

 **AQA GCSE English Literature**

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde

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Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Overview

As part of Paper 1, Section B you will study one 19th-century novel and write one essay-length answer to one set question in your paper. The question will feature an excerpt from your studied text. However, it is a closed-book exam, so you will not be able to refer to a copy of the text during the exam. This page contains some helpful information and links to more detailed revision note pages that will enable you to aim for the highest grade. This page includes:

- Who was Robert Louis Stevenson?
- Jekyll and Hyde summary
- A brief overview of what is required in the exam
- Jekyll and Hyde characters
- Jekyll and Hyde context
- Jekyll and Hyde themes
- Jekyll and Hyde quotes
- Top tips for the highest grade

Who was Robert Louis Stevenson?

Robert Louis Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. He was born on 13th November, 1850 in Edinburgh and having been plagued by respiratory illnesses for most of his life, he died at the age of 44 on 3rd December 1894. He is best known for novels such as Treasure Island, Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Kidnapped.

During Stevenson's life, Edinburgh was a city clearly split into two distinct parts: the New Town, where Stevenson lived, with its wide streets and impressive buildings, and the more decrepit Old Town, with its twisting passageways and crumbling buildings, where poverty and crime were commonplace. Although the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (also known as just 'Jekyll and Hyde') is set in London, many critics believe Stevenson was referencing his home city of Edinburgh when he wrote it. Stevenson was also raised in a devoutly Christian household and the influence of religion on his writing is evident in Jekyll and Hyde. Indeed, during the Victorian period in which he wrote, there was significant anxiety about the pursuit of scientific knowledge and Stevenson explores these issues through the themes of good versus evil and science versus religion throughout his novella. For more on the ideas explored by Stevenson in the novel, please see our [Jekyll and Hyde: Themes](#) page.

Jekyll and Hyde summary



Your notes

Stevenson wrote Jekyll and Hyde in 1886. It is composed of 10 chapters and is set in mid-19th-century London and is a mix of gothic, science fiction and detective story. Stevenson firmly situates Jekyll and Hyde within the 19th-century gothic genre of literature and the novella employs many of its conventional features to create a disturbing and sinister atmosphere throughout.

The narrative of the novella is largely fragmented and follows the character of Gabriel John Utterson, a lawyer and friend of Dr Henry Jekyll, who becomes increasingly concerned by his friend's erratic behaviour and by his connection to the mysterious Mr Hyde. After the death of Sir Danvers Carew, Utterson becomes compelled to discover the mysterious connection between the two seemingly separate characters to discover the hideous truth that Jekyll and Hyde are in fact the same person. For a more detailed summary, please see the [Jekyll and Hyde: Plot Summary](#) page.

How is Jekyll and Hyde assessed in the exam?

- Your GCSE Paper 1 requires you to answer two questions in 1hr 45min. That means you have approximately 52 minutes to plan, write and check your Jekyll and Hyde essay
- Paper 1 is worth 64 marks and accounts for 40% of your overall GCSE grade
- The Jekyll and Hyde essay is worth 30 marks in total
- Section B of Paper 1 contains the Jekyll and Hyde question and you are required to answer the one available question on the novella
- Your question will also include a printed extract of about 35 lines from the novella
- It is a closed-book exam, which means you will not have access to a copy of the text (other than the printed extract) in your exam
- You will be asked a question that asks you to analyse and write in detail about an aspect of Jekyll and Hyde
- Your answer will need to address both the extract from the novella that you will be given, and the novella as a whole

For a much more detailed guide on answering the Jekyll and Hyde question, please see our revision notes on [How to Answer the 19th-Century Novel Essay Question](#).

Jekyll and Hyde characters

Understanding that characters are frequently used symbolically to represent ideas is crucial, as you must consider the variety of techniques that Stevenson uses to establish the characters in Jekyll and Hyde.

The characters you should focus on when revising Jekyll and Hyde are:

- Dr Henry Jekyll
- Mr Edward Hyde
- Mr Gabriel John Utterson



- Dr Hastie Lanyon

There are also other minor characters in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde who contribute to the narrative in important ways and therefore it is important to understand their roles as well. This means you should also consider Mr Enfield, Sir Danvers Carew and Mr Poole.

It is important to consider things such as: how characters are established and presented; what their physical appearance or actions reveal about them; their relationship with other characters and how far they conform to or subvert stereotypes. For more details on how Stevenson uses his characters in Jekyll and Hyde, please see the [Jekyll and Hyde: Characters](#) revision notes page.

Jekyll and Hyde context

There are a maximum of six marks available in the 19th-century novel question for context. It is important that you understand what context means as examiners understand context not as historical information, or biographical facts about a writer, but as the ideas and perspectives explored by a writer through their text. Therefore, for the context of Jekyll and Hyde you should not write about random, irrelevant information about London in the 1880s, or biographical information about Stevenson, but ideas about:

- Duality
- Good and Evil
- Secrecy and Reputation
- Science and Religion

As many of these concepts are universal, your individual perspectives on them are valid and will be rewarded in the exam. For a detailed breakdown of the contextual topics listed above, see the [Jekyll and Hyde Context](#) page.

Jekyll and Hyde themes

Understanding the themes that Stevenson explores in Jekyll and Hyde is one of the best approaches you can take when revising the novella. The main themes explored by Stevenson in Jekyll and Hyde are:

- Duality
- Good and Evil
- Secrecy and Reputation
- Science and Religion

Of course, Stevenson explores many other themes in Jekyll and Hyde besides the ones listed above, and you are encouraged to explore these as well. Detailed breakdowns of each of the above themes can be found on our [Jekyll and Hyde Themes](#) page.

Jekyll and Hyde quotes

You should be able to use textual references, including quotations, according to the assessment criteria. This means that summarising, paraphrasing, citing individual phrases, and referencing narrative plot points are all acceptable ways to show that you understand the novella. It's crucial to keep in mind that you can demonstrate your understanding of the text in two equally acceptable ways: through reference to it as well as via direct quotations.

In order to select references successfully, it is extremely important that you know the novella itself well so that you can accurately recall the order of events in the plot in order to make appropriate connections. This [detailed chapter-by-chapter breakdown of the plot](#) will help you to revise the chronology of Jekyll and Hyde.

It may also be helpful to revise some quotations from the novella that can potentially be useful for your exam. For an analysis of some of these quotations, see our [Jekyll and Hyde: Key Quotations](#) page.

Top tips for the highest grade

Please see our revision pages on the modern texts exam for guides on:

- [Structuring your Jekyll and Hyde essay](#)
- [Jekyll and Hyde methods and techniques](#)
- [How to include context in a Jekyll and Hyde essay](#)
- [Understanding the Jekyll and Hyde mark scheme](#)
- [19th-century novel model answer](#)



Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Plot Summary



Your notes

Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: Plot Summary

One of the most vital and helpful things you can do in preparation for the exam is to ‘know’ the plot of the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde thoroughly. Once you know the text well, you should be comfortable and familiar with key events that you can then link to larger ideas. Having an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the text will help you to gain confidence to find the most relevant references to support your response.



Your notes



Enfield tells Utterson that he witnessed a man trample a girl outside Jekyll's house

Dr JEKYLL and Mr HYDE PLOT STORYBOARD



Utterson questions Jekyll about his will and Hyde; Jekyll says his will must be respected



Hyde attacks Sir Danvers Carew in the street and bludgeons him to death



Utterson asks Jekyll if he is hiding Hyde; Jekyll insists he will never see Hyde again



Utterson and Poole break into Jekyll's laboratory and find Hyde's body, clutching a vial



Utterson reads both Lanyon's and Jekyll's letters and discovers Jekyll's terrible secret

Overview

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is a novella written by Robert Louis Stevenson. It is composed of 10 chapters and is set in mid-19th-century England, in the city of London.



Your notes

While out on a stroll in London, Mr Utterson and Mr Enfield come across a door, which turns out to be the entrance to Dr Jekyll's laboratory. Enfield admits that he once witnessed a man trample a young girl outside the door and assures Utterson that the man used a key to unlock Jekyll's door. Utterson removes a will from his safe which belongs to his friend, Jekyll, and is perturbed by its instructions to leave everything to a man called Mr Hyde. Utterson visits an old acquaintance, Dr Lanyon, who hasn't seen Jekyll in years. Utterson witnesses Hyde entering Jekyll's house and attempts to warn him but Jekyll is not at home. One evening, Utterson questions Jekyll about his will though he dismisses Utterson's concerns and insists the will must be adhered to.

One year later, Hyde kills a politician called Sir Danvers Carew. Utterson recognises the murder weapon and directs the police to Hyde's house, where the remaining part of the murder weapon is found. Utterson visits Jekyll and is concerned by his appearance. Jekyll gives him a letter from Hyde and Utterson asks his clerk to compare their writing and uncovers a similarity between the two. Jekyll appears to return to his former social pursuits, though becomes erratic in his behaviour. Concerned by this, Utterson visits Lanyon again and discovers he is seriously ill. Lanyon hints that Jekyll is the cause of his illness. Utterson writes to Jekyll but receives no response. Lanyon dies and leaves a letter for Utterson and places the letter in his safe. Utterson makes several unsuccessful attempts to visit Jekyll.

Utterson and Enfield go for a walk one evening and see Jekyll at his window. Disturbed by his appearance, they both call to him but are horrified by his demeanour and depart. Poole appeals to Utterson to visit Jekyll. Unable to enter the laboratory, both men hear Hyde's voice inside and Poole confirms the voice has been pleading for chemicals. Both break down the door, and discover a body inside. Jekyll's will is discovered along with a letter requesting Utterson to read the letter Lanyon left for him.

Utterson departs and reads Lanyon's letter. It is revealed that Lanyon uncovered Jekyll's secret and becomes ill as a result. Jekyll's letter details his confession about taking a chemical concoction which resulted in his transformation into Hyde. He describes his fear when he turned into Hyde without his concoction and after the murder of Carew, he battled to keep his identity as Jekyll. Sealing his confession, Jekyll takes one last concoction and awaits his transformation into Hyde.

