



IN SCHOOL

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The "Twilight" saga continues...

As fans look forward to the new companion novel in the "Twilight" series, let's take a look at its author Stephenie Meyer and what makes the vampire romance series so special..



PHOTO REUTERS

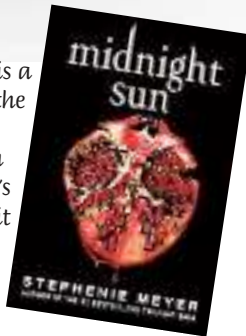
Twelve years ago, a blood-sucking vampire captured the imagination of teens across the world. The story of the terrifying mythical creature - with a pale face and a chiselled jawline - falling in love with a meek human girl, won over hearts. Four books and five films later, the series is now set to receive fresh blood. To the delight of her fans, author Stephenie Meyer recently announced a new companion book "Midnight Sun" that will come out in August this year.

The rise of Stephenie Meyer

Like her famous counterpart J.K. Rowling, Meyer got the idea for her book all of a sudden. She was a struggling writer when she had a vivid dream - a boy and girl sitting in a meadow confessing that they were falling in love with each other. There was just one slight problem in this romantic tableau - the boy was a vampire and found the scent of her blood irresistible. Meyer remembered every glorious aspect of the dream and began penning it down so that it won't slip away. Before she knew it, she had a complete book in her hands!

What's the new book about

Titled 'Midnight Sun', the new book is a prequel to "Twilight". It will recount the story from Edward's perspective, delving into his past. All the books in the series so far have been from Bella's point of view. Meyer started writing it in 2008, but was forced to give up the project when its manuscript leaked online.



Lightning success

The "Twilight" saga was an instant success with teens. The first book came out in 2005, closely followed by a film adaptation with a star cast - Robert Pattinson shone as Edward Cullen and Kirsten Stewart portrayed the clumsy Bella Swan. Though the series received a drubbing from the critics, the films caused a sensation at the box office. More books - "New Moon" (2006), "Eclipse" (2007) and "Breaking Dawn" (2008) - followed suit.

OH REALLY?

** Meyer started writing the story backwards, starting from the meadow scene in chapter 13 and then writing chronologically till the beginning.
 ** Meyer began writing "Midnight Sun" in 2008, but abandoned the project after half of the manuscript leaked online. She said it violated her right as an author and a human being.
 ** Twilight fans are divided into two camps - those who prefer the vampire Edward and those who think that the werewolf Jacob is a better choice. Are you team Edward or team Jacob?

Other vampires in fiction you must read:

Here are some famous vampire stories in literature.

** "Dracula" : Bram Stoker's sophisticated and mysterious Count Dracula remains timeless.

** "The House of Night": This 2007 series by P.C. Cast and Kristin Cast follows the adventures of a young vampyre Zoey Redbird.

** "True Blood" : Charlene Harris's vampire novels feature Sookie Stackhouse and her close encounters with the fanged creatures.

Quiz

Test your knowledge of the "Twilight" series...

1. Name the largest and most powerful coven of vampires, which also enforces vampire laws.
2. How are the Cullens different from other vampires?
3. The legacy of his great-grandfather _____ made Jacob the rightful leader of the La Push pack.
4. What are "Twilight" fans called?
5. Besides the "Twilight" series, what other books did Meyer write?

Answers: 1. Volturi; 2. They drink animal blood instead of human blood; 3. Ephraim Black; 4. Twilighters; 5. 'The Host' and 'The Chemist'.

QUEST

Novel scientific notes

Learn whether a blueprint is really blue and why your stomach rumbles when you are hungry

Is a blueprint actually blue?
 Yes. The blueprint is a technical drawing of an architectural or engineering design. It is a large drawing with white lines on a blue background or blue lines on a white background.

The process of blueprinting was invented in the 1800s. It was a cheap and simple method of reproducing large drawings.

The design is drawn on tracing paper and placed on a paper that is chemically treated with a mixture of ammonium iron citrate and potassium ferrocyanide. The double paper is exposed to bright light for several minutes as a result of which the treated paper turns a brilliant Prussian Blue except in the parts covered by the drawn lines. The paper is then washed and dried, yielding a blue-coloured negative of the original drawing.

Nowadays, newer and more sophisticated methods are used to produce blueprints, but they are not blue



like the traditional prints.

Why does your stomach growl when hungry?

The rumbling sound that you hear originates in the stomach and the small intestine. The wall of the digestive tract is lined with smooth muscles. When food enters the system, these muscles contract to propel the food forward and mix it with the gases and juices. These contractions produce vibrations and the rumbling noise.

These muscles also contract when the body senses the absence of food. Hence the rumbling sound occurs not only after you have had a meal but also when you feel hungry. But the sounds are louder when the stomach is empty. It is like shaking a carton of juice that is full versus one which is almost empty - the empty carton makes a louder sloshing sound.

Ancient Greeks had a name for this rumbling - they called it borborgymi.

(Content provided by Amrita Bharati)



ARTIVITY

Artwork by Akshaya R.S., Class 1, Madonna School, Bengaluru.

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Please mention your name, class, school and city.

Will Tyson get inside the ring again?

Back in shape, he says he could consider charity exhibition matches

WHO IS MIKE TYSON?

Mike Tyson is a 53-year-old former world heavyweight champion in boxing. He became the youngest heavyweight champion of all time when he defeated Trevor Berbick (left in picture) in 1986, aged just 20.

He won 50 of his 58 professional fights - 44 of which were knock-out victories - before retiring in 2005.



"I want to go to the gym and get in shape to be able to box three or four-round exhibitions for some charities and stuff."

WHAT IS THE BUZZ ABOUT?

Tyson recently posted a training video on social media. Tyson's video showing him hitting mitts in a gym not only generated more than nine million views in just a few days but also some buzz about just what the ageing former champion might have left in him. "I start my day with the boxing thing, I go in there and hit the mitts, 30 minutes, 25 minutes, start getting in better condition," Tyson said in an Instagram Live session with rapper T.I.

WILL HE BE FIGHTING AGAIN?

"I've been working out, I've been trying to get in the ring, I think I'm going to box some exhibitions and get in shape," Tyson also said.

Tyson hasn't announced any plans to return to fight again, though he did suggest on an Instagram post he might make himself available for 3 or 4-round exhibitions if the price was right.

Tyson looks good, is explosive and still very powerful even at his current age. But some believe he is doing nothing more than fanning the flames of fame by teasing fans with his latest video.



TEXT: REUTERS, AP; PHOTOS: AL BELLO/GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS, AP

TECH BYTES

What is pixels per inch?

Pixels per inch (PPI) is the measure which quantifies the number of pixels found on a square inch surface. It is used to identify or determine the pixel density of any display such as a television screen, smartphone screen and monitor.

For a computer display, the PPI is calculated by dividing the diagonal resolution in pixels (calculated using the Pythagorean theorem with pixels in height and width) with the diagonal size of the screen in inches. The higher the PPI, the higher the quality of the display.

It is good to keep the PPI in mind when buying an electronic gadget with screen. Even if the size of the screen is big, unless its PPI is high, you cannot obtain a good quality viewing experience as a screen with low PPI cannot reproduce sharp images.

