

# **Twilight Study Guide**

**Twilight by Stephenie Meyer**

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## Plot Summary

This young adult vampire novel takes place mostly in a town on the Olympia peninsula in Washington state. The town's name is Forks, and it is one of the rainiest, cloudiest towns in the United States, with only a few days of sunshine during the entire year. The main character, Isabella Swan, commonly known as Bella, is moving to Forks to live with her father, Charlie Swan, who is the chief of police. Bella is making this move because her mother is newly married to a baseball player who must travel, so rather than hold her mother back, Bella goes to live with her father.

Bella registers in high school and begins classes. She is surprised that people seem to already know her, and that some boys seem very interested in her from the beginning. She sees a handsome boy that seems to keep himself and his siblings. Bella is intensely attracted to this boy, named Edward Cullen, and is shocked when he seems to loathe her. Soon she learns that he is extremely attracted to her, but he feels he is dangerous to her. After being warned by an American Indian boy that the Cullens are Cold Ones, or vampires, Bella learns that it is true.

Bella is not frightened by the fact that her true love is a vampire. She meets the family and they almost all get along. However, during a family baseball game, a dangerous vampire family hears the game going on and finds Bella, a human, among the group. The vampires know by extrasensory perception that he is a hunter and that he is going to hunt Bella. Together they design a plan to keep Bella safe, and through an adventurous twist and turn of affairs, she is safe at last.

# Preface

## Preface Summary

This very brief preface takes place at the end of the book. The first-person protagonist sees she is going to die, and does not regret the steps she takes to get to this point as a hunter comes forward to kill her.

## Preface Analysis

This is just a brief touch to foreshadow the entire narrative of the book.



# First Sight

## First Sight Summary

The novel begins with the first-person protagonist, Bella, getting on a plane from Phoenix to a small town called Forks in Washington State. Bella's mother had lived in Forks during her brief marriage and Bella was born there. Bella visits there every summer, staying with her father, Charlie. Bella hesitates to leave her mother, who she feels is irresponsible and immature. Her mom has remarried to a man named Phil, who will take care of her. Bella loves the sunshine in Phoenix. She knows that Forks is mostly cloudy and rainy and she is resigned to that fact of the weather.

Bella's father Charlie Swan is the chief of police. He picks her up at the airport in Port Angeles in his police cruiser. Charlie tells her he has bought a truck from an old friend on the reservation. Bella is touched that he is giving her a truck free. Father and daughter ride silently to Forks through a world that is green and full of trees and vegetation.

When they get home, Bella finds she loves the truck. She takes all her stuff upstairs to the room she has used all these years. She thinks about her physical characteristics, being pale skinned and also being clumsy. She eats breakfast and goes to the high school, gets herself enrolled, and begins classes. The work is easy for her and she begins to meet and recognize people, especially boys who show interest in her.

At lunch, she notices a group of beautiful students sitting apart from all the other students. They are not eating, though they have food in front of them. Students identify them as the Cullens and reveal some unidentified discomfort with them. Bella goes to science class and ends up sitting by the most handsome of the boys. He has coal black eyes and unusual bronze hair. He leans as far away from Bella as he can, as if she smells bad. He seems to loathe her, and she cannot figure out why. It upsets her so much that she can hardly get through the rest of the day. She cries on her way home.

## First Sight Analysis

In this chapter, Bella reveals her reasons for leaving Phoenix, because her mother is getting married and Bella wants to leave that situation and go to live with her dad. Bella prefers the bright heat of Phoenix but is going to live in a cloudy, rainy, green environment in Washington State. Her father shows kindness and foresight because he has bought her a truck and has fixed it up for her. Bella seems more open-minded than many teens because she likes the sixties truck and doesn't demand a fancy car.

Bella is lonely and cries herself to sleep, but she is courageous enough to go to school and get herself enrolled. The school experience seems doable until she sees the Cullen family sitting alone at their own table. They are so beautiful and graceful, yet seem unapproachable. Bella is particularly attracted to the one called Edward. She is

devastated when he seems to hate her beyond any reason. He leans away from her and cannot seem to even be near her, though they are seated together in Biology.

Bella is so upset by this that she goes home crying. She is glad to get into her new truck and go home.



# Open Book

## Open Book Summary

This chapter begins with the next school day. Bella dreads running into Edward Cullen after his hateful behavior of the day before. However, Edward is absent today. A boy named Mike has begun giving Bella much attention. Although Bella is not attracted to him, she is grateful for feeling included at this new school. After school, when Bella arrives home, she realizes that her father Charlie does not know how to cook, so she takes over the shopping and cooking and eventually the cleanup.

During dinner, Bella asks her father about the Cullen family. Charlie is supportive of the Cullens because they are law abiding, and he mentions the handsomeness of the doctor who is the father of the family.

During the subsequent school days, Bella begins to relax because Edward is not at school. It begins to snow on Friday. At lunch, Bella realizes that Edward really is at school and she reacts powerfully and emotionally to his presence. Bella thinks there is something fundamentally different about Edward today. She stares at him, and their eyes meet. Later in Biology, Edward introduces himself to Bella and is very nice and friendly. Bella cannot figure out why he seems so hateful before. Bella is his intellectual equal in Biology, much to his surprise. The two have an extensive conversation and Edward reveals that he cannot "read" or intuitively understand Bella at all.

Later, after school, Edward continues to watch Bella and even seems to be laughing at her a little.

## Open Book Analysis

This short chapter gives foreshadowing of the attraction and easy conversation between Edward and Bella. Bella does not understand her powerful reactions to this stranger. In the former chapter, she is devastated because Edward seems to loathe her. In this chapter, Edward is openly curious about her and engages her in conversation, including a bit of teasing. Bella is falling for Edward and seems to know it. She cannot stop looking for him, and he continues to keep looking for her and responding to her presence. This chapter reveals Edward's inability to "read" Bella, which he later explains.





# Phenomenon

## Phenomenon Summary

The day dawns frozen and icy, something unfamiliar to Bella, who is used to Phoenix. Bella alludes to her inherent clumsiness, which will be challenged by walking on icy surfaces. She does have trouble walking to the truck but not driving it on the icy roads. She gets out of the truck and hears an odd screech. She notices Edward watching her in horror. A dark blue van is skidding on the ice, heading straight for Bella. Something hits her, but from the wrong direction. She lands hard on the parking lot. The van keeps coming, and somehow stops short of hitting her, while a pair of white hands have reached out and stopped the van. An impossibly fast movement follows, and Bella is pulled out of the collision of the van into her truck. Edward is asking her if she is all right, and she realizes she has hit her head very hard.

Bella knows that Edward at first is across the parking lot and now is right by her, but he denies it. He begs her to stop asking about it. An ambulance takes her to the hospital. Later, she receives visits from Charlie, and some classmates, and also Edward, who introduces her to his handsome, blond father, Dr. Cullen. The doctor checks her, and she realizes that he understands very well the anomaly of Edward being at her side so quickly during the accident. Bella gets Edward alone but he refuses to explain what happens. She tries to tell him how it was and he pretends it is impossible, that she has suffered a head injury. She leaves the hospital with her father but she realizes she is falling in love. She dreams of Edward this night.

## Phenomenon Analysis

This chapter reveals several important facets of Edward Cullen's character. For one thing, he is completely attuned to Bella, although she does not yet realize the extent of his focus. For another, he instantly rescues her from certain death, in magical ways. He appears instantly and lifts a van off Bella, and then he whisks her improbably away from the crash. In the hospital, he refuses to discuss these miracles, and seems to get very cold and angry when she insists on explanations. Later in the book these seeming miracles are explained. Bella realizes that she is falling in love with Edward. She says this is the first night that she dreams of him.



# Invitations

## Invitations Summary

This chapter begins with Bella's first dream of Edward. In the dream, she is chasing him but cannot catch him.