Chapter-by-chapter Plot Summary

Chapter I – Story of the Door

- While out on a stroll in London, Mr Utterson, a lawyer, and his cousin Mr Enfield come across a peculiar door, which turns out to be the entrance to Dr Jekyll's laboratory
- Enfield recounts a tale about the door: he witnessed a young girl being trampled by a man, whom Enfield then pursued
- The man proposes to compensate the girl and unlocks the door and reappears with a cheque
- Enfield assures Utterson that the man in question used a key to unlock Jekyll's door



Your notes

Chapter II – Search for Mr Hyde

- Concerned by Enfield's account, Utterson removes a will from his safe which belongs to his friend, Jekyll
- The will includes a concerning directive: that all possessions pertaining to Jekyll should be given to Hyde, in the event of Jekyll's disappearance
- Utterson visits Dr Lanyon (an old acquaintance of his and Jekyll's) who confirms he does not know Hyde and has not seen Jekyll in ten years
- Utterson decides to keep watch on the entrance to Jekyll's laboratory and witnesses Hyde opening the door
- Perturbed by Hyde's wicked presence, Utterson attempts to warn Jekyll though is informed by his servants that he is absent that they have been given orders to obey Hyde
- Utterson is concerned that Hyde will murder Jekyll in order to gain access to the will

Chapter III – Dr Jekyll Was Quite at Ease

- Two weeks later, at a dinner gathering at Jekyll's house, Utterson questions him about his will
- Despite Utterson's persistence, Jekyll dismisses Utterson's concerns
- Jekyll makes several cryptic allusions to a peculiar bond between himself and Hyde, though he is reluctant to provide any specifics
- Jekyll insists the will must be adhered to and attempts to reassure Utterson by proclaiming: "I can get rid of Hyde whenever I choose"

Chapter IV – The Carew Murder Case

- One year later, Hyde viciously bludgeons an elderly man and former politician, Sir Danvers Carew, to death in the street, which is witnessed by a maid who recognises Hyde
- Utterson recognises the murder weapon (part of a walking cane that he had given previously to Jekyll) and learns that Hyde is the murderer
- Utterson directs the police to Hyde's house though they are informed he has not been there for two months
- After a search of the house, the remaining part of the murder weapon is discovered

Chapter V – Incident of the Letter

- Utterson visits Jekyll and upon observing his sickly appearance, he queries Jekyll as to whether he is hiding Hyde
- Jekyll insists he will never see Hyde again and shows Utterson a letter from Hyde confirming this

- Utterson asks his clerk, Mr Guest, to compare the handwriting on the letter with that of Jekyll's and uncovers a similarity between the two
- Utterson presumes Jekyll forged the letter in order to protect Hyde



Chapter VI – Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon

- The police are unable to locate Hyde and Jekyll returns to his former social pursuits
- All of a sudden, Jekyll demonstrates signs of depression and refuses to see Utterson
- Concerned by Jekyll's behaviour, Utterson visits Lanyon and discovers Lanyon is seriously ill
- Lanyon declines to speak about Jekyll, whom he implies is the root of his ailment
- Utterson writes to Jekyll in an effort to learn what has occurred, though receives a response which suggests Jekyll is in a troubling state
- Lanyon dies and leaves a letter for Utterson which is marked: "Not to be opened until the death or disappearance of Dr Henry Jekyll"
- Utterson complies and places the letter in his safe
- Utterson makes several attempts to visit Jekyll but his servant, Poole, claims he is living in isolation

Chapter VII – Incident at the Window

- Utterson and Enfield go for a stroll one evening and pass by Jekyll's house
- They see Jekyll at the window and are disturbed by his appearance
- Utterson calls out to Jekyll though Jekyll's expression changes and he is overcome by something
- Utterson and Enfield both depart

Chapter VIII – The Last Night

- Utterson receives a visit from Poole, appealing to him to go to Jekyll's home
- Unable to enter the locked laboratory, both men believe they can hear Hyde's voice inside
- Poole confirms that the voice has been pleading for chemicals to be brought to him and that he had previously seen a figure in the laboratory who barely resembled a human being
- Utterson and Poole force their way into the laboratory and discover a body inside, clutching a vial
- Jekyll's will is discovered on the table which leaves everything to Utterson
- A package is also discovered which contains Jekyll's confession and a letter requesting Utterson to read the letter Lanyon left for him
- Utterson leaves to read through the letters and assures Poole he will return before midnight

Chapter IX – Dr Lanyon's Narrative



Your notes

- The contents of Lanyon's letter are revealed which detail how Lanyon had received instructions from Jekyll for him to collect chemicals and other items from his laboratory
- The items were to be given to a visitor who would visit Lanyon at midnight
- The visitor appears and offers Lanyon a choice to send him away with his chemicals or to let him stay and witness the result
- Lanyon agrees for the man to stay. The man drinks the chemical concoction and transforms into Jekyll
- Horrified by what he has witnessed, Lanyon becomes seriously ill

Chapter X – Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

- The contents of Jekyll's letter are revealed and he details his transformation into Hyde
- He admits to having mixed chemicals in order to separate the two sides of his personality
- Jekyll describes his fear when he turned into Hyde without his concoction and after the murder of Carew, he battled to keep his identity as Jekyll
- Sealing his confession, Jekyll takes one last concoction and awaits his transformation into Hyde



Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Themes

Exam responses that are led by ideas are more likely to reach the highest levels of the mark scheme. Exploring the ideas of the text, specifically in relation to the question being asked, will help to increase your fluency and assurance in writing about the novella.

Below are some ideas which could be explored in the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. This list is not exhaustive and you are encouraged to identify other ideas within the novella.

- **Duality**
- **Good and Evil**
- **Secrecy and Reputation**
- **Science and Religion**

Duality

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The theme of duality is one of the most prevalent themes in the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Although the theme does not become fully evident to the reader until the final chapter, Stevenson presents clues and references to this duality throughout the narrative.

Knowledge and evidence:

- Stevenson presents the theme of duality primarily in the character of Jekyll as his inner sinister desires and his outward respectable persona are in conflict with each other, leading to his creation of Hyde:
 - Hyde appears in the narrative before Jekyll which reinforces the reader's perception that he is a separate **entity** rather than merely the alter-ego of Jekyll



Your notes

- Jekyll admits in the final chapter of the novella, that without Hyde, Jekyll lives a life of “profound duplicity”
- While Jekyll is presented as a respectable gentleman, Stevenson hints at his cunning, secretive and deceitful nature by the manner in which he is first described, further alluding to the dual aspect of his character:
 - Jekyll is not simply portrayed as a purely good character, which reinforces Stevenson’s idea that human nature itself is both complex and **multifaceted**
- Throughout the novella, Jekyll finds himself living a double life and he is unable to **reconcile** the two sides of his character:
 - He wishes to be a respected doctor adhering to the highest moral standards. However, he also yearns to engage in **malevolent** acts
- Duality is further revealed in the novella’s setting of London:
 - Stevenson presents the city of London with contrasting descriptions where **affluent** streets exist next to areas of **degradation** and poverty
- The description of Jekyll’s house is also used to reveal a duality:
 - Stevenson presents the door at the front as having a “great air of wealth and comfort” leading to the reputable Jekyll; while the door at the back, which has an impression of “sordid negligence” leads to the **repugnant** Hyde
 - The door is used as a metaphor for the inner struggles between their two identities:
 - Stevenson uses this to comment on the deceptive outward appearance of upper Victorian society
- Stevenson also hints at the concept of duality in other characters:
 - Utterson is described as a man having “a rugged countenance that was never lighted by a smile”, but also a man of “soundness of mind and ease of manner”
 - Stevenson hints that Enfield has all the exterior of a gentleman, though may also have sinister secrets of his own
- By the end of the novella, Jekyll acknowledges “the thorough and primitive duality of man”
- Stevenson continually uses contrasts to further underscore the aspect of duality throughout the novella: for example, rich/poor; light/dark; honesty/secrecy; night/day; inside/outside; respectability/**notoriety**

What is Stevenson’s intention?

- Stevenson is concerned about the duality of human nature and society in general and considers the idea that everyone is capable of good and evil deeds

- Stevenson may also have used the dualities in the novella to reflect a society rapidly moving from the past into a new modern world

Good and Evil



Your notes

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The theme of good and evil is closely linked to ideas about duality. Stevenson explores the tension which exists between good and evil and presents the temptation and **allurement** of evil within the novella.

Knowledge and evidence:

- Jekyll is presented as a man with a reputation and a respected member of society representing good, while Hyde is depicted as a **manifestation** of evil:
 - In Jekyll's view, "man is not truly one, but truly two" and while he is aware of his good side, he also acknowledges there is evil within him
- Jekyll believes that it is the "curse of mankind" that good and evil are bound together within him and the two parts are in direct conflict with one another:
 - Stevenson aims to highlight this idea of an **innate** duality and the implications of giving in to one's own evil side
- Hyde's sinister presence and actions are a constant reminder of the power of evil throughout the novella:
 - He invokes terror in other characters and again this may hint at the possibility of the inner evil and **depraved** nature that resides within each person
- Stevenson depicts Hyde as an inherently violent character and he displays no remorse for his crimes:
 - Both of Hyde's victims are presented as innocent and vulnerable which elicits sympathy from the reader and makes them horrified at the wickedness of Hyde's actions
- All of the characters who encounter Hyde are repulsed by the sense of evil that he exudes:



Your notes

- For example, Stevenson uses contrasting imagery to describe Carew and Hyde to highlight the difference between what we could infer is the “good” character of Carew and the “evil” character of Hyde:
 - The imagery associated with Carew is linked to lightness and innocence: for example, “an aged and beautiful gentleman with white hair” while Hyde is depicted as having an “ape-like fury”
- Hyde is described in terms of animalistic imagery which strengthens as the novella develops: for example, “savage”, “snarled”, “ape-like fury” and “hardly human” all allude to his aggressive, **predatory** and **primitive** nature:
 - Stevenson’s deliberate use of animal imagery is used to suggest Hyde’s separateness from human society and his unrestricted nature
- Stevenson associates Hyde with Christian ideas about Hell and Satan and Jekyll repeatedly refers to him as “my devil”
- Further, Stevenson presents evil through Hyde’s manner and appearance but he deliberately chooses to make that evil to remain somewhat undefined:
 - This lack of a clear definition of evil in the novella makes it appear more pervasive and more terrifying

What is Stevenson’s intention?

- Stevenson presents good and evil as a constant duality throughout the novel and portrays it as a natural facet of the individual, which results in an ongoing battle between the two
- Stevenson proposes that the inherent evil aspect of man is merely suppressed by society and he attempts to explore the consequences of attempting to separate one from the other

Secrecy and Reputation

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Stevenson's narrative explores the uncovering of Jekyll's secret and the mystery of Hyde's actions and identity. Other characters also display hints of secretive behaviour and the lengths they are determined to go to in order to preserve and protect their reputation and those of others.



