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How to Write Your Very Own Mary Sue Character

The vampire genre is once more on the rise in popularity in today's literature. The trend set by novels such as *Twilight* and Anne Rice's *Interview With a Vampire* is now being duplicated all over the shelves of the tweenage romance section. But I've noticed a trend that separates these novels from the so-called "classics": the presence of one, or many, Mary Sue characters. If you want to write a novel, especially a vampire novel that will sell to the many screaming, adoring, 12-16 year-old fangirls, you must include this ever-present Mary Sue character. And now I will teach you how to write one so that you too can see your novels jammed on the shelves with the label "teen vampire romance."

The first step in writing a Mary Sue character is to make that character absolutely perfect. This is easy enough to do with vampires, who are supposed to be naturally beautiful and flawless. However, your character should not be aware of his/her perfection. She/he should be modest and should always wonder why it is that everyone seems to find him/her so alluring. Your Mary Sue character should also have one single flaw. Do not confuse this flaw, however, with the fatal flaw the Greeks were so apt to use in their tragic plays. This flaw should only be noticed by your Mary Sue character, and everyone else in the book should find it either adorable or deserving of pity. For example, your character could be endearingly clumsy or fascinatingly shy or even pitifully self-loathing. And no matter how much the other characters in your book try to point out the perfection of your Mary Sue character, he/she should never believe them.

Now, besides a perfect personality, let's talk about your character's physical appearance. He/she should be beautiful. Period. No one would want to read about an ugly character.

However, as with your character's personality, he/she should not be aware of his/her beauty. Your character should think that his/her appearance is mediocre at best and bashfully brush away any comments or attempts to prove otherwise. Now, don't get too caught up on describing your character's physical appearance for your readers. Try to make your description as vague and

general as possible so that all of your readers can picture themselves in your character's body. Also, it's perfectly alright if your character resembles, or is even an exact replica, of yourself. After all, who would write a novel with the purpose of living a complete stranger's life?

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, your Mary Sue character shouldn't be able to die. Again, this is most likely the reason why the vampire genre is so packed with Mary Sues. Vampires live forever as long as they drink blood, they are eternally beautiful, and only things such as sunlight can kill them. However, as the much-loved author Stephenie Meyer must have realized, drinking human blood and bursting into flames in sunlight is just plain icky. No one would ever find that attractive. But instead of freaking out over this apparent contradiction, she simply made her vampires capable of sustaining themselves off of animal blood with no apparent drawbacks except that their eyes turned gold instead of a gruesome blood red when they were hungry, and she made them sparkle in the sun. Now, what about Bella-type characters, you might ask, who aren't yet vampires but keep trying to convince their reluctant boyfriends to turn them into one? Again, your character can't die because that would ruin the story and make all of your adoring fans hate you, but he/she should still come close to death on numerous occasions, in which it appears there is no escape for him/her, and then be saved by another character or some strange miracle of magic you've never brought up before in the story until it suited your needs.

J.K. Rowling was apt to do this at the end of every single one of her *Harry Potter* novels in which Harry always, unsurprisingly, came across some plot to kill him designed by either Voldemort or his followers, and was miraculously saved by the strange, never-quite-explained power of his scar or his mother's sacrifice. If your character is a female, though, as in the case of Bella from *Twilight*, you should make sure that, despite the fact that she claims to be a headstrong woman who can take care of herself, she is always saved by a stronger, masculine character, and becomes absolutely useless in rescuing herself as soon as he arrives. After all, why would any teenage vampire fans want to read about a feminist character that can kick ass all on her own?

Well there you have it, a step-by-step guide on how to write a Mary Sue character all your own. Now you too can publish mediocre vampire romance novels, become temporarily popular, and then fall into anonymity among the millions of other writers until you crank out another novel like the whore author you are. Have fun!