During the month after the accident, everyone pays Bella so much attention that she is embarrassed. In particular, the owner of the van, Tyler, tries to make amends for the accident, though Bella tries to convince him not to do so. Edward seems to be fighting himself not to talk to Bella, even though she tries to. Mike, however, pursues Bella confidently. Mike even reveals to Bella that he likes her and wants her to invite him to the girls' choice dance. Bella lets him down gently, saying that she is going out of town.

In Biology, Edward talks a little to Bella but tells her that it's better if they are not friends. This hurts her and they have a small fight. During the next class, another boy, Eric, asks Bella to the dance, even though it's girls' choice. Tyler does the same and Bella realizes she is being besieged by boys, but what she wants is Edward's attention, not all these others. She ponders all this as she cooks chicken enchiladas for dinner. As she eats with her father, she asks for permission to go to Seattle that weekend in the truck.

The next morning, she sees Edward in the parking lot. He seems to appear out of thin air. He offers to take her to Seattle. She agrees. He says that it's better if they are not friends, but he cannot help himself.

## Invitations Analysis

Bella is very surprised that so many boys are showing interest in her, even asking her to the dance which is clearly a girls' choice dance. She turns them all down. Her hidden reason is that she is very clumsy and cannot dance without falling down. She plans a solo trip to Seattle that weekend to take care of the conflict of having to deal with the dance. Edward finally comes up and talks to her, even though he seems to be fighting his better instincts. She thinks he is going to ask her to the dance too, but he has heard she is going to Seattle. He offers to take her, giving the excuse of better mileage in his car than in her truck. She is resistant but finally agrees.

In this chapter, Edward stops resisting Bella, even though he knows it would be better if they do not get close.



# Blood Type

## Blood Type Summary

Bella is so stunned by her conversation with Edward that she is late to English. She can hardly think straight throughout the morning classes. Edward beckons for Bella to join him and his brothers and sisters during lunch. He reveals that he has given up resisting her and that he is not good for her. She tries to figure him out, which troubles him, but she does not realize yet what he is. He tries to tease it out of her, if she realizes his true identity, but she does not, and he is somewhat relieved, at least for the moment. He hints that he is not a good guy but a bad guy. She cannot believe it.

Edward is skipping Biology, but Bella goes. In class, they are taking small samples of blood to determine their blood types. Bella is faint at the sight of blood and says she already knows her blood type. On the way to the nurse, she even faints, and Edward catches her. Edward takes her to the nurse's office and stays with her. Another student comes in with the same problem. Bella reveals that she cannot stand the smell of blood. Edward says that people can't smell blood, but Bella knows she can. Bella does not want to go to Gym, and Edward gets her excused. He insists that he drive her home, and that his sister will bring the truck later.

On the way home, they talk about music. Both of them love Debussy and other favorite classics. Edward asks about Bella's mother and father and wonders how old Bella is because she seems more mature than seventeen. He flirts with her and teases her and it is evident that he loves her too.

## Blood Type Analysis

This chapter foreshadows the important role of blood in this vampire novel. Bella is used to the idea that she will not be seeing Edward in school for a while. She is shocked to see him one morning and even more surprised to have him talk to her and even flirt a little. He keeps hinting throughout this chapter that he is giving up resisting her, even though he knows he is not good for her.

When Bella nearly faints in Biology because of the smell of the blood, this foreshadows Bella's similarity to the vampires. Edward says that people cannot smell blood, but Bella can. Edward wants to know if Bella realizes that he is a vampire, but she does not, although she realizes that he is very different from other people. In this chapter, both Bella and Edward realize that they are falling in love.



# Scary Stories

## Scary Stories Summary

It is raining and Bella is listening for the truck to drive up, but never hears it. Suddenly it is just there. Bella thinks about her friend Jessica who is asking about Edward. Jessica is so surprised because the Cullens never talk to anyone outside their family. The girls at school are nastily gossiping about this. On the weekend many of the teenagers are going to La Push for a party at the beach. Mike is happy when Bella agrees to ride with him.

Bella remembers going to the beach at La Push as a child. It is a typical northern US beach, with cold water, high cliffs, stone formations, and trees around. The teens build a driftwood fire, which burns blue and multicolored. Bella wants to join the boys hiking to the tide pools, which she remembers fondly from her childhood. She is worried though that her clumsiness will make her fall in the ocean. At last she decides to go. The pools are filled with beautiful sea life. When the group returns, food is being brought out and some of the kids from the nearby Indian reservation have joined the group. In particular, a boy named Jacob Black greets Bella. They knew each other from childhood. Bella's truck used to belong to the Black family, and Jacob's father has fixed it up.

When the conversation turns to the Cullens, Jacob says that the Cullens don't come out here. Jacob invites Bella for a walk on the beach. She decides to flirt with Jacob to get information out of him. Jacob says he is not supposed to talk about it, but he finally tells Bella that the Cullens are "cold ones", or vampires. Jacob tells Bella that the Cullens are civilized and friendly to humans, not hunting humans but animals for blood. Jacob tells Bella that the Cullens are the very same vampires that his grandfather knew many years ago. Jacob himself is not sure he believes these stories and he doesn't want Bella to think he is weird. Bella reassures him and they rejoin the group. Bella has much to ponder on the trip home.

## Scary Stories Analysis

From a Native American boy, Bella learns about the Cullens being "cold ones", or vampires, many decades or even centuries old. This boy, Jacob, does not necessarily believe the stories himself, but when Bella hears them, she must consider them. The chapter reveals that the vampires are not allowed on the reservation. For this reason they do not come down to the beach, which borders the reservation. Some jealousy interplay occurs in this novel, since Mike is more than a little in love with Bella. In addition, some girls make unkind or gossipy comments about Bella walking off with Jacob and about Bella hanging out with Edward.

By a conversation with Jacob Black, Bella learns here, for the first time, about the real identity of Edward Cullen as a vampire. It is a lot to take in.



# Nightmare

## Nightmare Summary

Bella retreats to her room, telling her dad she has homework to do. She puts music on her player and puts on her earphones, trying to block out the thoughts in her head. She begins to dream that Jacob is helping her run from danger. She wakes up suddenly and realizes she has been asleep in her clothes all night. She does an Internet search for vampires, but nothing seems real-world or modern, and most of the stories are about wicked vampires. Bella is relieved to find one story about good vampires. Bella does notice that Edward seems to have many characteristics of vampires as cited on the Internet, particularly being beautiful, strong, fast, pale, and having eyes that shift color. They are also immortal.

Bella gets out of the house and goes for a hike in the woods. She walks rather far and rests beneath a fallen tree, but it seems spooky to her. Still, she considers what she has learned. She wants to figure out whether Edward and the other Cullens can really be vampires. She begins to remember how the Cullens' talk seems formal and archaic. She remembers that they never eat, although Edward excuses himself from Biology so as not to be near blood. She remembers that Edward calls himself dangerous.

If they really are vampires, the sensible thing to do is to break it off with Edward, but just the thought of that gives Bella terrible pain. She knows she loves him, no matter what he is. Having decided this, Bella hikes home. She changes into warm clothes and writes an English paper on Macbeth. She sleeps well that night and wakens to a relatively dry day in this damp climate. It is Monday, a school day. Mike comes up and flirts with her and asks her out. Bella points out that Jessica is the one that likes Mike. This surprises him and inspires him to ask her out. She hears later that Mike is taking Jessica to the dance. All the girls want to go to buy new dresses and they ask Bella to come with them to help them choose.

Bella goes home and reads a novel for fun. She falls asleep and doesn't have dinner made for her dad. She gets permission to go shopping in Port Angeles with the girls. The next day in school, Edward is not there. The girls leave after school to go shopping in Port Angeles.

## Nightmare Analysis

This chapter is important because Bella decides that she does not care whether Edward is a vampire or not. She just loves him. The rest of the chapter deals with mundane high school matters of classes, dating, and planning for a dance. Bella does not want to go to the dance because she is so clumsy, but she agrees to go with her friends to help them pick out dresses.



