

**VAMPIRE HIGH  
BY DOUGLAS REES**

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2006  
Grade 6-8**

Submitted by Brenda Eames, Teen/Young Adult Services Librarian  
East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge

**Title: Vampire High**

**Author: Douglas Rees**

**Publisher: Random House Children's Books (Delacorte Press), 2003**

**Pages: 226**

**Summary**

Cody's ninth grade year is not going so well – his family has moved from California to New Sodom, Massachusetts and he is not at all happy about it. His plan is to fail all his classes so that, surely, his parents will understand and move back to California. But NO—they give him the choice of two alternative schools: *Our Lady of Perpetual Homework* or *Vlad Dracul Magnet School*. Any school has got to be better than one with “homework” in the title, so he decides on *Vlad Dracul*. There's something very unusual about the students at *Vlad Dracul*, they're all dark-haired, very pale and supernaturally strong. This satire on life in high school is told in the very real voice of Cody whose perceptions about high school dynamics add depth to the humor.

According to the *Booklist* review (August 1, 2003), “There's barely a false note in this rollicking tale of horror, humor, and light romance that will appeal to both girls and boys...Rees keeps things moving and delightfully off-balance as Cody rescues a classmate from bullies, falls in love with a vampire princess, and designs a way to save the school. The parody of New England society adds yet another level of hilarity, but at the center are Cody and his toothsome friends, inspired and inspirational teens discovering the world as it is and making it renew for themselves.”

**Awards and “Best Book” Lists**

Capital Choices, 2004

The Children's Literature Choice List, 2004

ALA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Adult Readers, 2004

## Author's Biography

From the hardback edition of *Vampire High*: "Douglas Rees once spent a year in Massachusetts near a town much like New Sodom. He now lives in San Francisco Bay area of California with his wife and three cats. He has been a dishwasher, a college history teacher, and a professional storyteller, among other things. Today, when he isn't writing, he works for a public library as a young adult librarian."

## Other Titles by Douglas Rees

*Grandy Thaxter's Helper* (picture book)  
*Lightning Time*  
*Smoking Mirror*

## Related Titles

### Strange School

*Story Time* by Edward Bloor. George and Kate are accepted to the Whittaker Magnet School and it's a very strange school indeed.

### Nonfiction

*Informania Vampires* by Martin Jenkins. Includes chapters on Bram Stoker's Dracula, Animal Bloodsuckers (think vampire bats, leeches, and more...), Vampire Movies, and Ready Reference tips for deterring and destroying vampires.

*V is for Vampire: The A to Z Guide to Everything Undead* by Davis J. Skal

### Vampire Fiction

*Demon in My View* by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes  
*In the Forests of the Night* by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes  
*Look For Me By Moonlight* by Mary Downing Hahn  
*Shattered Mirror* by Amelia Atwater-Rhodes  
*Sweetblood* by Pete Hautman  
*Thirsty* by M.T. Anderson  
*Vampire Kisses* by Ellen Schreiber

## Classroom Connections

- Imagine story alternatives:
  - What if Cody had picked the other school? Have students write about Cody's first day at Our Lady of Perpetual Homework. Describe the principal, teachers, students and the school itself. Who would have given Cody his tour of the facility?

- What problems and adjustments would one of the vampires have if they were to come to your school?
- Compare the vampires of *Vampire High* with the vampires of myths and legends.
- Use this book as a springboard to a discussion on school bullying.

### **Web Sites**

Article Hub: The History of Vampires

<http://articlehub.com/Entertainment/Sci-Fi/The-History-Of-Vampires.html>

Article gives a detail history of vampires, Dracula, and their gothic lifestyle.

Dracula and the History of Vampires

[http://www.geocities.com/adrianbelmont/drac\\_vamps1.html](http://www.geocities.com/adrianbelmont/drac_vamps1.html)

Contains a history of the real life Dracula Vlad “The Impaler” Tepes III. Scroll to bottom and click on the link for “General Vampires” for more information.

In the Spotlight: School Safety

[http://www.ncjrs.org/school\\_safety/summary.html](http://www.ncjrs.org/school_safety/summary.html)

Includes links to programs such as “Peaceful Schools” that discusses teaching youth alternatives to violence. This site provides information on school bullying.

Kids@Random

<http://www.randomhouse.com/kids/catalog/display.pperl?isbn=044023834X>

Publisher site contains a summary, a brief author biography and an excerpt from the book.

The Skeptic Dictionary: Vampires

<http://skeptdic.com/vampires.html>

Includes common myths and characteristics of vampires and portrayals of vampires in literature and film.

Vampires in Myth and History

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~vampire/vhist.html>

This site investigates vampire characteristics that are fact and myth.