Knowledge and evidence:

- The deepest secret in the novella is the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde which Stevenson uses to create tension and suspense
- Jekyll is depicted as a respectable, model gentleman: he is courteous, has a wide circle of acquaintances, is charitable and supports the Church:
 - Underneath this veneer of respectability, Jekyll retains his dark secret, for if exposed to society, it would result in his utter **ruination**
- Stevenson also presents other characters who appear to retain secrets or fail to disclose information about their behaviour:
 - Lanyon refuses to tell Utterson as to why he had a disagreement with Jekyll; Enfield and Carew do not disclose why they are out walking the London streets late at night:
 - This heightens the sense of secrecy and suspicion within the novella, as characters withhold information in order to protect their reputation or the reputation of others
 - As a character, Utterson attempts to only do good though he desperately tries to avert any form of scandal which could impair Jekyll's reputation
 - All the way through the novel, Utterson does not share his suspicions about Jekyll because he wants to protect his friend's reputation:
 - For example, when he suspects Hyde's letter has been forged or believes Jekyll is hiding Hyde, he keeps it a secret in order to shield Jekyll from any public disgrace
 - Further, Utterson is motivated to maintain the appearance of respectability and **propriety** even though he is aware of the **depravity** of Hyde's actions
 - Even at the conclusion of the novella, Utterson remains steadfast in his belief that Jekyll's reputation must be upheld: for example, "I would say nothing of this paper. If your master has fled or is dead, we may at least save his credit"
 - Ideas relating to secrecy are also revealed through descriptions and events within the narrative:
 - Stevenson continually references locked doors and windows, and letters with information that must not be read, which all heighten the sense of mystery of what is not being revealed to the reader:
 - In Chapter I, "The Story of the Door" Stevenson uses the door and lock to suggest how it can prevent the true nature of a person from being revealed



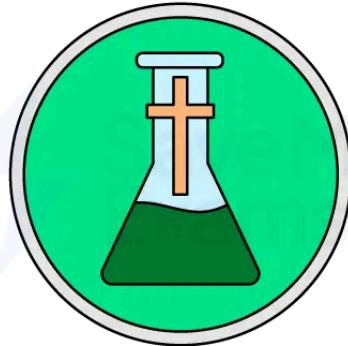
Your notes

- For example, "The door was very strong, the lock was excellent" underscores how deeply hidden and protected Jekyll's secret appears to be that it cannot be easily penetrated
- Further, **pathetic fallacy** and the descriptions of the fog are used to create an atmosphere of concealment

What is Stevenson's intention?

- Stevenson conveys how reputation is based merely on one's appearance to society, rather than one's actual conduct and this leads to ideas about hypocrisy
- Stevenson demonstrates the extent to which the characters place reputation and respectability above responsibility

Science and Religion

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As science was considered new and unpredictable in the Victorian period, this led to increased anxieties about it. Stevenson uses the Victorians' fear and uncertainty of science to make Jekyll's experiment appear more frightening to his readership.

Knowledge and evidence:

- Stevenson uses fear of the unknown to create anxiety and terror in the novella:
 - Victorian concerns about the progress of science makes Jekyll's experiment even more terrifying as they would have feared his experiment might have been possible
- Jekyll is presented as a highly intelligent scientist with an inquiring mind:
 - His motivation for creating Hyde demonstrates his ability to question societal beliefs about science and religion
- Jekyll's experiments lead to a feud with his friend, Lanyon, as he believes Jekyll's experiments are morally **objectionable** and should not be conducted:



- Lanyon is a respectable and conventional scientist and stands in contrast to Jekyll, as he views Jekyll's experiments as dangerous and describes them as "unscientific balderdash"
- He is also established as one of Jekyll's "oldest friends" and as his "colleague and old-school companion":
 - Stevenson does so in order to depict how repulsed Lanyon is about Jekyll's experiments, as he distances himself completely from his former friend
 - Lanyon is unable to **reconcile** his opposition to Jekyll's experiments and as a result, their friendship ceases to exist
- Lanyon is presented as conservative and traditional in his approach to science:
 - Stevenson positions Lanyon as the only character to witness Jekyll's transformation, as his belief in the laws of science does not enable him to comprehend what he has witnessed: for example, he states "My life is shaken to its roots"
 - Lanyon's shock at Jekyll's experiment is so great that it leads to his own physical and mental deterioration and subsequent death
- Stevenson presents Utterson as a highly moral and devout Christian and he is depicted as a model Victorian gentleman:
 - He is described as being "austere with himself" and that he restricts his pleasures: for example, he enjoys attending the theatre though had not frequented one for twenty years, due to their somewhat poor reputation
- Jekyll could be viewed as using science to access the supernatural and could be viewed as 'playing God' by interfering with it
- Further, the threat of the modern world of science is evident in the depiction of Carew as he is described as "innocent" and having an "old-world kindness of disposition":
 - Carew's world of tradition, politeness and decorum could be seen to be under threat by Jekyll's scientific experiments and its alignment with modernity

What is Stevenson's intention?

- Stevenson could be viewed critiquing the dangers of science
- Alternatively, Stevenson could also be suggesting that repressing natural urges and instincts will eventually lead to harm and injury

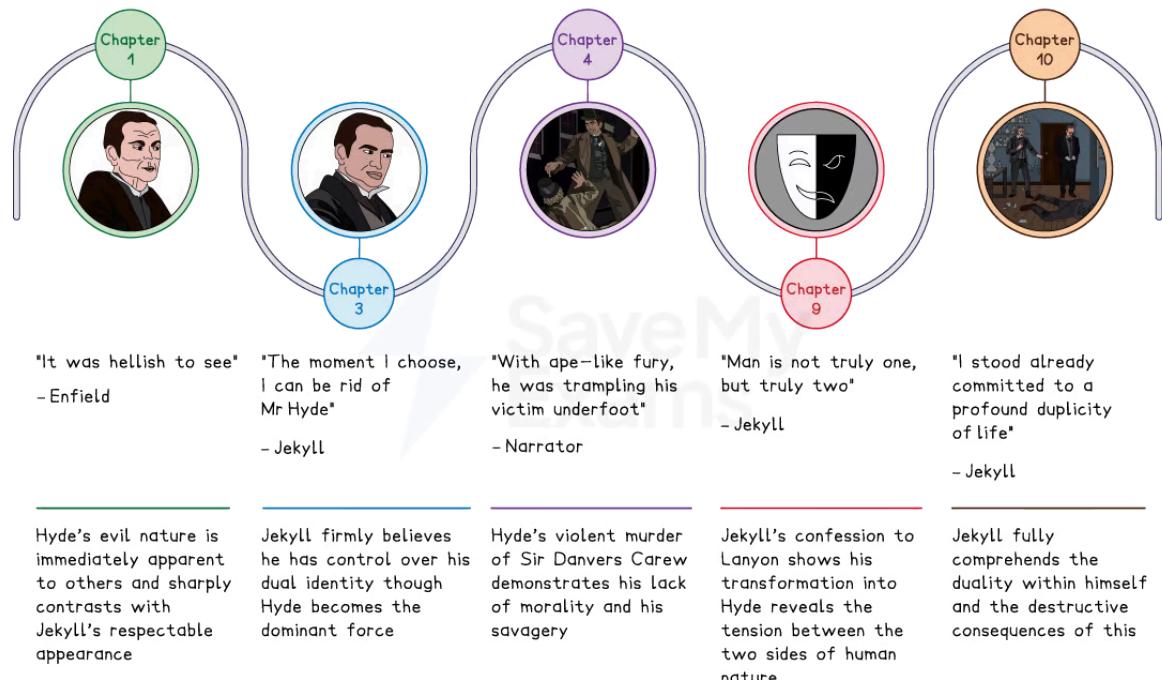


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde Key Theme: Duality

Duality timeline

The theme of duality in key chapters of Jekyll and Hyde:



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Jekyll and Hyde duality timeline

What are the elements of duality in Jekyll and Hyde?

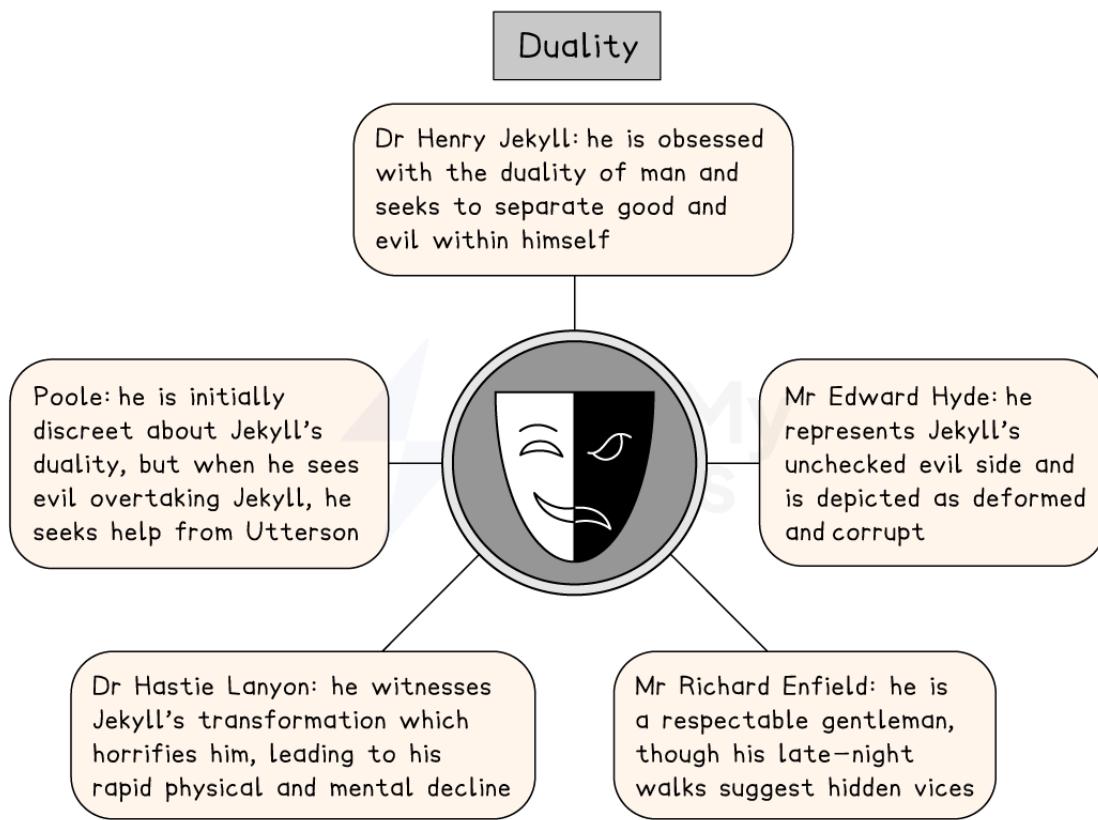
- **Jekyll's double life:** Jekyll represents the respectable, moral side of human nature while Hyde symbolises his repressed evil and primal instincts:
 - Stevenson hints at Jekyll's dual nature by describing him as having "every mark of capacity and kindness" but also having "something of a slyish cast perhaps"
 - While Stevenson uses imagery linked to pain and sickness when Jekyll transforms into Hyde, he also alludes to his excitement
- **London setting:** Stevenson uses Victorian London as a symbol of duality by portraying a city where respectability and evil exist side by side:


Your notes

- Stevenson describes affluent streets next to areas of degradation and poverty which reveals the duality of the city
- **Jekyll's house and laboratory:** The doors to Jekyll's home are a physical representation of the duality of his character:
 - Jekyll's house has a grand and well-maintained entrance which reflects his outward status as a respected scientist
 - In contrast, the back door is associated with Hyde and is depicted as "blistered and distained", symbolising the evil lurking beneath
- **The final confession:** At the end of the novella, Jekyll finally comprehends the inseparability of human nature and how the more sinister side has come to dominate his character:
 - "The balance of my nature might be permanently overthrown"

The impact of duality on characters

The theme of duality is prevalent throughout the novella and has an impact on many of the characters.


