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| **­­­Quote** | **Interpretation – What does this literally tell us about Hyde** | **Inference – What else can be inferred from this?** | **Context link** |
| Mr. Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity without any nameable malformation, he had a displeasing smile, he had borne himself to the lawyer with a sort of murderous mixture of timidity and boldness, and he spoke with a husky, whispering and somewhat broken voice | Whilst not having anything wrong with him, people dislike him.­­­­­­­­­­­ | Hyde has a dual personality, which isn’t immediately obvious. It is suggested that Hyde’s inner self is dark and malformed yet his outer self hides that. | This could link to Victorian Hypocrisy as like most upper class citizens, he puts on a façade for the benefit of the reader / observer. |
| the man seems hardly human! Something troglodytic, shall we say? | Troglodytic = a person of degraded, primitive, or brutal character.  This sums up the hidden interior of Mr Hyde which we have seen hints of. | We can infer that Utterson does not quite know what to make of Hyde. | In those times, the Victorian crisis of faith would mean that they would be afraid of anybody out of the normal |
| snarled aloud into a savage laugh | Hyde has a nasty laugh, which may alienate others. | The use of the verb snarl could suggest contempt on the part of Hyde, towards Utterson. So far, we have seen no reason he should dislike utterson, so maybe Hyde is experiencing what others experience when they meet him | The idea of snarling could be associated with the devil, or hell. |
| All at once, I saw two figures: one a little man who was stumping along eastward at a good walk, | Hyde is quite little. | The description of Hyde as a “little man” suggests that the observer (Ensfield) does not believe him capable of what the phrase “all at once” foreshadows is about to happen | The descriptions of Hyde as stumping could relate to the portrayal of witches and the supernatural at the time, where witches were seen to |
| He was perfectly cool and made no resistance, but gave me one look, so ugly that it brought out the sweat on me like running. | Hyde is quite a malicious person to give such a look to Ensfield | As the reader has just learned about the “screaming child”, they would expect Hyde to be apologetic, or even just upset. This reaction contradicts what the reader would expect to happen | Not sure how context links here. Perhaps would have shocked upper class |
| And hitherto it was his ignorance of Mr. Hyde | Utterson does not know of Mr Hyde, in a society where all of the upper class would know each other | The tone of this quote suggests that Mr Hyde is a foreign character to Mr Utterson. We can infer that Utterson is confused or even jealous about Mr Hyde receiving “all his [Jekyll’s] possessions” | To the upper class society of the time, to not have met your best friend’s best friend would be very unusual. This would therefore shock the intended audience. |
| And next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway. | This portrays Hyde as a very violent version, and as with the child trampling contrasts with the description immediately before it. He is described as a “very small gentleman”, and again shocks the reader as what he does contradicts their interpretation of his size and stature | This really shows Hyde to be sick or even mentally ill character. The idea of “bones were [sic] audibly shattered” is quite violent, and from what the reader has learned so far, uncalled for | The image of ape-like fury matches with the common idea of devolution at the time, suggesting to the reader that Hyde is uncontrollable like an animal |
| the stick … broken and battered as it was, he recognized it for one that he had himself presented many years before to Henry Jekyll. | This continues building the idea of violence in the reader’s mind; only after the event do we find out truly how violent it was | The idea of Mr Hyde using Jekyll’s present for his evil purposes is shown to be taken badly by Utterson. We can see this from the use of “had himself presented”. | At the time, inter-personal relationships were seen to be very important. For Jekyll to have redistributed his gift to Hyde would shock the reader, as this would be a relatable experience at the time. |
| Particularly small and particularly wicked-looking, is what the maid calls him | Like previously mentioned, Hyde is a person of small stature. Additionally, we see the idea of Hyde looking distasteful repeated yet again | We can infer that the maid dislikes Hyde. The usage of `Wicked-looking` is again foreshadowing the ‘wicked’ acts to come | Wicked could be relating to the superstition at the time, wicked alluding to perhaps the devil |
| and she was surprised to recognise in him a certain Mr. Hyde, who had once visited her master and for whom she had conceived a dislike. | We can see the maid, as mentioned many times, dislikes Hyde. Additionally, we learn more about the character of the maid as we see she was perhaps not treated well, or in the lower class | The usage of surprised echoes, in my opinion, the other people’s descriptions of Mr Hyde, where they can’t name any ‘deformity’ even though he gives an ‘air of malformation’ | At the time it was common for women to be maids, or even servants. That suggests that she was in the lower class and, as such, suggests to the reader she will be more honest as she does not suffer the Victorian hypocrisy of the upper clas |
| but there lay his victim in the middle of the lane, incredibly mangled. | This implies the raw brutality the attack occurred with, the usage of the modifier `incredibly` additionally is included to shock the reader and yet again learn about Hyde’s destructive / cruel nature | This contrasts with the previous attack. The girl from the previous attack was shown to be (as far as I can remember) “perfectly fine, a little shocked”. The severe contrast of this attack makes the reader question whether there will be another attack, and how badly that will turn out | The lane, at the time, would have been a well-used roadway, suggesting to the readers of the time that Hyde couldn’t possibly get away with it, as it would be unusual for such a place to be deserted. This could be designed to build up tension |
| had broken in the middle under the stress of this insensate cruelty; | The description of insensate cruelty allows the reader to envision his aforementioned insensate cruelty | The usage of “insensate” again suggests to the reader that Hyde may not be human; as Juggernaut suggests | A cane of the time would have been made out of a hard wood like oak or maple, meaning it would be very hard to break. Additionally the “stress” could be both physical on the cane, and mental on the reader, or on hyde |
| An ivory-faced and silvery-haired old woman opened the door. She had an evil face, smoothed by hypocrisy: but her manners were excellent. | Hyde’s mother (the reader assumes) is just like him. | Here we meet Hyde’s only known family member, for the first time. We see that, unlike I as a reader expected, Hyde’s relative is equally as nasty as him by first impressions | The idea of a lower class woman’s face being “smoothed with hypocrisy” would not be unusual for the time |
| The letter was written in an odd, upright hand and signed “Edward Hyde”: | Here we see Hyde’s handwriting and, in contrast to what we have learned previously, this is neat and tidy | The neat and tidy exterior could be an allusion to the duality of Mr Hyde, his neat side causing him to have neat handwriting, even if it was odd like him | Handwriting was important then, because lots of communication would be by letter or other handwritten means. The usage of the word “odd” shows communication in this manner to present him in the same way he is presented in person |
| but Mr. Hyde had disappeared out of the ken of the police as though he had never existed. Much of his past was unearthed, indeed, and all disreputable: tales came out of the man’s cruelty, at once so callous and violent; of his vile life, of his strange associates, of the hatred that seemed to have surrounded his career | The simile of `as though` suggests that he is so good at disappearing. | R L Stevenson repeatedly touches upon the idea of Hyde’s “cruelty”, “violen[ce]”, “his vile life” really reinforcing these ideas in the reader’s mind. We can see from the fact that the paragraph is about Hyde’s “disappear[ance]” that we are not going to see Hyde again, so this is Stevenson’s last chance to tell us this | A man’s name was everything at the time; for his “past” to be “disreputable” would show the reader he would never be able to socialize with those like Jekyll and Utterson, as he was too uncivilized for them |