# Port Angeles

## Port Angeles Summary

Bella drives with her friends Jessica and Angela to Port Angeles, a city about fifteen miles away from Forks, to go dress shopping for the upcoming dance. Bella enjoys the beauty of the little tourist town, but the girls want to go to the department store to choose dresses. Bella's good taste helps the girls pick out nice dresses. While shopping, Bella takes the risk of asking the girls about the Cullens. The girls say that the Cullens go camping quite a lot. The girls take the dresses to the car while Bella visits a bookstore. The one she finds is a new age spiritual bookshop, and she is not interested in that. She walks around town looking for a bookshop, then gets a little lost and finds herself facing four young men who trap and threaten her. She starts to run and they chase her and eventually trap her. She realizes that she may end up being raped or worse.

Suddenly a car pulls up, a door opens, and she is told to get in and put on her seat belt. It is Edward. He is so furious that he asks her to talk to him to calm him down. He is trying to stop himself from going back and hunting down the attackers. He decides to take Bella to dinner, and tells her to go tell Jessica and Angela the plan. The girls have eaten so Edward offers to take Bella out and take her home afterward.

Bella tells Edward that he dazzles the girls and he doesn't even know it. Bella orders mushroom ravioli and Edward doesn't order anything but a Coke. She is cold so he lends her his jacket. Bella mentions that his eyes change color. He agrees to answer some questions. She asks how he knows she is in trouble in Port Angeles, although he says he cannot read her mind, because he can read other people's minds. He says she is a magnet for trouble and admits to following her to Port Angeles. He has decided to keep her alive despite her propensity for trouble.

Since he cannot read Bella's mind, he reads Jessica's mind to follow the girls there. He sees one of the attackers' minds and can see Bella's face in his mind. He knows they want to harm her. She listens to his words while wearing his jacket, which smells like him, delicious. He is ready to ask her some questions.

## Port Angeles Analysis

Bella gets herself in trouble all the time, it seems, and Edward is miraculously there to help her. She is just about sure he is a vampire but she has not said so to him. When a group of thugs chase Bella with the intent to do her harm, Edward is somehow suddenly there. He takes her out to eat and the two begin the process of revealing the truth to each other. Edward admits he can read minds, though not Bella's. In this way he follows her to Port Angeles and keeps her safe. The two are still sparring somewhat, although Bella knows more than she lets on in this chapter.

# Theory

## Theory Summary

Bella asks Edward how he reads minds. He says he needs to be close enough to "hear" people think. He does not know why he cannot hear Bella think. Edward is driving very fast, over a hundred miles an hour, but he is a safe driver. Bella finally reveals that she thinks he and his family are vampires, but that it does not matter to her. He can hardly believe that, but she says it is true and that she is just curious about it all. He tells her the truth about vampires, that they do not sleep in coffins nor are burned by sun. He says that they do not sleep at all. He says that his family hunts animals and not people, a behavior he compares to vegetarianism in human beings. He does not want to be a monster. He reveals how much he cares about Bella, and she says the same to him. They both know they are in love. He tells Bella not to go into the woods alone. He leans close to her and she thinks he is going to kiss her but he says goodnight, and his breath has an exquisite scent to her. Bella takes a bath to unwind and admits to herself that she is in love with Edward.

## Theory Analysis

In this chapter, both Edward and Bella take the risks necessary to reveal what they know. Edward admits he is a vampire. They both realize how deeply they love each other, how irresistible they are to each other. Edward explains some of the interesting things about vampires, which challenge common knowledge. Most of all, he explains that he wants to be good, not evil, so he and his family do not feed on humans but only animals. The two of them reveal and admit their great love for each other, despite the barriers that are naturally between them.



# Interrogations

## Interrogations Summary

Edward drops by to pick up Bella in the morning, if she wants a ride. She says yes. He brings her a jacket to help her keep warm. Edward is disturbed by how easily Bella accepts the truth of his condition of being a vampire. Bella does have more questions, including why the family drives cars since they obviously can get places in quicktime, instantaneously. Jessica drops by and is curious about the two of them. Jessica finds Bella after class and demands to know everything that happens between Edward and Bella. Jessica thinks Edward must like Bella in a romantic way.

Edward buys lunch for Bella in the cafeteria but of course he does not eat. He compares eating food to a human eating dirt. Edward has been listening to Jessica's thoughts to hear what Bella is thinking. Edward admits he wishes to know everything Bella thinks, but of course he cannot hear her, so he listens to others to hear Bella's words. They both admit they care immensely for each other. Bella thinks she is far too ordinary for Edward, but he assures her that all the boys fall in love with her and that she is far from ordinary.

Edward tells her more about the hunting of wild animals that the family does, noting that they do not break the law hunting out of season because the law refers to hunting with weapons. She wishes to see him hunt, but he is horrified. They will talk later.

## Interrogations Analysis

This brief chapter reveals more, bit by bit, about the vampires and their habits. Edward is always cautious that something he says will turn Bella away, but Bella is not afraid of anything. She wants to know how the vampires hunt, and requests to see it one day, but Edward adamantly refuses.





# Complications

## Complications Summary

Edward sits close to Bella in Biology. During a movie, with the lights out, it is all the two can do to keep their hands off each other. Bella can hardly function, making Gym even worse than usual, and Mike notices and is jealous. Edward has been watching her gym activity through Mike's eyes. Bella is embarrassed and angry about it. Edward says he will come get Bella on Saturday but not in a car. She is curious but he says not to worry about it.

Edward explains that he can never let Bella be near when he hunts, because he lets himself go and gives himself over to his senses, and he is afraid he might attack her. They are so in love that they can hardly breathe, and she gets ready to go inside her house. He says he will be asking questions the next day on their outing. Bella lies to her dad and says she is going to Seattle on Saturday. Edward picks her up for school and they talk about favorite colors, books, movies, music, and everything Edward can think to ask her. She tells him about how Phoenix smells and looks and feels.

Just before Edward leaves, Jacob Black arrives with his grandfather Billy. They have come to visit Bella and Charlie.

## Complications Analysis

This chapter is filled with the discovery of new love. Edward wants to know everything about Bella, and he continues asking questions with great curiosity and persistence. When Edward finally brings Bella home, they are surprised to see Native American visitors. It is Jacob Black and his father Billy. It is clear that they have come to visit with a purpose in mind, and it is likely about the vampires.



# Balancing

## Balancing Summary

Jacob and Billy make an entrance into the Swan home. Bella admits to Jacob that she is seeing Edward, and she is worried that Jacob will say something or that Billy will say something to Charlie. It is nerve-wracking. After they leave, Charlie encourages Bella to invite Mike to the dance, but Bella doesn't want to. The next day, Edward picks Bella up for school and their conversation goes on, with Edward asking Bella about her life. Edward tells her he is leaving with his sister Alice after lunch. They are going hunting to prevent Edward from being tempted when he is with Bella the next day. As they talk, Rosalie, Edward's beautiful sister, comes up, but glares at Bella with hatred and hisses at her. Edward says Rosalie is worried for Edward in case something goes wrong. Alice comes along too, but she is loving and supportive of Bella. Bella is sad and upset to see them leave.

Bella tells her dad that she is not going to Seattle after all but that he should go ahead and go fishing as planned. Bella does laundry and other housework. She can hardly stop thinking of Edward for even a second. She takes cold pills to help her calm down and sleep. In the morning she eats a quick breakfast and finds Edward at the door. Edward lets Bella drive her truck and they head out. They come to the end of a road and reach the forest. They begin to hike, but Bella is not having a good time because she is so clumsy and afraid of falling. They finally come to a beautiful grassy clearing and Edward steps out into the sunlight.

## Balancing Analysis

In this short chapter, Edward and Bella move forward in their relationship by being acknowledged by Edward's family. Rosalie doesn't like the relationship, but Alice is accepting of it. Even though Edward can move faster than thought, he is patient as Bella drives slowly and hikes arduously through the woods. The two continue to spar as they hike, but both of them know they are much in love. This chapter is leading up to Edward showing what he looks like in the sunshine.