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Duality in Jekyll and Hyde



Your notes

Character	Impact
Dr Henry Jekyll	Jekyll is fascinated with the duality of man and wishes to separate the good and the bad sides of his personality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He confesses that he enjoys being evil in his final statement
Mr Edward Hyde	Hyde symbolises the uncontrolled and evil side of Jekyll's nature: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He is depicted as being physically deformed and morally corrupt: "savage", "snarled" and "hardly human"
Mr Richard Enfield	Enfield appears to be a respectable Victorian gentleman. However, his late night walks in London may indicate that he has his own hidden vices
Dr Hastie Lanyon	When Lanyon witnesses Jekyll's transformation he is unable to comprehend the existence of this duality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ His horror leads to his rapid decline both physically and mentally
Poole	As Jekyll's servant, Poole initially follows societal expectations by being discreet about Jekyll's duality: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ However, when Poole realises the dominance of evil within Jekyll, he seeks help from Utterson

Why does Stevenson use the theme of duality in his novella?

1. Setting and atmosphere

- Depicts a Victorian society where the duality of good and evil coexist
- Contrasts Jekyll's grand home with the neglected and sinister back entrance used by Hyde

2. Plot driver

- Drives the narrative through Jekyll's experiments and his creation of Hyde

3. Audience appeal

- Reflects Victorian anxieties regarding the possibility that a duality exists within every individual

4. Narrative device

- Heightens suspense by concealing Hyde's true identity which makes the final revelation more shocking to the reader



Your notes

Exam-style questions on the theme of duality

Try planning a response to the following essay questions as part of your revision of the theme of duality:

- Explore how Stevenson uses settings to reflect the theme of duality. (You could start with the contrasting descriptions of Jekyll's respectable house and the sinister back entrance used by Hyde.)
- How does Stevenson use the theme of duality to explore the darker side of human nature? (You could start with the portrayal of Hyde as the embodiment of Jekyll's repressed desires.)

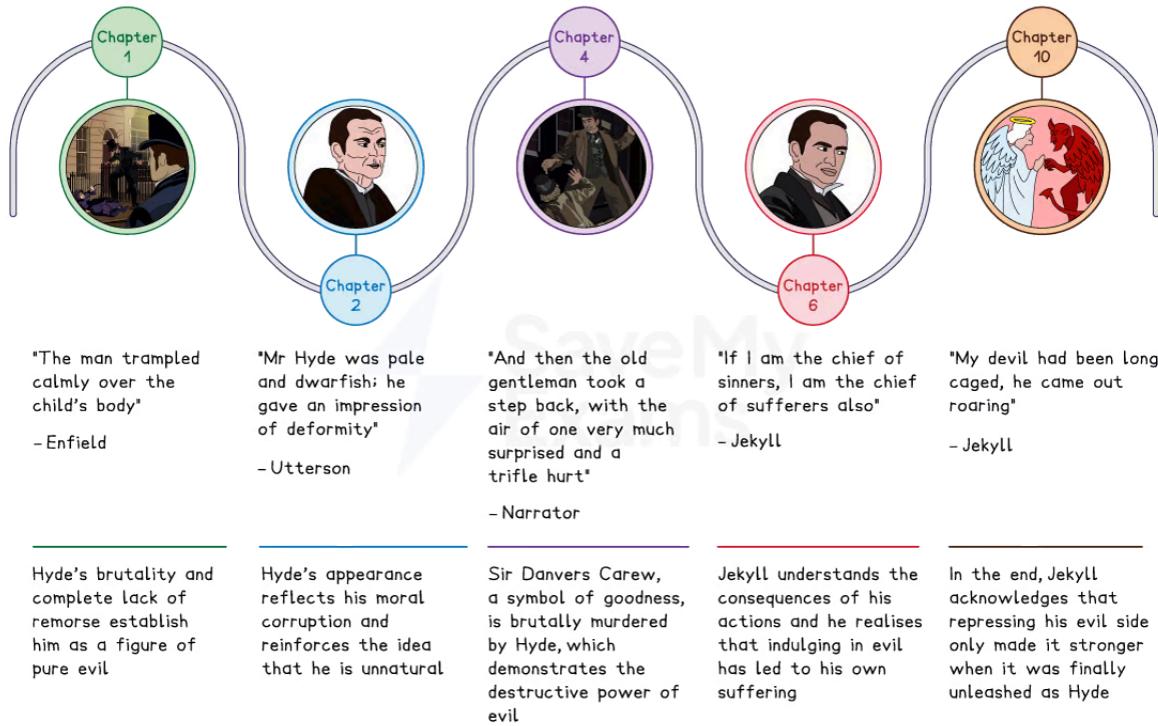


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde Key Theme: Good and Evil

Good and evil mind map

The theme of good and evil in key chapters of Jekyll and Hyde:



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Jekyll and Hyde good and evil timeline

What are the elements of good and evil in Jekyll and Hyde?

The elements of good and evil in the novella include:

- **Jekyll's struggle with good and evil:** Jekyll attempts to maintain a moral existence ("good shone upon the countenance"), but is tempted to indulge in his evil side, which results in the creation of his alter ego, Hyde:
 - He believes that it is the "curse of mankind" that good and evil are bound together within him ("commingled out of good and evil") and thus the two parts are in direct conflict with one another



Your notes

- **Hyde as the manifestation of evil:** Stevenson depicts Hyde as an inherently violent character and he displays no remorse for his crimes:

- Stevenson highlights Hyde's separateness from human society and the word "evil" is used repeatedly in reference to him
- Both of Hyde's victims are presented as innocent and vulnerable which elicits sympathy from the reader and makes them horrified at the evilness of his actions

- **Utterson's moral integrity:** Unlike Jekyll, Utterson resists temptation and values morality:

- Utterson is not only Jekyll's lawyer but he is also a good and loyal friend who is concerned for Jekyll's wellbeing
- He admits to Jekyll that he does not approve of Hyde, but promises Jekyll that he will help Hyde should Jekyll die, showing that Utterson is honourable and trustworthy

- **Lanyon's dramatic decline:** Lanyon's shock at the existence of evil, after witnessing Jekyll's transformation into Hyde, is the cause of his mental and physical decline and eventual death:

- "I have had a shock... and I shall never recover"

- **The fog:** Stevenson describes the choking fog which hangs over the city like a shroud, which heightens the atmosphere of mystery and secrecy:

- The fog symbolises the blurred lines between good and evil and hints at hidden secrets and desires
- It also heightens the novella's atmosphere of suspense, tension and mystery, highlighting the uncertainty of human nature

The impact of good and evil on characters

The theme of good and evil is prevalent throughout the novella and has an impact on many of the characters.



Your notes

Good and Evil

Dr Hastie Lanyon: his rigid beliefs make him unable to cope with Hyde's existence, leading to his death

Dr Henry Jekyll: he struggles with the duality of man and his attempt to separate good and evil leads to his downfall

Sir Danvers Carew: he is a symbol of innocence; his brutal murder contrasts with his kind nature

Mr Edward Hyde: he embodies unchecked evil, evoking terror and hinting at humanity's hidden darkness

Mr Richard Enfield: he is a respectable gentleman who avoids questioning Hyde, hinting at his own hidden vices

Mr Gabriel Utterson: he is a moral figure whose reluctance to act enables Hyde's evil to grow

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Good and evil in Jekyll and Hyde

Character	Impact
Dr Henry Jekyll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevenson presents Jekyll as a deeply conflicted character whose struggle between good and evil elicits both sympathy and criticism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jekyll's desire to separate his good and evil sides leads to his downfall ▪ Through Jekyll, Stevenson explores the temptation and attraction of evil ▪ Even though Jekyll chooses goodness, he confesses he enjoys being evil in his final statement



Your notes

Mr Edward Hyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hyde's sinister presence and violent actions are a constant reminder of the power of evil:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He invokes terror in other characters which hints at the possibility of evil that possibly resides in everyone
Mr Gabriel Utterson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Utterson is a symbol of goodness and moral integrity:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Although he investigates Hyde, his reluctance to intervene enables Hyde's evil to grow further▪ He speculates on the nature of Hyde's evil and wonders if Hyde's appearance is merely a reflection of "something troglodytic" or if it is the "radiance of a foul soul"
Mr Richard Enfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Enfield is depicted as a respectable gentleman but avoids questioning Hyde's behaviour:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stevenson also hints that he may be hiding his own sinister intentions
Sir Danvers Carew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Carew symbolises goodness and innocence:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ His violent death is juxtaposed with his kind demeanour, making his death appear even more appalling to the reader▪ The imagery associated with Carew is associated with innocence, such as "an aged and beautiful gentleman with white hair"
Dr Hastie Lanyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lanyon has strict moral and scientific beliefs and his witnessing of evil, embodied in Hyde, results in his death

Why does Stevenson use the theme of good and evil in his novella?

1. Setting and atmosphere

- Establishes a sinister and oppressive atmosphere that conveys the evil lurking beneath the surface of a respectable Victorian society
- Creates a contrast between the dark and sinister fog-filled streets of London with the grandeur and respectability of Jekyll's home

2. Plot driver

- Conveys the dark consequences of indulging in evil, as Hyde's increasing dominance over Jekyll results in his destruction



Your notes

3. Audience appeal

- Reflects discussions about what constitutes human nature and that people were not merely either good or evil
- Engages readers by presenting Hyde as a truly horrifying and terrifying character

4. Narrative device

- Heightens tension by keeping Hyde's true identity hidden until the final chapter which makes the battle between good and evil more shocking

Exam-style questions on the theme of good and evil

Try planning a response to the following essay questions as part of your revision of the theme of good and evil:

- To what extent does Stevenson suggest that evil is stronger than good in the novella? (You could start with Hyde's increasing dominance over Jekyll.)
- How does Stevenson present the conflict between good and evil? (You could start with Jekyll's inner struggles as he tries to suppress his darker side.)

