came just in the nick of time’” (Chapter 12 p.193)

“‘he bore himself through it like a moral Viking. If America can go on breeding men like that, she will be a power in the world indeed.’” (Chapter 13 p.225)

‘Quincey Morris was phlegmatic in the way of a man who accepts all things, and accepts them in the spirit of cool bravery, with hazard of all he has to stake.’ (Chapter 16 p.269)