# Confessions

## Confessions Summary

Edward sparkles in the sunlight. His skin seems to have glitter embedded in it. He is singing quietly to himself. He is so beautiful that Bella must reach out and touch him. He moves lightning fast and frightens her, but he reassures her that he is just so easy being with her that he forgets himself. She leans close to him, almost kissing him, and he leaps away in that instantaneous way of his. He is so afraid of hurting her and he knows that she is beautiful and that she smells so good. He tries to explain why he feels he is dangerous to her. She smells so good to him that he craves her. He explains how irresistible she seems to him, especially on the first day that they meet. He almost decides to leave the first day he sees her, because he craves her so much. He actually drives to Alaska but eventually comes back. He feeds more often, to prevent feeding on her. He argues with his whole family about her. He says he loves her so much he can never hurt her. She is the most important thing to him, in the whole world. He is attracted by her wonderful smelling throat, and steels himself, then leans his face right on her throat but doesn't bite her. She touches his face and neck all over. They both admit they crave each other romantically. When it is time to leave, he picks her up and rushes instantly through the forest. She is faint and dizzy with motion sickness. At the end of it, he kisses her softly, but she boils over with desire. He teases her a bit, but he feels it too. He just says he has better control, teasing once again.

## Confessions Analysis

This is a strange romance, where both Edward and Bella explore each other very chastely and delicately. He explains his physical attraction as well as his romantic attraction because she smells so good that he wants to take her blood. They touch each other experimentally on the throat and face. They share a kiss, but Bella is overwhelmed with desire, frightening Edward just a little. He realizes how strongly she wants him as well as how much he wants her. He explains how his family fights him about her, and tells her that most of them, except for Rosalie, have accepted Bella in Edward's life.



# Mind over Matter

## Mind over Matter Summary

Edward is driving Bella home. She wants to know how old he is, and although he thinks she cannot handle the truth, she agrees to try. He tells her he was born in Chicago in 1901, and he was dying of the Spanish flu in 1918. Carlisle, who was Doctor Cullen, found him and turned him in order to save his life. Edward says that it is difficult, almost impossible, for a vampire to feed on a human and not kill the person. It takes great restraint, and there are few with that kind of restraint, but Carlisle is unique in history for his character.

Edward says that Carlisle was lonely in the past and that was why he finds people who are dying and turns them. Edward is the first turned, and then comes Esme, who falls from a cliff and is turned by Carlisle. It is not common among vampires to only turn the dying, but Carlisle has admirable ethics. He turns Rosalie next, and then Emmett, both dying. Alice and Jasper join their family, both having developed the ethic of not attacking humans before they meet Carlisle. The family settles in one place for a time, with most of them maintaining a youthful appearance, since vampires can take on the age that they choose. The youthfulness allows them to attend school. Other vampires, especially those who hunt humans, are nomads.

Vampires sparkle, so they do not go out in the daytime, which has led to the legend that sunlight hurts them. Edward also reveals that he never sleeps, so he watches Bella in the night and during her evening activities. He says that she talks in her sleep. She is horrified, especially since she calls his name in her dreams. Charlie comes home, and Edward disappears instantly, though he does chuckle, so Bella understands that he can turn invisible. However, after dinner, Edward appears in Bella's bedroom. She takes her time getting ready for bed. When she comes out, she tells him he is making her crazy, and that pleases him. However, he points out that marriage or sex is not possible for him because he is not sure that he can control himself when he gets excited. They lie down together and drift off to sleep.

## Mind over Matter Analysis

This is a surprising chapter because the two young people restrain themselves from sex. Bella would probably indulge but Edward is not willing to risk Bella's life, saying that he is not sure what would happen if he loses control during sex. Bella is very aroused by his very presence and finds it difficult to have him in her bedroom, but Edward has a great deal of self control.

In this chapter, Edward explains at length the great and noble character of Carlisle, who does not kill humans by feeding on them, but finds people who are dying and saves them by turning them into vampires. The process is very painful, according to Edward.



There are only two families that can live in society, using animal blood instead of humans. One family is in Alaska, and the Cullens live with them for a time but finally move to Forks. The family can only live there for a time and then must leave because they do not age, and people notice this.

Most of the chapter develops the unsatisfied erotic impulse between the two young people. There is also a great deal of disappearing and reappearing on the part of Edward.



# The Cullens

## The Cullens Summary

Waking in the morning, Bella finds Edward still there. She is deliriously in love. He has left in the night and washed and changed his clothes. Bella has breakfast and Edward offers to take her to meet his family. She is worried they won't like her, but they are already prepared to meet her. Edward requests to meet Charlie formally as Bella's boyfriend. Bella gets dressed and after a brief teen erotic episode, with much attraction but not much sexual behavior, the two leave.

They arrive at the Cullens' house, which is very bright and open. Edward makes the introductions and all the vampires are happy to meet Bella, except Rosalie. Edward explains that Rosalie is jealous of Bella still being human. There is a piano in the house, and everyone induces Edward to play. He performs his own compositions, including a tender sweet piece inspired by Bella.

Edward shows Bella the rest of the house and retells the story of Carlisle, who was turned to vampire as a youth in the 1640s. His father was a minister who had devoted his life to seeking out vampires and witches. Carlisle was not as rabid as his dad, but did find a coven of vampires. An ancient, starving vampire attacked Carlisle and he retreats and eventually turns.

Edward says that he has many questions for Bella now.

## The Cullens Analysis

This chapter reveals the kindness and acceptance of the Cullens for a human girlfriend of their brother Edward. Bella feels small and immature compared to the accomplished and sophisticated Cullens, even Edward. However, Edward and Bella exchange gentle teasing throughout the visit. Edward reveals more of the family history by telling Carlisle's story. The chapter ends with Edward saying he wants to ask Bella a few things.



# Carlisle

## Carlisle Summary

Edward takes Bella to Carlisle's office. Carlisle is there, but Edward says he just wants to show Bella some history. There is a painting of London in the 1650s, when Carlisle was a youth. Carlisle must leave for an appointment, but Edward explains that Carlisle tried to destroy himself when he discovers he is a vampire. He jumped from great heights and tried to drown himself. He even tried to starve himself, but a vampire is hard to kill. Carlisle was so hungry that when he saw a herd of deer he fed on one. He realized he did not have to be a human-eating monster. He swam to France, a detail that surprises Bella, but Edward assures her that vampires don't actually need to breathe. Edward worries that some such detail will turn Bella against loving him, but she says she will always love him. Edward continues the story by saying that in France, Edward studied to be a doctor and discovered other humane vampires.

Carlisle continued to America to help with the great influenza epidemic, whereupon he saved Edward's life by turning him.

## Carlisle Analysis

This short chapter gives new revelations for Bella, supplying information about vampires generally and about Carlisle, who is Dr. Cullen, specifically. The chapter is organized around paintings displayed on the office wall. Bella is surprised at some details, such as the idea that vampires do not need to breathe. It is tender and poignant that Edward feels that someday, some bit of information will turn Bella against him, although she assures him that she will always love him.



# The Game

## The Game Summary

The vampire family is going to play baseball, which absolutely surprises Bella at first, though soon she is to learn that the vampires do not play typical baseball. Edward takes Bella home and as they approach the driveway, they see Jacob and Billy Black, the Native Americans from the nearby reservation. They have come to warn Charlie about the Cullens being vampires, particularly about Edward. In plain sight of Billy, the father, Edward kisses Bella lightly on the chin.

Billy has brought some of Harry Clearwater's homemade fish fry. He sits down patiently to wait for Charlie to get home from a fishing trip. Billy tries to warn Bella away from the Cullens, but Bella does not let him say his full mind. While Bella is changing and waiting for Edward to call, Jessica calls up to tell Bella about her date with Mike, including a kiss. Soon Charlie comes home and Edward comes over, and introductions are made. Edward has come to get Bella in Emmett's jeep, which is a monster jeep. At the end of the road, Edward says he must run with Bella in his arms. She remembers the first time they traveled this way, and it makes her sick. Edward kisses her and she almost collapses with passion once more. Finally he runs with her to the field where the family will play ball.