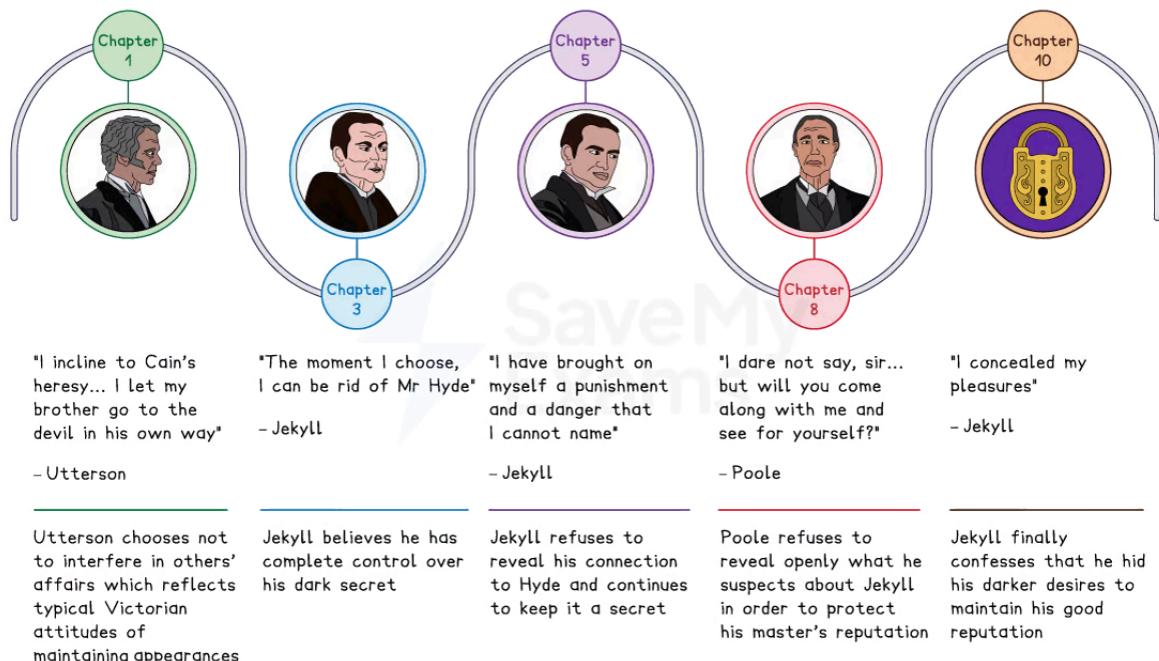


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde Key Theme: Secrecy and Reputation

Secrecy and reputation timeline

The theme of secrecy and reputation in key chapters of Jekyll and Hyde:



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Jekyll and Hyde secrecy and reputation timeline

What are the elements of secrecy and reputation in Jekyll and Hyde?

Many characters withhold information in order to protect their reputation or the reputation of others. The elements of secrecy and reputation in the novella include:

- **Jekyll's hidden experiments:** Jekyll keeps his experiments a secret in order to protect his reputation as he admits: "I concealed my pleasures":
 - Jekyll's battle within himself to remain respectable is revealed
- **Utterson's investigation:** Utterson desperately tries to avoid any scandal which could damage Jekyll's reputation and therefore does not share his suspicions about him:



Your notes

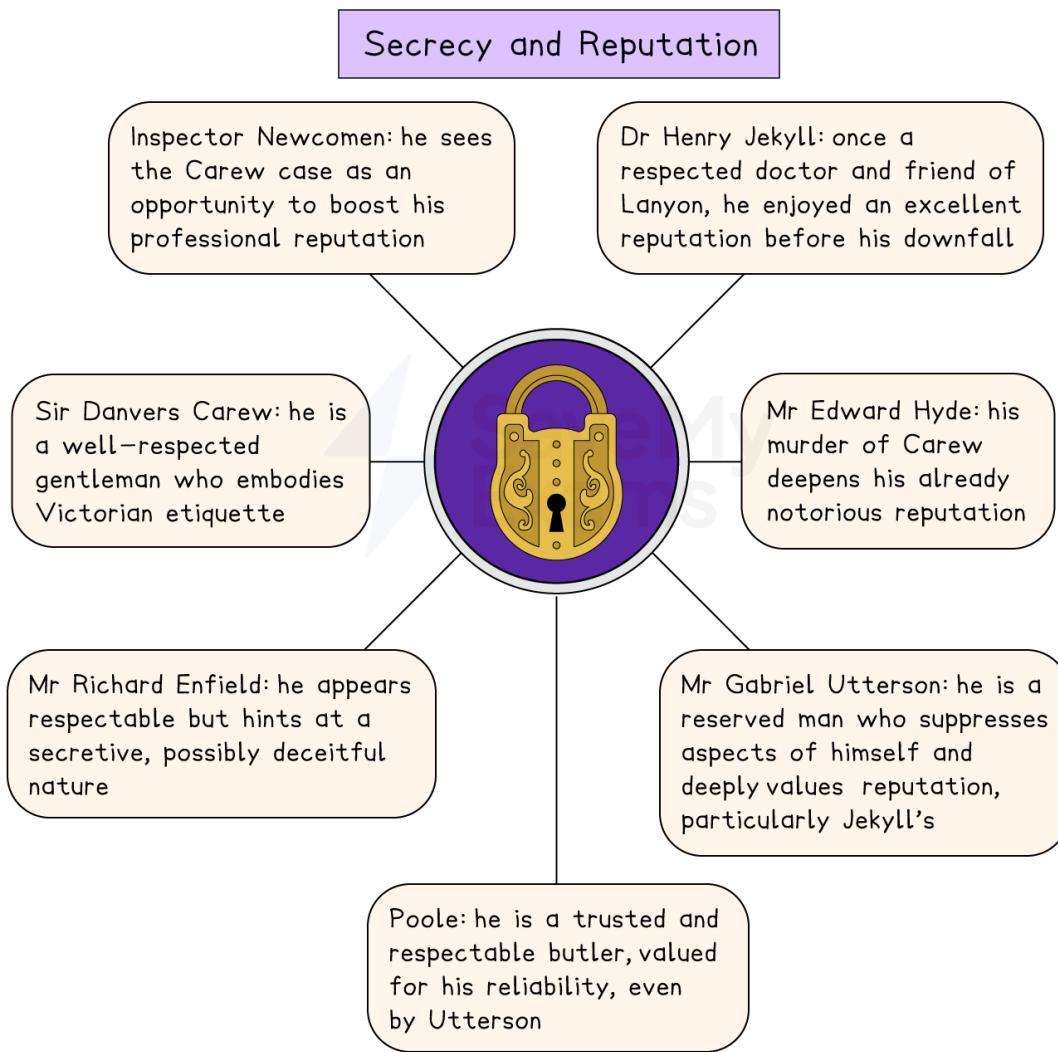
- He is a trustworthy, discreet and loyal friend and is referred to as “the last reputable acquaintance... of down-going men”
- **Lanyon’s discretion:** Despite discovering Jekyll’s terrifying secret, Lanyon refuses to tell Utterson why he had a disagreement with Jekyll:
 - His failure to disclose Jekyll’s secret results in his death and reflects the Victorian fear of exposing unsettling truths
- **Ambiguity surrounding Enfield and Carew:** Although considered ideal Victorian gentleman, Stevenson does not reveal why both men are depicted as walking the London streets late at night

The impact of secrecy and reputation on characters

The theme of secrecy and reputation is prevalent throughout the novella and has an impact on many characters.



Your notes


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Secrecy and reputation in Jekyll and Hyde

Character	Impact
Dr Henry Jekyll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jekyll was once close friends with Lanyon and like Lanyon, he gained an excellent reputation in the medical profession
Mr Edward Hyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carew's murder by Hyde takes Hyde's already poor reputation to an even deeper level



Your notes

Mr Gabriel Utterson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Utterson is described as a man with "a rugged countenance that was never lighted by a smile", suggesting he also suppresses an aspect of himself▪ Utterson values the importance of a good reputation, typical of gentlemen in Victorian society:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Utterson is particularly concerned about the good reputation of his friend, Dr Jekyll, and wants to help him to preserve it
Mr Richard Enfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ While Enfield has the appearance of a respectable Victorian gentleman, there are hints about his secretive and perhaps deceitful nature
Sir Danvers Carew	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sir Danvers Carew is a well respected gentleman who embodies the ideals of Victorian etiquette
Inspector Newcomen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Newcomen believes that his involvement with the Carew murder case will improve his reputation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ "His eyes lighted up with professional ambition" as he knows that the case "will make a deal of noise"
Poole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Poole, Jekyll's butler, is depicted as having a good reputation:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ For example, Utterson welcomes Poole into his home and trusts what he has to say about Jekyll

Why does Stevenson use the theme of secrecy and reputation in his novella?

1. Setting and atmosphere

- Creates an atmosphere of mystery and concealment, conveying the idea that darkness lies beneath the veneer of Victorian respectability:
 - Due to its vastness, Stevenson draws a connection between the urban setting and the malevolent crimes committed by Hyde
 - The incorporation of fog as a **motif** contributes to an oppressive atmosphere

2. Plot driver

- Drives the narrative as Jekyll is desperate to conceal his scientific experiments and protect his reputation

- Illustrates the dangers of secrecy as many characters fail to intervene in time by prioritising Jekyll's reputation over the truth

3. Audience appeal

- Reflects Victorian anxieties about the conflict between public respectability and sinister private desires

4. Narrative device

- Heightens suspense and mystery through gradual revelations of Jekyll's secret as it is only in the final chapter when the identity of Hyde is revealed
- Manipulates the reader as they believe for the majority of the novella that Jekyll and Hyde are two separate entities



Your notes

Exam-style questions on the theme of secrecy and reputation

Try planning a response to the following essay questions as part of your revision of the theme of secrecy and reputation:

- How does Stevenson use the consequences of secrecy to highlight the dangerous consequences of maintaining a false reputation? (You could start with Lanyon's shock after discovering Jekyll's secret and the devastating impact it has on him.)
- How does Stevenson use the theme of secrecy and reputation to highlight the pressures of conforming to Victorian society? (You could start with Jekyll's struggles to maintain his respectable façade while concealing his darker desires.)

