

Book knowledge organiser

Synopsis

The chilling Saga of Darren Shan, the ordinary school-boy plunged into the vampire world. Darren goes to a banned freak show with his best mate Steve. It's the wonderfully gothic Cirque Du Freak where weird, frightening half human/half animals appear who interact terrifyingly with the audience. Darren – a spider freak – 'falls in love' with Madam Octa – an enormous tarantula owned by Mr Crepsley. Darren determines to steal the spider so that he can train it to perform amazing deeds. But his daring theft goes horribly wrong and Darren finds himself having to make a bar-

Themes in the novel

The importance of friends and family. Respecting everyone—regardless of appearance.



Name of the book: Cirque du Freak
(The Sage of Darren Shan book 1)

Author: Darren Shan

Date published: 2009

Genre: Children's horror

Other books in the series:

Allies of Night, Cirque du Freak, Hunters of Dusk, Killers of Dawn, Lake of Souls, Lord of Shadows, Sons of Destiny, Vampire Prince, Vampire's Assistant, Trials of Death, Tunnels of Blood, Vampire Mountain

Vocabulary

Writing Genres

An extended piece of story writing including chapters—either spooky or scary

A discussion piece. Should Darren go to the Freak Show?

Using apostrophes for possession, using varied sentence openers and using dashes to add parenthesis.

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| Freak show | Also known as a creep show—an exhibition of people with unusual bodies or people that are able to do strange things with their bodies. |
| Balanced argument | A piece of writing presenting both sides of an argument before stating which side of an argument you agree with. |
| Persuasion | Convincing somebody to believe the same as you |
| Rhetorical question | A question used to make a point rather than needing an answer. |