The ball game is like a thunderstorm, because the vampires can hit the ball inhumanly hard and run in an instant. All of a sudden, Alice shows a worried face. She senses that another group of vampires is on its way to the field, attracted by the monster sounds of the game.

## The Game Analysis

This chapter reveals another interesting aspect of the vampires. They like to play baseball, but they play it monster style, with thunderous sounds as they hit the ball, and faster-than-light travel from base to base. All are having a good time until Alice, who has second sight, "sees" a group of vampires coming their way. Everyone knows that this puts Bella in grave danger, because most vampires do not share the ethic of the Cullens. The Cullens will not eat human blood, but other vampires live on human blood.





# The Hunt

## The Hunt Summary

The incoming vampire pack consists of two males and a female. One male named James presents himself as the dominant leader. They look wild, beautiful, and dangerous. They profess interest in playing ball. They discuss hunting boundaries and living conditions, and the new vampires are surprised that the Cullens can live in one place. Carlisle asks the newcomers not to hunt in their area. James catches scent of Bella, but the Cullens are very protective of Bella. Edward can ascertain all their plans because he can read minds.

Edward grabs Bella and runs with her. He realizes that James has intentions to hunt Bella. James is a hunter and his sport is following prey to the final showdown, no matter what obstacles lie in the way. Edward is driving Bella home at over 125 miles per hour. He tells Bella she must leave the area immediately. She must lie to Charlie and say that she does not want to live with her father anymore. The entire family pledges to protect Bella. They seem to be making plans even as they speed to take Bella home.

## The Hunt Analysis

In this chapter, a friendly game turns very dangerous. The Cullens do not plan for the invasion of other vampires and so they have not taken care to disguise the loud noises of their baseball game. Although James and his two companions say that they will not hunt in the Cullens' territory, they change their attitudes when they perceive Bella is human. Edward can read James's mind and perceives that James is a hunter, a vampire whose sport is hunting down prey, no matter what obstacles lie in the way. Edward realizes that James will never give up. The vampires rush Bella home, concocting a plan to keep her safe. The first part of the plan involves Bella leaving suddenly for Phoenix, to her former home, in Arizona. She is to write Charlie a note and say she doesn't want to stay in Forks anymore. The vampires are planning how to keep Bella safe.



# Goodbyes

## Goodbyes Summary

Charlie is waiting up for Bella to come home. Bella realizes she is about to hurt her father very much. The vampires promise to keep Charlie safe during the crisis. Bella pretends to fight with Edward. She pretends to want to leave Forks because she does not want to stay stuck in Forks with the man she loves, to repeat the same terrible mistake her mother made so many years ago. These words cut her father to the core. Bella gets into the truck with Edward and Emmett and they speed away, trying to outrun James, the vampire hunting Bella. Edward says that James is delighted with the game of defeating the Cullen clan and claiming Bella.

It turns out that the third vampire in the new clan is not really part of the group, but the female and James are bonded in the hunt for Bella. Edward decides to hunt James and kill him, though it will pain Carlisle. Edward takes Bella to the Cullen house and tells Rosalie to change clothes with Bella, to change the scent. Rosalie does not want to do it, so Esme does. Esme and Rosalie take Bella's truck, while the others take off in the various Cullen vehicles. Alice and Jasper take Bella toward safety.

## Goodbyes Analysis

In this chapter, the vampires all spring into action to help Bella. Even Rosalie participates, though she still seems to hate and resent Bella. The family makes a plan almost without talking, which is typical vampire style. By changing clothes and vehicles, the vampires plan to put the hunters off the scent. Bella is thinking that she is not worth all this trouble, but since vampires can read minds, Alice reassures Bella that she is indeed well worth it.



# Impatience

## Impatience Summary

Bella has been asleep and wakes in a motel room. She can hardly remember what has gone on. Somehow she remembers that Alice has sped her through the night, driving in a black car. Bella has slept against Alice during the night and now they are in Phoenix. Alice says they must stay inside the motel room. They have to wait for Carlisle to call. Bella is beside herself with fear for Edward and the other Cullens. Alice reassures Bella that the vampires are in no danger, but that they all wish to protect Bella, because she is the one that has made Edward happy. Alice keeps close tabs on Bella. Alice tells Bella that Carlisle is luring the tracker northward and that Esme is keep track of the female. In the meantime, Bella asks Alice how she became a vampire. Alice is afraid that telling Bella will anger Edward, but Alice tells the story anyway.

Alice says that part of being a vampire is being very attractive, so as to attract human beings. Vampires are also venomous, not enough to kill, but enough to numb. A small amount of venom will change a human but a large amount will kill a human. Just tasting blood drives a vampire to feed and release more venom. It is almost impossible to stop. However, being transformed into a vampire is exceedingly painful.

In the middle of the story, Alice senses a change. She sees an image of a room, bordered with mirrors with stripes around them. James the hunter is heading toward the mirror room. Edward calls and reassures Bella that all is going to plan. Suddenly Bella realizes that the mirror room is a ballet studio she attended as a child. The studio is near Bella's mother's home. Bella leaves a message for her mother to call immediately. Then she falls asleep.

## Impatience Analysis

As a sort of distraction, Alice explains the mechanisms of becoming a vampire and the mechanisms of feeding. Alice is trying to keep Bella safe in a motel room. At one point, Alice sees an image of a room lined by mirrors with a stripe around them, and Bella identifies the room as a dance studio, possibly the one she attends as a child, near Bella's mother's home, although there is a VCR and TV and other things in the room. When Bella tries to reach her mother by phone, she only gets a message, but she begs her mother to call as soon as she can. Edward also calls and sounds fiercely determined to stop the threat to Bella. Both Edward and Bella express their love to each other. Alice also reveals the reason that the family wants to help Bella, which is because loving Bella has brought new life to Edward.

# Phone Call

## Phone Call Summary

Bella wakes very early the next morning. Alice tells her that James is now in a room which Bella identifies as her mother's house. Alice says that Edward is coming to get Bella and keep her safe somewhere. Bella is sure that the tracker is going to hurt someone she loves, perhaps her mother or father. Bella's mother calls, but a man's voice comes on the line and gives Bella instructions on what to say and do. She is supposed to run away from the vampires and go to her mother's house. She writes a note for Edward trying to express her love in the dangerous thing she is about to do.

## Phone Call Analysis

This is a short, intense chapter. The tracker has kidnapped Bella's mother and forces Bella to lie and leave her friends. In order to save her mother, Bella gives up the one thing she loves the most, Edward. She is willing to do this to save her mom.



# Hide-and-Seek

## Hide-and-Seek Summary

Alice seems to be almost destroyed by a vision she has. Bella gets her things together, including money, and they all leave for the airport. Edward's plane is late and Bella says she's going to get something to eat. She asks for Jasper, not Alice, who is the mindreader, to accompany her. Bella takes a moment to go into the ladies' room, leaving Jasper outside. She sprints to the elevators and takes a shuttle to the Hyatt and from there takes a taxi to her mother's home. She imagines the life she might have had with Edward and the love they could share. In the house, there is a phone number written on the white board. Bella calls it and the tracker directs her to come to the ballet studio. She can hear her mother's voice, but it is just a video recording. The tracker has tricked her.

James, the tracker, takes the time to gloat over his successful plot. He reveals that he is not really hunting Bella, but rather is hunting Edward. James is seeking vengeance because Edward turned Alice instead of letting James feed on her. James is as attracted to Alice, in her human form, as Edward is attracted to Bella, but he feels robbed of his prey. James prepares to feed on Bella. She tries to get away and tries to hit James with a table leg, but only succeeds in breaking a mirror. She passes out, sure that this is her last moment.

