

The Blood Countess

Today, let's talk about the Blood Countess. Never heard of her? Well, while she was no relation to Count Dracula, her story is equally interesting!

Countess Elizabeth Bathory was actually a real person, as opposed to the fictional character of Count Dracula. Bram Stoker who created Dracula in 1897 is said to have been inspired by Bathory's real life story.

The Blood Countess acquired her name as she is said to have tortured and killed between 80 to 650 girls. She liked to bathe in the blood of her victims, as she believed the blood of virgin girls would maintain her youthful looks.

Countess Elizabeth Bathory lived in a castle in the village of Cachtice in what is today's Slovakia. She was married to a nobleman, Ferenc Nadasdy, who was a Hungarian national hero of the wars against the Turks. Up to his death in 1604 there were no reported killings of any girls, but following it the Countess is said to have become totally unhinged. After settling in at Cachtice Castle girls started disappearing from nearby surrounding villages. It is said that once she ran low of girls to satiate her habit the Blood Countess began to lure victims of higher born families, who began to notice their missing daughters.

By 1610, the rumours of her ghastly deeds had reached the Hungarian king, who sent his second in command to investigate. She was arrested along with three of her servants who were tortured and burned at the stake. Countess Elizabeth Bathory wasn't put on trial. Thus she was never convicted of her crimes. Instead she was walled in at Cachtice Castle, where she died on 21 August 1614. Ironically, today one can buy an excellent red wine called Bathory.

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Blood Countess. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) Who wrote Dracula?
- 2) In what year was Dracula written?
- 3) What happened in 1610?
- 4) What happened in 1614?
- 5) What happened in 1604?

Student B questions

- 1) Name the Blood Countess's husband.
- 2) Who was the Blood Countess's husband fighting?
- 3) What did the Blood Countess like to do?
- 4) Who began to notice their daughters were missing?
- 5) Who was burned at the stake?

The Blood Countess - 5th September 2014

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with **'The Blood Countess'**. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs – Think of three points from the article on the Blood Countess. Write them below. Talk about them.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three points on Count Dracula. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 3

In pairs. Student A is a maid to Countess Elizabeth Bathory. Student B is the King's second in command. Student A has escaped from the clutches of the Blood Countess and is talking to Student B. (Imagine!) 5-mins.

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Are you into Dracula stories?
- 3) How many Dracula movies have you watched?
- 4) Have you seen the movie about the Blood Countess?
- 5) Do you know of any other such stories?
- 6) Would you like to have lived in 1610?
- 7) Would you liked to have worked for Countess Elizabeth Bathory?
- 8) What would the duties of a maid be in 1610?
- 9) What do you know about Count Ferenc Nadasdy?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. There are up to four guests. You are in the Radio London studio. Today's interview is: *The Blood Countess.* 10 mins.

- 1) Someone from Central Europe who knows the story of Bathory.
- 2) A Dracula fan.
- 3) An avid fictional book reader.
- 4) A journalist.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs. Student A is Countess Elizabeth Bathory. Student B is Dracula. Start a conversation about who you are. (Imagine!) 3-mins.

SPEAKING – DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Compare: The Blood Countess v Dracula

Google them!

Talk about them!

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Why did it take so long for the Blood Countess's crimes to be discovered?
- 3) Have you ever tried a Bathory wine or a similar such wine?
- 4) What made the Blood Countess bathe in the blood of virgin girls?
- 5) Are you into horror books or movies?
- 6) Which is your favourite horror movie character?
- 7) When did you first hear about the Blood Countess?
- 8) What do you think the local villagers around the village of Cachtice thought about the missing girls in 1608?
- 9) Has this been a difficult lesson for you to understand?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

The Blood Countess

Today, let's talk about the Blood Countess. Never heard of her? Well, while she was no relation to Count Dracula, her story is (1)___ interesting!

Countess Elizabeth Bathory was actually a real person, as opposed to the (2)___ character of Count Dracula. Bram Stoker who created Dracula in 1897 is said to have been inspired by Bathory's real life story.

The Blood Countess acquired her name as she is said to have tortured and killed between 80 to 650 girls. She liked to (3)___ in the blood of her victims, as she believed the blood of (4)___ girls would maintain her (5)___ looks.

Countess Elizabeth Bathory lived in a castle in the village of Cachtice in what is today's Slovakia. She was married to a nobleman, Ferenc Nadasdy, who was a Hungarian national (6)___ of the wars against the Turks. Up to his death in 1604 there were no reported killings of any girls, but following it the (7)___ is said to have become totally (8)___.

unhinged / equally / hero / bathe / virgin / Countess / fictional / youthful

After settling in at Cachtice Castle girls started disappearing from (1)___ surrounding villages. It is said that once she ran low of girls to satiate her habit the Blood Countess began to (2)___ (3)___ of higher born families, who began to (4)___ their missing daughters.