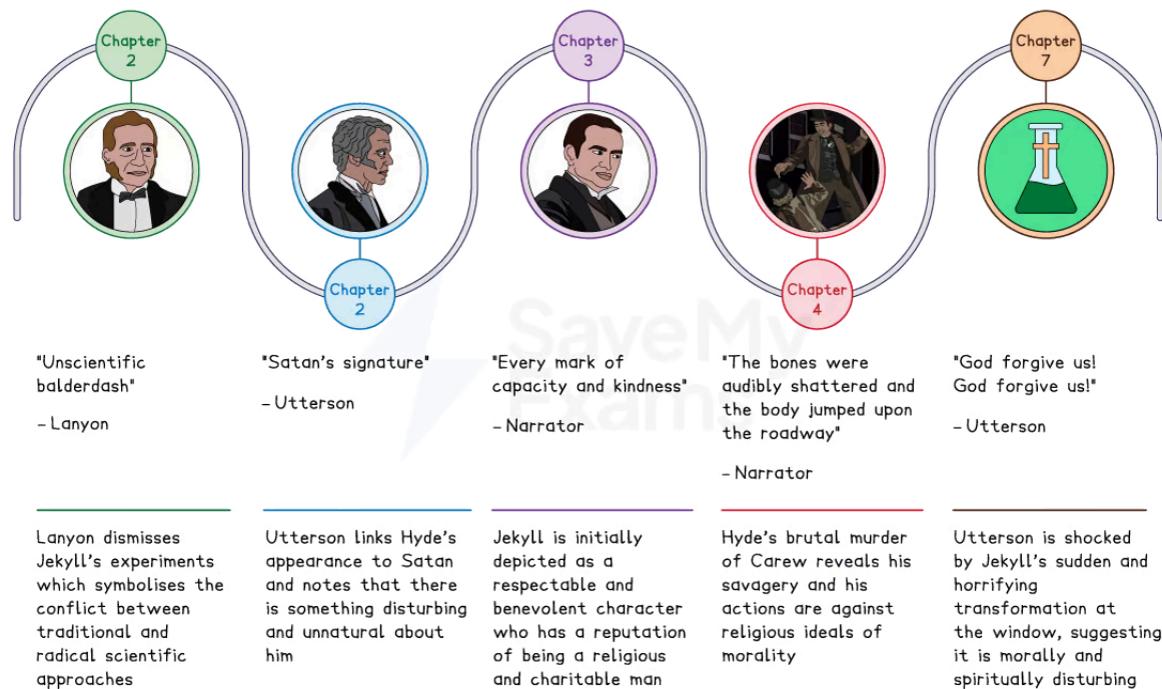


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde Key Theme: Science and Religion

Science and religion timeline

The theme of science and religion in key chapters of Jekyll and Hyde:



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Jekyll and Hyde science and religion timeline

What are the elements of science and religion in Jekyll and Hyde?

The elements of science and religion in the novella include:

- **Conservative versus experimental:** Jekyll could be viewed as using science to "play God" by interfering with it:
 - Lanyon is a conventional scientist and views Jekyll's experiments as dangerous, describing them as "unscientific balderdash"
 - Jekyll becomes increasingly isolated and is deeply disturbed when his transformation into Hyde occurs without his chemical concoction



Your notes

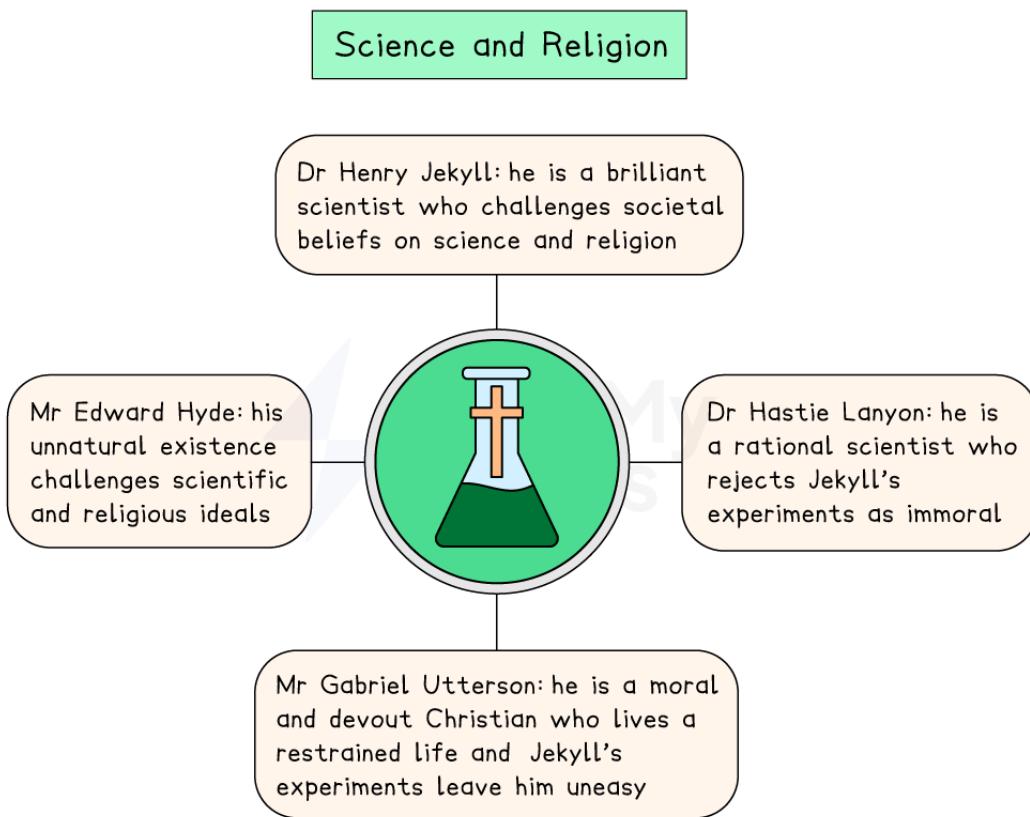
- **Charles Darwin's theory of evolution:** Stevenson does not make direct reference to Darwin's theory, though the words "troglodytic" and "ape-like" allude to Hyde's primitive behaviour:
 - Darwin's theory greatly concerned Victorian society and the idea that humans evolved from apes led to anxieties about the possibility of returning to this primitive state
- **Physiognomy:** Stevenson uses Christian and 19th-century references to **pseudoscience** which suggests that Hyde's evilness is manifested in his physical appearance:
 - Utterson concludes that Hyde's face bears "Satan's signature" implying that his outward appearance reflects the evil within
- **Religious symbolism:** Biblical **allusions** are used repeatedly throughout the novella:
 - Stevenson references "Cain's heresy", which is a biblical reference to the tale of Cain and Abel, depicting one evil and one good son
 - Hyde is associated with Christian notions about Hell and Satan, with Jekyll frequently referring to him as "my devil"

The impact of science and religion on characters

The theme of science and religion is prevalent throughout the novella and has an impact on many of the characters.



Your notes



Character	Impact
Dr Henry Jekyll	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jekyll is presented as a highly intelligent scientist with an inquiring mind: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> His motivation to create Hyde conveys his ability to question societal beliefs about science and religion Jekyll is also initially portrayed as a charitable and religious character: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “He had always been known for charities” and he was “no less distinguished for religion”
Dr Hastie Lanyon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lanyon believes Jekyll’s experiments are morally objectionable and should not be conducted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He is a rational and traditional scientist and his views are in stark contrast to those of Jekyll



Your notes

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ As the only character to witness Jekyll's transformation, his belief in the laws of science do not enable him to accept what he has witnessed
Mr Gabriel Utterson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Utterson is depicted as a highly moral, ethical and devout Christian:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ He is described as being "austere with himself" and that he restricts his pleasures▪ His reaction to Jekyll's scientific experiments is one of confusion and unease
Mr Edward Hyde	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hyde symbolises the rejection of religious and moral values:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ His creation challenges both scientific and religious ideals as he represents something unnatural and sinister▪ Stevenson uses animal imagery to emphasise Hyde's separateness from human society

Why does Stevenson use the theme of science and religion in his novella?

1. Setting and atmosphere

- Depicts London as a divided city and reflects the tension between scientific progress and religious morality in Victorian society
- Uses fog and darkness as **motifs** to symbolise the blurred boundaries between science and religion

2. Plot driver

- Drives the narrative through Jekyll's obsession with scientific discovery and highlights the tension between science and religion

3. Audience appeal

- Reflects Victorian anxieties about scientific developments and the idea that science could disrupt religion
- Challenges religious beliefs that good and evil are part of human nature

4. Narrative device

- Heightens suspense through Lanyon's discovery of Jekyll's experiments by reinforcing the idea that science can defy natural laws

Exam-style questions on the theme of science and religion



Your notes

Try planning a response to the following essay questions as part of your revision of the theme of science and religion:

- Explore how Stevenson portrays the consequences of defying religious and natural laws through science. (You could start with Jekyll's attempt to "play God" by altering human nature.)
- How does Stevenson present the conflict between science and religion in the novella? (You could start with Lanyon's rejection of Jekyll's experiments as "unscientific balderdash".)

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Characters



Your notes

Characters

It is vital that you understand that characters are often used symbolically to express ideas. Stevenson uses all of his characters to symbolise various ideas prevalent in his society, and the differences between characters reflect contemporary debates. Therefore, it is very useful not only to learn about each character individually but how they compare and contrast with other characters in the novel.