## Hide-and-Seek Analysis

James surprises Bella in this chapter by revealing that he does not want to feed on her at all. He wants to have fed on Alice, but he is robbed of that experience years ago when Edward saves her. The kidnapping and destruction of Bella will only be payback. Bella realizes that they have all been duped. James uses a video recording of Bella's mother to convince Bella that her mother is in danger. James seems to have thought of everything, and the chapter ends with Bella's seemingly sure demise.



# The Angel

## The Angel Summary

Bella seems to be dreaming. She surfaces from her dream to sharp pain. She seems to hear an angel calling her name and sobbing for her. People are talking about her physical condition, and Bella realizes she is hearing Edward's voice. Bella's hand seems to be burning because James has bit her on the hand. Edward is going to try to suck the venom out. It will be a supreme test of self-restraint, to suck Bella's blood but not to feed. He accomplishes it and moves Bella to safety.

## The Angel Analysis

This very short chapter reveals that the Cullens have saved Bella. However, James has bitten Bella and injected venom. Edward must suck Bella's blood to remove the venom, but must exercise the ultimate self-restraint and not suck more blood. It is a terrible test, but Edward's love makes it possible. The Cullens remove Bella to safety.

# An Impasse

## An Impasse Summary

Bella is strapped in a hospital bed and she is in terrible pain. Edward tells her she has fallen two flights of stairs and through a window. She has a broken leg, four broken ribs, a cracked skull, bruises, and blood loss. Edward tells about sucking out the venom and tells Bella she tastes even better than she smells, that it was a terrible test for him. Edward has given the cover story to Bella's parents, that he has convinced Bella to return to Forks. When Edward kisses Bella, the heart monitor beeps fast. Bella's mother comes to see Bella, and is so relieved to find her alive and well enough. Bella's mom wants to take her to Jacksonville to live with her and the new husband, Phil, but Bella says she is going back to Forks. Her mother realizes that Bella loves Edward and that is why she wants to return to Forks.

When her mother leaves, Edward reassures Bella that although he is willing to leave her to keep her safe, she can count on him to stay near her forever. Bella begs Edward to change her so they can truly be together forever, and that she will not be at risk nor put him and his family at risk. Edward cannot even consider it because of the pain and the dreadful aspect of living forever.

## An Impasse Analysis

After the resolution with Bella's mother, this chapter is mostly like a lovers' quarrel. Edward and Bella agree that they will stay together forever, yet Bella realizes that she will constantly be at risk. She wants Edward to turn her into a vampire so they can live together, but Edward is dead set against this.



# Epilogue: An Occasion

## Epilogue: An Occasion Summary

Edward has come to pick Bella up. They are dressed formally, with flowers and styled hair. Bella is mad because she doesn't know what is going on. She hates surprises. Alice has dressed Bella up and done her hair and makeup. Edward is in a tuxedo, and all the Cullen "children" are also dressed up. They end up at the school, and Bella realizes she is being taken to the prom. She cannot dance, especially since her injuries. Edward puts her on his feet and dances her around the room, and Jacob Black cuts in, just rocking back and forth with Bella and not really dancing. Jacob gives a message to Bella from his dad, saying, "We'll be watching". Jacob is embarrassed to deliver this message.

There is a small argument about the meaning of "forever", as Bella still wants to be turned. Edward does not like that but still promises to stay with her forever. He kisses her throat as the novel ends.

## Epilogue: An Occasion Analysis

Bella is tricked into her least favorite thing, going to the school prom. There, Edward helps her "dance" by standing her on his feet. At one point, Jacob cuts in and delivers a message from Billy, saying that the tribe will be watching the vampires. Bella graciously thanks Jacob for Billy's concern. Together again, Edward and Bella spar a bit about how they can stay together. Edward plans to keep Bella safe, symbolized by his kissing her neck, the place where vampires normally feed.





# Characters

## Isabella Swan

This character is commonly known as Bella, the protagonist of the book and the first person voice of the book. She moves from Arizona to a small town on the Olympia peninsula, a town known for its almost constant rainfall and cloudiness. Bella reveals her selflessness by moving to this place because her mother has remarried to a minor league baseball player and Bella does not want to hinder her mother's happiness. Bella moves in with her father, and again reveals her generosity by beginning to shop, clean and cook without complaining. When her father gives her an almost antique truck, Bella appreciates it even though a lesser person might disdain it. Bella does excellent work in high school, revealing an intelligent and academic nature. Bella is also self confident, which is revealed by her willingness to fall in love with a vampire and not be scared off by fear. Bella trusts her feelings and gives generously in love, even to the point of risking her life, later in the book, to save her mother and to save her boyfriend. An interesting aspect of Bella's character is that she is chronically, dangerously clumsy.

## Edward Cullen

Bella's boyfriend. He is a vampire in a family of vampires. This family moves from place to place to avoid detection. The father of the family turns Edward into a vampire during the 1918 influenza epidemic. Edward is extremely handsome and all the girls in the high school would like to date him, but he never asks anyone out. He reveals a compassionate character by fighting his extreme attraction to Bella, knowing that he is a vampire and that a relationship between a vampire and a human will put the human at extreme risk. Edward has plenty of money, along with his family, having lived for so many years. He likes fast cars and he always drives very fast. He also has superhuman powers, as do all the other vampires. He is able to run fast or even warp time, moving from place to place instantly. He can read minds of almost everyone, except for Bella, which enhances his fascination with her. Edward's skin glows in the sunshine, which is why vampires must hide during the day. Edward is generous and has a sense of humor, but during the book, he is mostly morose because he worries about the effects of being in love with Bella, who remains human.

## Charles Swan

Bella's father, whom she called Charlie behind his back and Dad to his face. Charlie was divorced by Bella's mother years ago, and Charlie lives in the same house in the same town. It is clear that he still loves Bella's mother because he keeps pictures in the house with himself, the mother and their child, Bella. Charlie is thoughtful and generous. He buys and fixes up an old truck in preparation for Bella's arrival. He makes her room nice for her as well. Charlie is the chief of police in the town of Forks. He is devoted to



his work, his schedule, and his friends. However, Bella does not take this badly. She is glad that he has his own routine. One change Charlie is glad to make is that he allows Bella to cook and clean, revealing a rather traditional male point of view.

## **Bella's Mom**

Bella's mother is more child than adult. This is why she allows Bella to leave, in favor of the mother marrying a traveling baseball player. She worries about Bella, writing her emails and checking up on her. When the wicked vampires, later in the book, threaten Bella's mother, it is actually an empty threat because the mother is elsewhere. The threat almost takes Bella's life.

## **Dr. Carlisle Cullen**

This handsome young doctor is one of the older vampires in the story. He has changed several young people in the course of his medical service, people that will otherwise have died. In this way, Dr. Cullen saves lives and prevents his own loneliness. He provides a positive, safe environment for the family of vampires to live, and he overcomes his natural tastes for human blood enough to serve as a medical doctor. His philosophy of using animal blood rather than human blood has set the tone for the entire family.

## **Esme Cullen**

This vampire is the mother of the family. She is soft, gentle, and kind. She supports the romantic relationship between Edward and Bella.

## **Jasper Cullen**

This vampire brother is totally supportive of Edward's love relationship. He attends the high school as a senior, though he says he has turned eighteen.

## **Alice Cullen**

This vampire sister loves Bella and is very happy and supportive of Edward's relationship with Bella. She is a positive friend and a courageous ally when danger arrives.



## **Rosalie Cullen**

This vampire sister is one of the younger vampires. She does not easily like Bella. In fact, she tries not to talk to Bella, partly because Rosalie has not come to terms with being a vampire. She is never an enemy but also she is never a good friend.

## **Jacob Black**

An American Indian boy, a member of a tribe in Washington. He was a friend to Bella many years ago, when they are children. He is more than a little in love with Bella. He warns her about the Cold Ones, the vampires. Bella believes him.

