

Twilight

Stephenie Meyer

Synopsis: Bella Swan, an average teenage girl, moves from sunny Phoenix to perpetually cloudy Forks, Washington to live with her father. Nothing much interesting happens until she meets the gorgeous and mysterious Edward Cullen, who just might not be human.

About the Author:

Stephenie Meyer was born in Connecticut in 1973, and by the time she was four, her family settled in Phoenix. She is the second of six children, and she says she has the “Jan Brady” position in her family as she is the second of three girls in a family of six, but all of her siblings are full, not step or half. The unusual spelling of her name comes from her father, whose name is Stephen. She attended high school in Scottsdale, Arizona, and she was awarded a National Merit Scholarship which went to pay for her tuition to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She graduated from BYU with a bachelor’s degree in English.

When Stephenie was four, she met the boy who would one day be her husband but they were not close family friends at that point. His given name is Christian, but everyone calls him Pancho. She and Pancho came into contact with each other once a week through church activities but were never more than acquaintances. However, when they finally started speaking to each other, she says it only took nine months since that first conversation until their wedding. They have now been married for over ten years and they are the parents to three sons. They are both members of the Mormon Church.

Twilight was her first novel and it was written after Stephenie had a very vivid dream one night about a teen girl and a vampire boy having a conversation in a meadow. She set about writing what she remembered from the dream right away so as not to forget any of the details about it. Writing had been something she had done occasionally over the years, but she mostly did chapters for projects that she never finished. As that morning went on, she stopped writing to do the work she needed to do around the home, but she kept going back to the piece every day and worked a bit more. For her setting, she did research on the Internet to find out the place in the United States with the most annual rainfall, which wound up being the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. While looking at maps of the area, she discovered the place called Forks, and in doing further research of the area she learned about the La Push Reservation. The information was so interesting that it became a big part of the story.

Stephenie is a fan of and has been influenced by many authors who range from classic writers like Jane Austen and L.M. Montgomery, to more contemporary Science Fiction and Fantasy writers like Eva Ibbotson and Douglas Adams. She is also a fan of many modern rock bands like My Chemical Romance and the British band, Muse. From the Stephenie Meyer website.

Activities:

For a fun community service project, work with your school or public librarian to come up with a list of other teen fantasy fiction titles that feature vampires or werewolves. Type up your list and include annotations of each title. Publish it for the library when you are done so you can share it with friends and others who are interested in these types of books.

Think of all of the different stories that make up the vampire legend. Why is the legend so popular and why do you think there are so many versions of how a vampire is created? Why do people have such a fascination with vampires and eternal youth? Is vampirism from a virus? Or a demon? Do you have a new idea for what causes a person to become a vampire? Consider the history and staying power of the Vampire legend and come up with your own version for what causes a person to change into a vampire, and why some things, like crosses and garlic repel vampires. Do the same with the werewolf legend.

Keep a dream journal near your bed, and record your vivid and interesting dreams right away. Maybe one day you too will dream up a great idea that will not let you go until you turn it into a short story or novel.

For Halloween, set up a display in your library of young adult books with Supernatural themes or that are scary.

Read the sequels to Twilight: New Moon and Eclipse and write reviews of the three for your school paper or library newsletter. Post reviews on a blog or wiki if you so choose.

Create a social networking page for your favorite Twilight character in something like MySpace or Facebook.

Sponsor a Vampire film fest in your library with titles like Buffy the Vampire Slayer, or Dracula.

Related Websites:

The Author's Homepage:

<http://www.stepheniemeyer.com/>

Teen Ink, for those interested in becoming authors:

<http://www.teenauthors.com/>

Vampire Mythology:

<http://www.tabula-rasa.info/Horror/VampireMythos.html>

<http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/~vampire/vhist.html>

<http://twilightlexicon.com/the-lexicon/vampire-mythology/>

Vampire fiction for teens:

<http://www.wakegov.com/NR/ronlyres/48627454-CAA2-43DA-B790-EDC50AB84AEB/0/vampirelist.pdf>