It is important to consider the range of strategies used by Stevenson to create and develop characters within the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. This includes:

- how characters are established
- how characters are presented:
 - physical appearance or suggestions about this
 - actions and motives for them
 - what they say and think
 - how they interact with others
 - what others say and think about them
- how far the characters conform to or subvert stereotypes
- their relationships between other characters

Below you will find character profiles of:

- **Dr Henry Jekyll**
- **Mr Edward Hyde**
- **Mr Gabriel John Utterson**
- **Dr Hastie Lanyon**

Minor Characters:

- **Mr Enfield**
- **Sir Danvers Carew**
- **Mr Poole**

Dr Henry Jekyll



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Your notes

- The character of Dr Henry Jekyll is only introduced in Chapter III of the **novella**:
 - Hyde appears in the narrative before Jekyll which reinforces the reader's perception that he is a separate **entity**
 - Jekyll is first depicted as a model Victorian gentleman: he is well-mannered, has a wide circle of acquaintances and is religious
 - Jekyll is introduced as a "charitable man" and is described as a "large, well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps, but every mark of capacity and kindness":
 - Stevenson's initial description presents Jekyll as a respectable man but he also hints at his cunning, secretive and deceitful nature which prepares the reader for what is about to unfold
 - Jekyll is presented as a scientist who has spent many years conducting experiments in order to explore the duality of human nature:
 - He believes that every person has both good and evil within them and is determined to use his research to understand and explain this **dichotomy**
 - His experimentation into matters of modern science however may have concerned some Victorians
 - Jekyll is presented as highly intelligent with an inquiring mind:
 - His motivation for creating Hyde demonstrates his ability to question societal beliefs about science and religion



Your notes

- Jekyll's experiments lead to a feud with his friend, Lanyon, as he believes Jekyll's experiments are morally **objectionable** and should not be conducted
- Jekyll's experimental concoction separates both the good and evil aspects of his character and seemingly creates the separate person of Hyde, who partakes in hideous and violent crimes:
 - The true nature of Jekyll and Hyde's relationship is finally revealed to the reader in the final chapter of the novella, though Stevenson does give hints to this throughout the narrative
- Jekyll finds himself living a double life and he is unable to **reconcile** the two sides of his character:
 - He wishes to be a respected doctor adhering to the highest moral standards; however, he also yearns to engage in **malevolent** acts
- As the novella progresses, Jekyll's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic and unpredictable:
 - By Chapter V, it is evident that Hyde is having a detrimental influence over Jekyll
 - Jekyll becomes increasingly isolated and is deeply perturbed when his transformation into Hyde occurs without his chemical concoction
- In the final chapter of the novella, Jekyll's battle within himself to be 'respectable' is revealed:
 - Indeed, it could be viewed that Hyde would not exist if Jekyll could live without rigid social constraints
- While Jekyll firmly believes he is in charge of the transformation between him and Hyde, the conclusion of the novella illustrates that it is Hyde who is in control:
 - This ironic reversal of power illustrates the power of Hyde and Jekyll's struggle against the more sinister side of his nature
- Stevenson lets the reader decide whether Jekyll is a character who is morally worthy of any sympathy:
 - While the reader may feel some empathy for Jekyll, he cannot be viewed as wholly good

Mr Edward Hyde

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Your notes

- Hyde is first presented in the novella indirectly through Enfield's account and also Utterson's dream, which both serve to present him as a villainous character but also as highly **elusive**
- At first, he is referred simply to as "the man" which creates an air of mysteriousness and he is depicted as both violent and cruel: for example, "the man trampled calmly over the child's body"
 - Stevenson uses the **juxtaposition** of the words "calmly" and "trampled" to establish the brutality and horror of Hyde's character
- Hyde is described throughout in terms of animalistic imagery which increases as the novella develops: "savage", "snarled", "with ape-like fury" and "hardly human" all allude to his aggressive, **predatory** and **primitive** nature:
 - Stevenson's deliberate use of animal imagery is used to suggest Hyde's separateness from human society and his unrestrained nature
 - The use of the word "troglodytic" is used which implies caveman-like behaviour which links to **Darwin's Theory of Evolution**, which challenged the largely Christian views of many Victorians
- Although Stevenson presents him using animalistic imagery there is also a vagueness to his description which creates apprehension and mystery:
 - Stevenson suggests that "he gives a strong feeling of deformity" though he does not specify as to what this deformity is
 - This casts an uncertainty as to Hyde's character and also hints at a supernatural element as the descriptions of him are quite ambiguous



Your notes

- Hyde's first violent incident in Chapter I foreshadows the events in Chapter IV, when he savagely beats Sir Danvers Carew to death:
 - Stevenson parallels these two incidents:
 - They both occur late at night
 - There is an innocent victim
 - Excessive violence is used
 - There are witnesses to the event
 - These incidents are used to demonstrate his character spiralling out of control, as each subsequent event becomes more brutal and violent in its nature
 - This corresponds to Jekyll's description of Hyde becoming the stronger and more dominant personality
 - Hyde is depicted as an inherently violent character and he displays no remorse for his crimes:
 - Further, both of Hyde's victims are presented as innocent and vulnerable (one a young child and the other an elderly gentleman) which elicits sympathy from the reader and makes them horrified at the depravity of Hyde's actions
 - Stevenson presents Hyde as an outsider within the narrative and he is both mysterious and **callous**:
 - Apart from his violent deeds, the reader learns very little about him
 - Further, while Hyde is largely depicted as grotesque, Stevenson does present him as somewhat pathetic and helpless at times
 - Hyde could be viewed as a representation of the dangers of repression and serves as a criticism of conventional social and moral codes
 - Hyde invokes terror in other characters:
 - This may hint at the possibility of the inner evil that resides within everyone

Mr Gabriel John Utterson

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Your notes

- Gabriel Utterson is presented as having “an approved tolerance for others” and that “something eminently human beaconed in his eye” which suggests he is a kind and **genial** character
- He is depicted as a respectable lawyer and as a trustworthy, discreet and loyal friend to Jekyll:
 - One of Utterson’s roles in the novella is to help advise his friend, despite Jekyll’s repeated objections to assistance
 - He is referenced as “the last reputable acquaintance and the last good influence in the lives of down-going men”
 - He places his duty to friendship above his duty to the law and although he suspects forgery of a letter, his protectiveness towards Jekyll outweighs his regard for the law
 - Utterson also desperately tries to avert any scandal which could damage Jekyll’s reputation
- He is presented as both rational and calm and through his objective perspective, Stevenson enables the reader to judge the evidence alongside him:
 - At no point does he suspect Jekyll and Hyde are the same person and although he accurately suspects something odd about their letters, the conclusion he draws is incorrect which perhaps illustrates his **fallibility**
- He has a persistent and inquisitive manner and he is committed to uncovering the truth:
 - In the beginning, he is described as a man of steady habits and acquaintances though as the novella progresses, he increasingly engages in activities which are outside of his normal behaviour



Your notes

- He begins to behave more impulsively: for example, he breaks into Jekyll's laboratory which demonstrates his bravery
- Utterson is used to present the main narrative viewpoint and he drives much of the plot action: for example, tracking down Hyde, identifying Carew's body, assisting the police and receiving the letters from Jekyll and Lanyon:
 - It is through the character of Utterson that all of the other characters are presented and he is used by Stevenson to link all of them together
- Stevenson concludes the novella with two letters which are read by Utterson:
 - This adds an air of mysteriousness as his reaction is never revealed and the reader is unaware of what action he takes

Dr Hastie Lanyon

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- Dr Hastie Lanyon is first depicted as a "hearty, healthy, dapper, red-faced gentleman" with a "boisterous...manner" which suggests he is a robust, energetic and **amiable** character:
 - Stevenson contrasts this initial presentation of Lanyon with his dramatic physical and mental decline later in the novella, where he is described as "rosy...grown pale" and "balder and older"
- Jekyll's experiments lead to a feud with his friend, Lanyon, as he believes Jekyll's experiments are morally **objectionable** and should not be conducted:
 - Lanyon is a respectable and conventional scientist and stands in contrast to Jekyll, as he views Jekyll's experiments as dangerous and describes them as "unscientific balderdash"

- His character increases the sense of mystery within the narrative when he refuses to inform Utterson as to what occurred between him and Jekyll
- He is also established as one of Jekyll's "oldest friends" and as his "colleague and old-school companion":
 - Stevenson does so in order to depict how repulsed Lanyon is about Jekyll's experiments, as he distances himself completely from his former friend
 - Lanyon is unable to **reconcile** his opposition to Jekyll's experiments and as a result, their friendship ceases to exist
- Lanyon is the first character to discover that Hyde and Jekyll are the same person:
 - When Lanyon witnesses Hyde transform back into Jekyll, his shock that a vile beast lurks within a respectable gentleman such as Jekyll becomes too distressing for him to bear
 - Indeed, Stevenson positions Lanyon as the only character to witness Jekyll's transformation as his belief in the laws of science does not enable him to accept what he has witnessed: "My life is shaken to its roots":



Minor Characters

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Mr Enfield

- A distant relative and friend of Utterson, Mr Enfield is first presented in Chapter I:
 - He stands in sharp contrast to Utterson and is wholly uninterested and indifferent to Hyde's violent behaviour



Your notes

- Enfield is used to introduce the character of Hyde and he reveals Hyde's connection to Utterson's friend, Jekyll:
 - Stevenson uses Enfield to drive the narrative forwards as his account of Hyde instigates Utterson's investigation
 - Although never firmly stated, Stevenson hints that Enfield has all the exterior of a gentleman, though may also have sinister secrets of his own

Sir Danvers Carew

- Sir Danvers Carew is presented as a distinguished, respected gentleman and Member of Parliament who is violently beaten to death by Hyde:
 - He is described as having an "old-world kindness" and a "well-founded self-content" and is presented as a model Victorian gentleman
 - His death presents a turning point in the novella and the violent and horrific depiction of his death is heavily contrasted with his kind demeanor, making his death appear even more appalling to the reader:
 - By attacking Carew, Hyde could be seen as attacking key values held by Victorian society

Mr Poole

- Poole is presented as Jekyll's faithful and honest servant who demonstrates his discretion by trying to avert a scandal for his employer