## **Billy Black**

Jacob's American Indian grandfather. He hates the vampires and tries to warn Bella in any way possible to stay away from the vampires. He does this kindly but insistently.

## **James**

This vampire attacks Bella. The group believes he is a hunter that wants Bella's blood, but he actually wants to get back at the other vampires for past offenses.

## **Jessica**

A typical giggly high school girl who befriends Bella.

## **Mr. Banner**

The biology teacher in the class where Edward and Bella sit together.

## **Mike**

A high school boy who falls in love with Bella until she diverts his attention to Jessica.

## **Solimena**

An ancient vampire, long friends with Carlisle Cullen.



## **Laurent**

The apparent leader of the invading vampires. He has a French accent, and seems to be refined. He turns out to be a follower and not the leader.

## **Victoria**

This attractive female vampire accompanies Laurent, under the leadership of James. It turns out that she has not been in the group very long, though at first the Cullens believe she has.

## **Phil**

This is Bella's mother's boyfriend. He plays baseball for the minor leagues.

## **The Attacker**

In Port Angeles, a gang of men attack Bella, led by this man. Edward stops the attack.



## Objects/Places

### Phoenix, Arizona

This is the original home of Bella Swan. Her mother usually lives there but is now traveling with her new husband who is a baseball player. The climax of the novel takes place in Phoenix when Bella barely escapes with her life trying to evade bad vampires.

### Forks

This is the name of the town where Bella moves in order to stay with her dad, so her mother can pursue a new life.

### The Red Truck

Bella's father has bought and refurbished a red 1984 Chevy for Bella.

### Forks High School

Bella meets Edward at the high school. Many important events take place here, including a prom date that Bella does not want but Edward supplies.

### The Beach

Here Bella is warned by her childhood friend, Jacob Black, to stay away from the Cullens because they are vampires.

### The Cullen Home

Bella meets the entire family at their home. It is a beautiful large home which is almost bare inside according to the vampires' peculiar lifestyle.

### The Woods

There is a long passage from the road to the Cullens' house going through the woods. Bella has walked it but more often has been carried by Edward, running at instant vampire speed. There is some danger implied about the woods, according to Edward.



## **Port Angeles**

This is the nearest city to Forks. It's about an hour away by car. Bella goes there with friends, gets separated, and is attacked by men. Edward, who has been silently tracking her, rescues her and brings her home.

## **Seattle**

This larger city contains bookstores and other attractive shopping areas for young people. Bella says she is going there when she really goes to Edward Cullen's house.

## **The Baseball Field**

Here the Cullens play a wild and loud game of baseball, attracting the unfortunate attention of dangerous vampires who end up tracking Bella and threatening her life.

## **The Volvo**

This is one of the Cullens' nice cars, the best one in the parking lot at the high school.

## **The Monster Jeep**

Edward comes to pick Bella up in this oversize off road vehicle. They are going to play and watch the baseball game between vampires.

## **The Cafeteria**

Many of the social interactions of the school happen in the cafeteria. It is also the place that Bella first sees the Cullens and falls for Edward.

## **The Ballet Studio**

Alice, who is somewhat psychic, can see an image of this studio as a place where Bella will be in grave danger. Bella dances there as a child and later, near the end of the book, is taken there by the dangerous James, who plans to use her as bait to lure Edward and other vampires there.



## **The Motel Room**

Emmet and Alice take Bella to a motel room in Arizona to hide her and keep her safe until either James gives up his search or the other vampires stop him. James tricks Bella out of the room with a bogus phone call.

## **The High School Gymnasium**

Bella tries to avoid the gym as much as possible because she keeps falling and getting hurt. The denouement of the book takes place in this gym as Edward takes Bella to the prom, where Bella stands on Edward's feet to dance.

## **The Hospital**

Bella wakes up in the hospital and knows she is safe after being rescued from James's attack.



# Themes

## One Can Overcome Bad Aspects of One's Nature

Carlisle Cullen is a centuries' old vampire who aspires to higher things. He figures out a way to live without harming human beings, which most vampires must kill to drink their blood. Instead, Carlisle finds that he can drink the blood of wild animals. He compares this, with some humor, to humans eating a vegetarian diet, living on tofu and beans rather than on meat. Carlisle never takes the life of another human being unless the human is already dying. That is how he goes about assembling his strange and beautiful family. When individuals face death from sickness or accident, Carlisle bites them and "turns" them so they too become vampires. However, Carlisle teaches them this higher way of being, to live on the blood of wild animals instead of harming humans. Carlisle has disciplined himself so well that he can even serve as a medical doctor, though this puts him in the way of smelling human blood every day, which is a real test of character because human blood is a vampire's natural food.

Carlisle moves his family from place to place as they spend time but do not age. He must choose places to live that have little sunlight. Common myth says that vampires cannot tolerate sunlight, but in reality, in this book, the vampires sparkle brightly in the sun and thus lose their cover as humans. Carlisle cares kindly for humans and tries to help them, and he cares for his family of vampires as well. When Bella is introduced to the family, Carlisle and his wife Esme have only the highest hope for the positive relationship between Edward and Bella.

Edward restrains himself from giving into his romantic and natural manly feelings for Bella, because he feels that if he loses control during sex, he may lose control and want to feed on Bella, whose natural fragrance is irresistible to Edward. Interestingly, Edward also smells delicious to Bella. Bella is not afraid of being turned into a vampire. Her desire for union with Edward is more important to her than protecting herself from pain. However, Edward knows how painful it truly is to turn into a vampire. He wants to spare Bella any pain at all, and certainly that pain. He holds himself back from giving his whole self to Bella, even though he loves her with all his heart.

In a lesser degree, Bella's father gets over his hurt from divorce and later from a brief betrayal by Bella, showing himself to be a strong and noble character. Bella's mother is incapable of mature caring for a child, but she puts aside her needs, however briefly, to help Bella when she is in trouble. Throughout the book, then, the characters demonstrate nobility and generosity of character by trying to overcome their lesser natures.





## True Love Conquers All

Like most vampire books, this one centers around the relationship between a man and a woman, or at least between a boy and a girl. There is plenty of attraction between Edward and Bella. Both of them smell delicious to one another, and both are strongly attracted to one another, as evidenced by the frequent scenes of kissing and hugging. However, they have the impossible to overcome, which is that Bella is human and Edward is a vampire. Again and again, this difference puts Bella at risk, in small ways and large. Bella knows that her father will never agree to her dating and eventually marrying a vampire. She realizes that her father may not even believe that vampires exist. Eventually Bella overcomes this small barrier. When Jacob and Billy Black try to stand in Bella's way to this relationship, she stands up to them and remains with Edward. When it seems unlikely that Bella will be allowed to visit the Cullens, Bella just finds her way by lying and sneaking. This is not an admirable quality but certainly demonstrates Bella's commitment to Edward.

Eventually Edward and Edward's whole family show their courage and commitment to Bella when the tracker James determines to capture Bella. The Cullens at first believe that James wants to feed on Bella because her smell is so attractive, but James's compulsion is deeper than that. He wants to take revenge on Edward from wrongs in the past. Edward and his whole family devote themselves tirelessly to rescuing Bella. Edward is driven by his romantic love for Bella while the other vampires are driven by their commitment and filial love for Edward.

Even though it seems as though Bella will indeed be destroyed by James, the Cullens rescue her. She is barely recovering from injuries related to the kidnapping when Edward takes her to the prom. This seems small but it is a big step for Bella, who has vowed not to go to dances because of her clumsiness.

So whether the obstacles are big or small, love conquers all between Edward and Bella.

## One Can Sacrifice to Help Others

The first obvious sacrifice in this book is Bella's determination to leave Phoenix so that her mother can stay with her new husband, Phil. He is a baseball player that must travel for his occupation, and Bella's mother would have to stay there if Bella remains. Therefore, Bella gives up her favored home to go to live with her father in Forks, Washington, where it is rainy and not sunny. Bella takes on the cooking and cleaning without complaint. Her father, on the other hand, has thought ahead and bought and fixed a truck so Bella can drive as soon as she arrives in Forks.

