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Cover Page Footnote

Adam Miller has been living and teaching in Japan for over 11 years. He is currently based at a university in Nagoya City, where he teaches a variety of courses, ranging from Film Studies to Debate. He is currently working on several textbooks that will help teach humanities to EFL and ESL students both in the classroom and online.

Vampires in Japan: From *Yokai* To Anime

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1. INTRODUCTION

Japan has a long and rich history of myths and folklore, much of it kept alive today through festivals, stories and the seeping of ancient tales into modern popular culture. One aspect of Japanese culture that fascinates Japanese people of all ages are *yokai*, ghostly figures or phenomenon that personify many aspects of contemporary Japanese culture, including religious traditions, natural anomalies, cultural responsibilities and local oddities.

The term *yokai* is extremely malleable and can mean a number of different things, as *Yokai Studies* Professor Komatsu Kazuhiko explains:

“The word *yokai* is an ambiguous term among both academics and laypeople. Generally speaking, it means creatures, presences, or phenomena that could be described as mysterious or eerie.”(Komatsu 12)

This is obviously an extremely broad and all-encapsulating term; but Professor Kazuhiko goes on