

Extract: Dracula (a novel by Bram Stoker)

1. We left in pretty good time, and came after nightfall to Klausenburgh. Here I stopped for the night at the Hotel Royale. I had for dinner, or rather **supper**¹, a chicken done up some way with red pepper, which was very good but thirsty...I asked the waiter, and he said it was called "paprika hendl," and that, as it was a national dish, I should be able to get it anywhere along the Carpathians. I found my **smattering**² of German very useful here; indeed, I don't know how I should be able to get on without it.
2. I did not sleep well, though my bed was comfortable enough, for I had all sorts of **queer**³ dreams. There was a dog howling all night under my window, which may have had something to do with it; or it may have been the paprika, for I had to drink up all the water in my carafe, and was still thirsty... I had to hurry breakfast, for the train started a little before eight, or rather it ought to have done so, for after rushing to the station at 7:30 I had to sit in the carriage for more than an hour before we began to move. It seems to me that the further east you go the more unpunctual are the trains. What ought they to be in China?
3. It was on the dark side of twilight when we got to Bistritz, which is a very interesting old place ... Count Dracula had directed me to go to the Golden Krone Hotel, which I found, to my great delight, to be thoroughly old-fashioned, for of course I wanted to see all I could of the ways of the country. I was evidently expected, for when I got near the door I faced a cheery-looking elderly woman in the usual peasant dress...When I came close she bowed and said, "The Herr Englishman?" "Yes," I said, "Jonathan Harker." She smiled, and gave some message to an elderly man in white shirt-sleeves, who had followed her to the door. He went, but immediately returned with a letter:--

"My Friend.--Welcome to the Carpathians. I am anxiously expecting you. Sleep well to-night. At three tomorrow the Diligence will start for Bukovina; a place on it is kept for you. At the Borgo Pass my carriage will await you and will bring you to me. I trust that your journey from London has been a happy one, and that you will enjoy your stay in my beautiful land.

Your friend,

DRACULA."

¹ Supper: (noun) a small meal eaten in the late evening

² Smattering: (noun) a very small amount or number

³ Queer: (adjective) strange (queer, in more modern times, has come to be used as a synonym for homosexual)

Questions

1. It is clear from paragraph 1 that
 - a) The people in Klausenburgh speak English well.
 - b) The narrator's knowledge of German proved essential.
 - c) The narrator found it possible to communicate effectively via English.

2. Why does the narrator mention China in paragraph?
 - a) To contrast the punctuality of Chinese trains with the tardiness of those in the West.
 - b) To suggest that the Chinese would be shocked by the tardiness of trains in the West.
 - c) As a joke to emphasize the tardiness of trains as you move east.

3. In paragraph 3, the narrator was received at the Golden Krone in a way that was...
 - a) old-fashioned and cold.
 - b) warm and prepared
 - c) unready but friendly.

SEE ANSWERS OVERLEAF



COMPREHENSION B2: 4

Answers

1. b
2. c
3. b