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English 2816

31 October 2016

Vampires in America

The vampire is one of the oldest archetypes found in
American fiction, and as American culture has changed, the
vampire has transformed himself to reflect new cultural
norms. According to Nina Auerbach, “Every age embraces
the vampire it needs” (12). In the twentieth century, the
United States became the vampire capital of the world, and
with the advent of the motion picture industry, even the

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In the last twenty-five years, changes in American
culture have influenced the transformation of the vampire
from a solitary figure to a complex figure representing our
world’s constantly changing fears, attitudes, and behaviors.
An example is Buffy Summers from the television program
Buffy, the Vampire Slayer: Buffy has shown her audiences
that even super humans don’t have all the answers and can
need the help of others (Bryan 82). Even powerful people
need emotional support.

Vampires also reflect American’s changing attitudes
toward spirituality and movement away from organized
religion. Ann Rice’s vampires often question their

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