Another sacrifice is the Cullens' refusal to eat human blood, though they are vampires. When Carlisle, who becomes a doctor, realizes he is turned into a vampire he tries to destroy himself rather than to hurt human beings by feeding on them. By accident he discovers he can use animal blood for food, though it is less satisfying than his "natural" food. Carlisle is lonely, but he only turns humans into vampires when they are dying.



Carlisle dedicates his life to saving human life, even though he must be exposed to the tantalizing scent of blood every day. The whole Cullen family determines to live a higher ethic by not using human blood.

Bella sacrifices herself when leaving the safety of the vampires to save her mother, even though it turns out that her mother is not in danger after all. Bella shows courage and the ability to put herself second even though she may die in the process. In turn, Edward will do anything to save Bella's life. His vampire family, seeing how much Bella means to Edward, put themselves in danger and trouble to save Bella in order for the couple, Edward and Bella, to be happy.

In a world where selfishness and self-indulgence abound, this novel promotes a higher way of self-sacrifice in the service of others.



# Style

## Point of View

This book is consistently in first person point of view, and that person is the narrator, Isabella Swan, commonly called Bella. She is only sixteen but her point of view reveals someone who is a good deal older, because she is very aware of other people, including their perceptions and needs. Because she is aware of others, she is able to translate what is going on pretty well from the points of view of others. For example, she explains by observation that Edward seems to loathe her when they first meet each other. Edward glares at her and leans as far away as possible in Biology class. However, later, when she gets to know Edward, he explains that she smells unbearably attractive to him. In this way, the reader gets a thorough view of someone else's view as it is explained to Bella.

This becomes complex when Bella gets to know Edward, because Edward can hear other people's thoughts, except for Bella's thoughts. Edward wants to know what is going on with Bella, so he will "read" the thoughts of others. The "translation" of a person's thoughts as Edward tells them to Bella is pretty interesting. Edward hears someone thinking about Bella as she talks to the other person, and in this way Edward can know what Bella is saying via the conversation with the other person.

Slowly but surely, the life and points of view of vampires are revealed as the book progresses. Most of the time, Edward reveals the physical and emotional realities of being a vampire, and Edward as well as Esme reveal how the vampires are turned and how they each have arrived at a more ethical point of view over time. Since Alice can read thoughts, she tells the others, including Bella, how the hunter is thinking and feeling.

## Setting

Most of this book takes place in the northwest United States in a small town called Forks. This town is the cloudiest, rainiest place in the United States. The vampires choose this place to live because there is so little sunlight. They do not want their sparkling skin revealed. Forks is a pleasant small town where most people know each other and let each other live peaceably. The area is overgrown with trees, almost blocking out the little light that is there. It rains so frequently in Forks that a day of sunlight is a real anomaly.

The setting occasionally change when Bella and other teens take a trip to a nearby beach. Bella goes with some friends to a nearby town for shopping. Once Bella goes to Seattle, where she is in danger and where Edward comes to save her.

When the danger and the action heat up, the setting changes briefly to Phoenix, Arizona, where Bella has grown up. The action takes place in Bella's home and a



nearby dance studio. There are also brief but important scenes in the airport in Seattle and especially in Phoenix, where Bella escapes the vampires.

The cloudy, rainy atmosphere of Forks and its vicinity colors this novel with a damp, dark image, very suitable for vampire stories.

## Language and Meaning

This is a young adult novel, meant for teenagers, so the language is often simple and youthful. However, Bella is a literate teenager, rather uncommon in today's world, so she occasionally makes allusions to literature that many young people today might not readily know. In addition, this is a vampire novel. To understand the genre, it is important to know that there is always a strong erotic element in vampire novels. However, the mix of the two, being a teen novel and a vampire novel, expresses the erotic element mostly in longing language, occasional rather chaste kisses, and some chaste caresses. There are references to the throat throughout, because vampires are so attracted to the throat area. There is much reference to an unbearably attractive smell, because of the erotic attraction and also because of the vampire attraction to smell, especially the smell of blood.

Bella notices that the vampires talk in a rather old-fashioned, formal way. This is because they are from another time. Their diction does not seem so strange or formal, but it is rendered through Bella's perception.

This is a rather long book. It is very consistent throughout, using language that appeals and speaks to the young adult reader. For those familiar with the vampire genre, it seems a little tame, but it is loved and well suited for the young adult audience.

## Structure

The book is very simple in structure. It begins with the arrival of Bella in the small Washington state town of Forks. She settles into home and school very quickly. Immediately she catches sight of her true love, who is very attractive to her but seems to hate her. She can tell that something is very different about this boy and about his whole family. The school population seems to think that they are snobs, but they are distant for another reason. The plot develops slowly about a romance between the vampire Edward and the human Bella. They run into obstacles at school and at home, the usual kinds of obstacles that young lovers often face. However, their greatest obstacle is the difference between them, vampire and human. They seem to be working these things out, except that Bella's father does not know that Edward is a vampire, even though there is foreshadowing with Billy and Jacob Black, the Native Americans who darkly warn Bella and who try to warn her father Charlie, that the vampires are dangerous and that the Swans should stay away from them. The forewarning and foreshadowing do not seem to have much of an effect.



There is original and interesting vampire lore sprinkled evenly throughout the book. Much of the book's fascination and popularity may be because of this original and charming interpretation of vampire life. For example, vampires are not harmed by sunlight, but their skin sparkles, so they are at risk of discovery. They do not sleep on ice or in coffins, but their skin is perpetually cold. They have vampire desires, it is true, but they can overcome them. They still retain their human desires for love and sexual expression.

The adventurous part of the book leaves Fork and moves to Phoenix, and then the book finishes in Forks, although there is foreshadowing of more romance and adventure to come in the next volume.



## Quotes

"They were all noticeably graceful." p. 22

"And third, I was unconditionally and irrevocably in love with him." p. 195

"Hello," said a quiet, musical voice." p. 43

"I was still tongue-tied whenever I pictured his perfect face." p. 54

"You really should stay away from me," he warned." p. 61

"The Cullens? Oh, they're not supposed to come onto the reservation." p. 123

"You're intoxicated by my very presence." p. 284

"You don't have to breathe?" I demanded." p. 338

"How can you kill a vampire?"

He glanced at me with unreadable eyes and his voice was suddenly harsh. "The only way to be sure is to tear him to shreds, and then burn the pieces." p. 398

"I love you. I am sorry. He has my mom, and I have to try." p. 432

"Her blood tastes clean," Edward said quietly." p. 456

"Why didn't you let the venom spread? By now I would be just like you." p. 473

"I'd guessed there was some kind of occasion brewing. But prom!" p. 484



## Topics for Discussion

This is a fairly tame vampire book, as the genre goes. Compare and contrast this book with other vampire titles you may have read or seen in movies or on television.

Discuss Bella's character. What characteristics make her similar to other teenagers? What characteristics set her apart?

Compare and contrast the feeding and interpersonal behaviors of the Cullens with the invading vampires.

Is it believable that the Cullens choose to live peacefully with humans, even to the point of Dr. Cullen serving as a medical doctor? Support your point of view with evidence from the story.

Bella lies and sneaks to be with Edward. Does this dishonest behavior detract from her attractiveness as a character? Defend your viewpoint.

The Cullens' story departs from typical vampire lore in various ways, such as that they can tolerate sunlight but choose not to be in it so they can hide sparkling skin. They can survive on animal blood and choose to do so for higher motives. Is this variation on vampire lore believable? Why or why not?

Discuss the setting of the main part of the book in Forks, Washington. This is a real place. Why is it particularly suitable for the setting of this book?

Does Bella's character change and evolve throughout the novel? How? Support your view with examples from the book.

This novel has become an extremely popular bestseller for young adult audiences. What aspects of the novel may account for its popularity?