

Youth Culture Lesson
Finding Teachable Moments in Culture
From *YouthWorker Journal* and youthworker.com

Vamping It Up

Bloodsuckers Take a Bite Out of Culture

By Paul Asay

Posted: October 23, 2009

What Happened:

On Nov. 20, America's most charismatic vampire, Edward Cullen, will return to the screen in *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*. Played by Robert Pattinson, Cullen is a walking irony: a heartthrob whose heart doesn't throb at all.

Cullen isn't alone. Culture is besotted with vampires, from the bickering, bloodsucking teen brothers in CW's "The Vampire Diaries" to the motley cast on HBO's "True Blood." *The Vampire's Assistant* comes out today (Oct. 23, 2009). The undead are everywhere.

Once upon a time, no one wanted to be a vampire. They were evil and cold—creatures of the devil to be loathed and feared—whose eternal life was a curse, not a blessing.

Now, vampires are cool, not cold. They have superhuman speed and strength, hypnotic powers and are forever young and beautiful. No one, apparently, becomes a vampire if they're over 30 or overweight.

"A vampire is free to do whatever he wants and be as sexual as he wants to be," Andrew Rempt, an English professor at Southwestern College, told the *San Diego Union-Tribune*. "They're always popular, especially with young people, for their rebellion. I'm not surprised that people are getting back into them."

Talk About It:

Are vampires the coolest of classic Halloween monsters? What makes them so cool? What makes them so fascinating to other people? Is it possible for vampires to be good?

Who's your favorite vampire? Dracula? Lestat? Edward Cullen?

Some people like vampires so much they think they're real—and some think they *are* vampires. Sometimes, vampires drink blood or say they absorb other people's energy. Do you know anyone who'd like to be a vampire? Do you think it's healthy?

What the Bible Says:

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end” (Eccl. 3:11).

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and He Himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death” (James 1:13-15).

“And in those days people will seek death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will flee from them” (Rev. 9:6).

“For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality” (1 Cor. 15:52-53).