By 1610, the (5)___ of her (6)___ deeds had reached the Hungarian king, who sent his second in command to investigate. She was arrested along with three of her servants who were tortured and burned at the stake. Countess Elizabeth Bathory wasn't put on (7)___ . Thus she was never convicted of her (8)___ . Instead she was walled in at Cachtice Castle, where she died on 21 August 1614. Ironically, today one can buy an excellent red wine called Bathory.

trial / ghastly / notice / victims / crimes / lure / nearby / rumours

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

The Blood Countess

Today, let's talk about the Blood Countess. Never heard of her? Well, while she was no relation to Count Dracula, her story is equally interesting!

Countess Elizabeth Bathory was actually a real person, (1)___ opposed to the fictional character of Count Dracula. Bram Stoker (2)___ created Dracula in 1897 is said to have been inspired (3)___ Bathory's real life story.

The Blood Countess acquired her name as she is said to have tortured and killed between 80 to 650 girls. (4)___ liked to bathe in the blood of her victims, as she believed the blood of virgin girls would maintain her youthful looks.

Countess Elizabeth Bathory lived (5)___ a castle in the village of Cachtice in what is today's Slovakia. She was married to a nobleman, Ferenc Nadasdy, who was a Hungarian national hero of the wars against the Turks. Up to (6)___ death in 1604 there were no reported killings (7)___ (8)___ girls, but following it the Countess is said to have become totally unhinged.

of / in / as / by / his / who / any / she

(1)___ settling in at Cachtice Castle girls started disappearing from nearby surrounding villages. It is said (2)___ once she ran low of girls to satiate (3)___ habit the Blood Countess began to lure victims of higher born families, (4)___ began to notice (5)___ missing daughters.

By 1610, the rumours of her ghastly deeds had reached the Hungarian king, who sent his second in command to investigate. She was arrested along (6)___ three of her servants who were tortured and burned at the stake. Countess Elizabeth Bathory wasn't put on trial. (7)___ she was never convicted of her crimes. Instead she was walled in at Cachtice Castle, (8)___ she died on 21 August 1614. Ironically, today one can buy an excellent red wine called Bathory.

thus / with / after / where / their / that / who / her

GAP FILL: LISTENING

The Blood Countess

Today, let's talk about _____. Never heard of her? Well, while she was no relation to Count Dracula, her story is equally interesting!

_____ was actually a real person, as opposed to the _____ of Count Dracula. Bram Stoker who created Dracula in 1897 is said to have been inspired by Bathory's real life story.

The Blood Countess acquired her name as she is said to have tortured and killed between 80 to 650 girls. She liked to bathe in the blood of her victims, as she believed the _____ would maintain her youthful looks.

Countess Elizabeth Bathory lived in a castle in the village of Cachtice in what is today's Slovakia. She was married to a nobleman, Ferenc Nadasdy, who was a _____ of the wars against the Turks.

Up to his death there were no reported killings of any girls, but following it the Countess is said to have become totally unhinged. After settling in at Cachtice Castle girls started disappearing from nearby _____. It is said that once she ran low of girls to satiate her habit the Blood Countess began _____ higher born families, who began to notice their missing daughters. By 1610, the rumours _____ had reached the Hungarian king, who sent his second in command to investigate. She was arrested along with three of her servants who were tortured and _____. Countess Elizabeth Bathory wasn't put on trial. Thus she was never convicted of her crimes. Instead she was walled in at Cachtice Castle, where she died on 21 August 1614. Ironically, today one can buy _____ called Bathory.

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WRITING/SPEAKING

1) On the board - In pairs, as a class - write down 10 things each you know about **the Blood Countess and Count Dracula**. Talk about them! 5 mins.

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) The Blood Countess _____
- 2) Dracula _____
- 3) In 1610, _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **The Blood Countess**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) equally
- 2) fictional
- 3) bathe
- 4) virgin
- 5) youthful
- 6) hero
- 7) Countess
- 8) unhinged

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Countess
- 2) virgin
- 3) fictional
- 4) equally
- 5) while
- 6) Count Dracula
- 7) bathe
- 8) blood
- 9) maintain
- 10) hero

ANSWERS

- 1) nearby
- 2) lure
- 3) victims
- 4) notice
- 5) rumours
- 6) ghastly
- 7) trial
- 8) crimes

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) nobleman
- 12) unhinged
- 13) disappearing
- 14) surrounding
- 15) satiate
- 16) habit
- 17) lure
- 18) daughters
- 19) rumours
- 20) ghastly

The Blood Countess - *5th September 2014*