

BrainPOP Related Reading - Frankenstein

Immersive Reader

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, is written as a series of letters from Robert Walton to his sister. Novels made up of letters are called **epistolary novels**, from the Latin word for letter, "epistola." This genre was especially popular in the 18th century.

Although many epistolary novels stick to letters, they often include many other fictional documents, including journal entries, newspaper articles, telegrams, memos, or court transcripts. Recent epistolary novels might even use emails or instant messages! This unique format can add realism to a story and allow it to be told from various points of view.

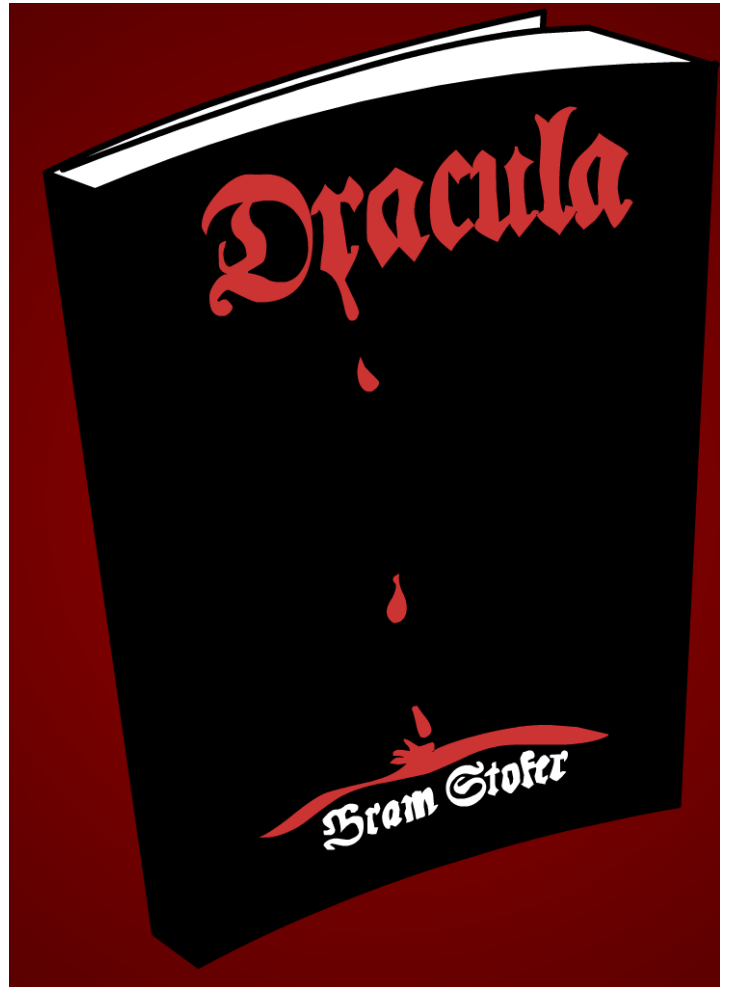
Here are some contemporary epistolary novels that are worth perusing:

In Stephen Chbosky's *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, 15-year-old Charlie chronicles his experiences in anonymous letters to a stranger. Charlie writes about being shy and unpopular and surviving his freshman year of high school.

The Internet Girl series, by Lauren Myracle, includes *ttyl*, *tffn*, *l8r*, *g8r* and *yolo*. These books are told entirely through instant messages and texts exchanged between three best friends.

Spud, by John van de Ruit, follows a 13-year-old's first year at an elite all-boys boarding school. Through a series of diary entries, Spud describes his struggles to adapt to his new life, plus what's going on in the larger world. The book takes place in South Africa during the end of Apartheid, a system of racial segregation enforced there for more than 40 years.

Jackie Moriarty's *The Year of Secret Assignments* is the story of a pen pal program set up between a fancy
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private school and a public school with a bad reputation. The letter exchange breeds an intense rivalry between the schools, leading to pranks, mistaken identities, and plenty of drama.

In *Absolutely Normal Chaos*, by Sharon Creech, we're drawn in to 13-year-old Mary Lou Finney's summer journal. What begins as a ho-hum assignment for her English class (along with reading Homer's epic poem "The Odyssey") ends up detailing an epic adventure of Mary Lou's own.