

Curriculum Guide

Blood Diaries: Tales of a 6th-Grade Vampire

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Discussion Questions:

Edgar Stoker feels like an outsider, both in school and in his family. Have you ever felt like you didn't belong?

Certain things tagged Edgar as different. One thing was the lunches he brought. Have you ever brought a strange food to school that other students were curious about?

Edgar can't invite his human friends over to his house, but he doesn't want to anyway. He doesn't want his friends to meet his parents or see where he lives. Have you ever been embarrassed by something your parents did? Are there things about your own home you don't want your friends to see?

Edgar has to figure out how to handle a bully, a tricky situation. Have you ever been bullied? How did you respond? What advice would you give Edgar for dealing with bullies?

Edgar has to straddle two worlds, the vampire one and the human one. Sometimes people who have immigrated feel the same way, that they're living in two different cultures. Have you ever felt that? Are there good things about having two different cultures? Bad things?

Writing Activities and Prompts:

The writer of Blood Diaries had to create a vampire world, with its own rules and ways of doing things, from Saturday Vampire Jamborees to Sun-B-Gone potion. If you could create your own vampire world, what would it look like? Would vampires be friendly or mean? What would they eat? How would they deal with the human world?

Edgar wants desperately to have friends, both in the human and the vampire world. Which of the characters in the book do you think would make good friends? Why or why not? Start with a chart of the characters and use three words to describe each of their personalities, then put them in the good friend, bad friend, or undecided category.

The vampires in Edgar's family can choose whether to get older or not. If you had that choice which age would you stay at? Why? What are the advantages of controlling how you age?

The vampires don't trust humans and vote that Edgar not reveal himself as a vampire. Do you agree with that decision? Should vampires trust humans? Why or why not?

The humans have a lot of stereotypes about vampires. List them. The vampires have stereotypes about humans. List them. Is either list based on real evidence or simply on impressions or prejudices? Based on your lists, are stereotypes useful or do they hide what's actually true?