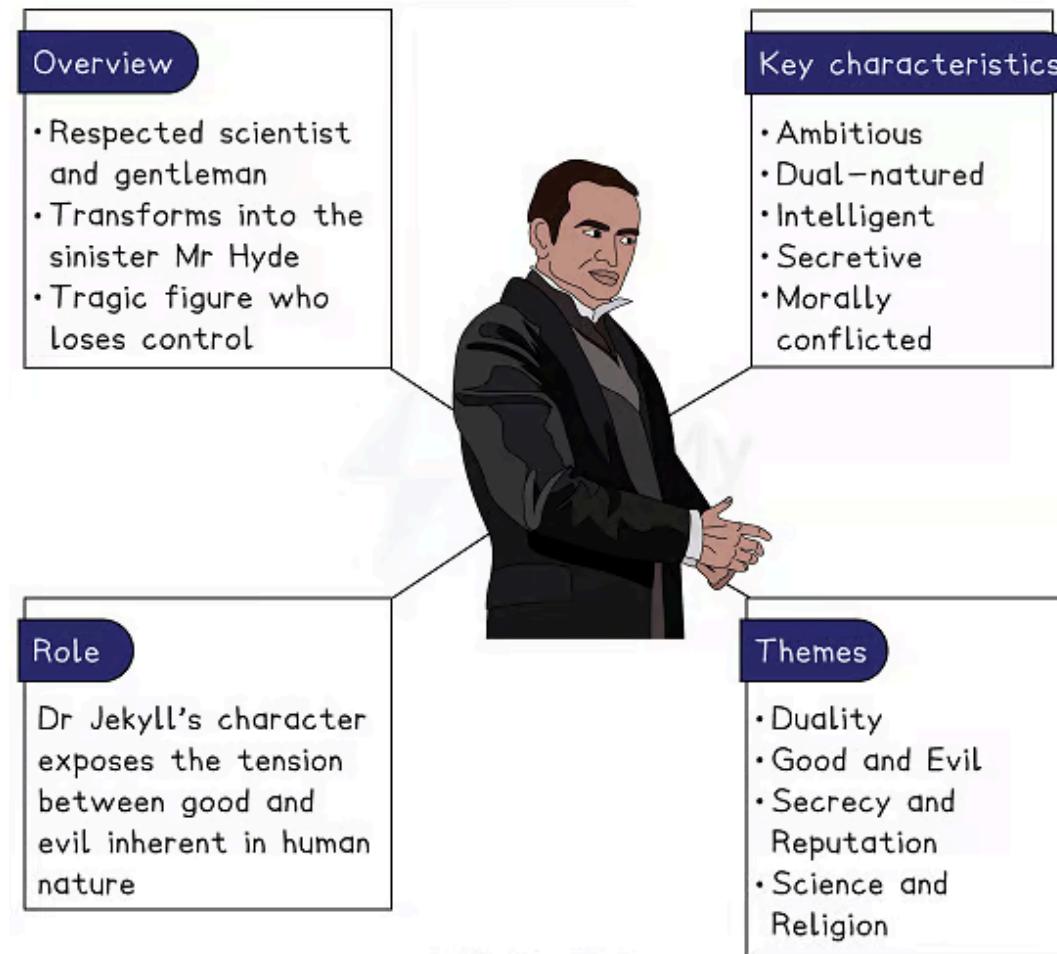


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Dr Henry Jekyll Character Analysis

Jekyll finds himself living a double life and he is unable to reconcile the two sides of his character.

Dr Jekyll character summary

Copyright © Save My Exams. All Rights Reserved.**Jekyll character summary**

Why is Dr Jekyll important?

Jekyll is a symbol of the duality of human nature and while he is aware of his good side, he also acknowledges that there is evil within him.

Dr Jekyll is depicted as:



Your notes

- **Ambitious:** Jekyll is presented as a scientist who has spent many years conducting experiments in order to explore the duality of human nature. He is presented as highly intelligent with an inquiring mind. While he is desperate to maintain his good reputation, he is tempted to enjoy and indulge in his evil side, which is why he is motivated to create his alter ego, Mr Hyde
- **Morally conflicted:** Jekyll is fascinated with the duality of man and wishes to separate the good and the bad sides of his personality; he confesses that he enjoys being evil in his final statement. The "character" of Dr Jekyll maintains his good reputation while Mr Hyde is the incarnation of his bad reputation. The **epistolary** nature of the end of the narrative gives the reader an insight into Jekyll's fears and desperate situation.
- **Secretive:** Jekyll's secrecy isolates him from his friends and colleagues. His experiments lead to a feud with his friend, Dr Lanyon, who believes Jekyll's experiments are morally objectionable and should not be conducted
- **Tragic figure:** Jekyll enjoys the façade of Dr Hyde, as he can do terrible things, such as the "juggernaut" incident and the murder of Sir Danvers Carew, without anyone suspecting him. However, he becomes a victim of his own experiments. Although Jekyll tries to assure Utterson that he does not need his help nor interference and that "the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr Hyde", he ultimately succumbs to his evil side

Dr Jekyll's use of language

Dr Jekyll uses language that reflects his intellectual curiosity and moral conflict and his language shifts between rational thoughts with his more darker and sinister impulses.

- **Emotive:** Jekyll repeats "my life, my honour, my reason" to emphasise his desperate plea for help and says that he would "sacrifice" his "fortune" or "left hand" if Lanyon were to need his help. For example, Jekyll describes the different stages of his transformation: "racking pangs... grinding in the bones, deadly nausea, and a horror of the spirit" and his transformation affects him both physically and psychologically.
- **Introspective:** Jekyll realises that the evil side of his nature is "less robust and less developed than the good". Following the murder of Sir Danvers Carew, Jekyll reflects that Mr Hyde has gone too far and that he needs to be contained. Whenever Jekyll controls his lust for evil, he comes out of seclusion and renews his friendships, reinforcing his good reputation among them.
- **Sinister:** Jekyll knows that his transformation has affected him greatly and uses repetition to emphasise how he is "more wicked, tenfold more wicked" and that he is metaphorically "sold a slave to my [his] original evil". He celebrates knowing that he is evil with the simile "braced and delighted me like wine" and his feelings are intoxicating.
- **Religious and moralistic:** Jekyll's use of terms and references to religious symbolism and biblical **allusions** are used repeatedly throughout the novella. For example, his repeated use of terms linked to "hell" ("devil" and "damned") reflect his moral anguish.

Dr Jekyll key quotes



Your notes


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Jekyll key quotes

Dr Jekyll character development

Chapter 3	Chapter 5	Chapter 10
<p>The Dinner Party: In this chapter, Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll as a charming and respectable gentleman. He is both the centre of polite conversation and is described as physically robust and handsome. He deflects Mr Utterson's concerns about his will and his association with Mr Hyde.</p>	<p>Incident of the Letter: Utterson visits Jekyll after Hyde has committed murder and Jekyll's secrecy and fragmented language reveal his growing moral conflict, as revealed by the forgery of the letter supposedly written by Mr Hyde.</p>	<p>Henry Jekyll's Full Statement: In his final confession, Jekyll's battle within himself to be "respectable" is revealed. Despite his efforts, he could no longer contain Mr Hyde, and Jekyll realises that man does not only have one nature, but is "truly two": evil resides in all men and wants to break out.</p>

Dr Jekyll character interpretation

Victorian repression

The rigid expectations of Victorian society could be viewed as compelling certain individuals to repress certain aspects of their character. Repression is evident in the character of Jekyll who can not suppress his inner desires, which results in the creation of Hyde. Through the version of himself called "Mr Hyde", Jekyll can take part in the immoral or criminal activities that are not permitted by polite Victorian society, but that, deep down, he wishes to engage in.

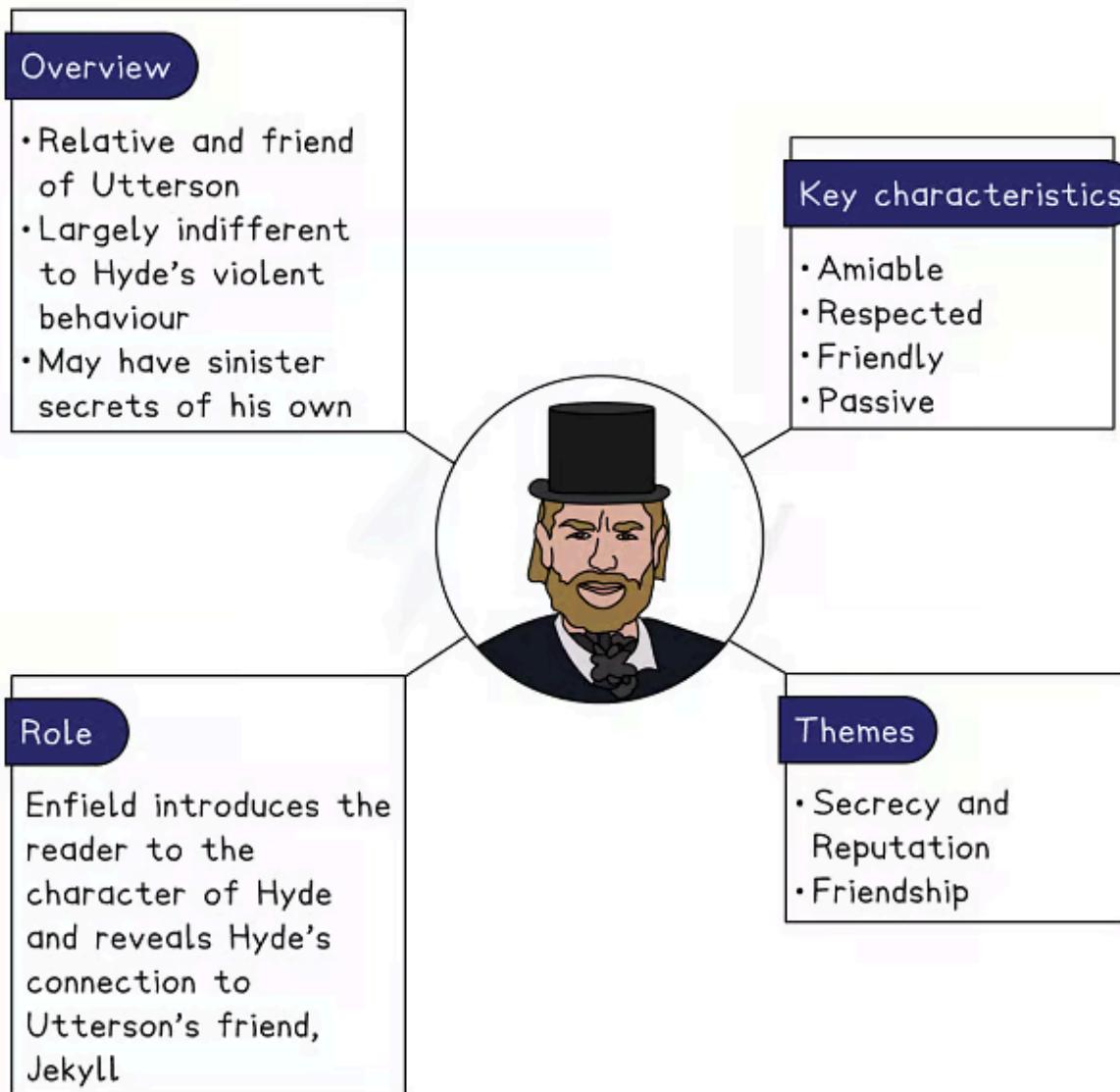


Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Mr Richard Enfield Character Analysis

Although Enfield is a relatively minor character and is always accompanied by Utterson, he drives the narrative of the novella by informing Utterson about Hyde's conduct.

Mr Richard Enfield character summary

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Your notes

Why is Mr Richard Enfield important?

Enfield drives the narrative forward as his account of Hyde instigates Utterson's inquiries. He is depicted as:

- **Amiable:** Enfield is described as a "distant kinsman" to Utterson and both men are well known in London. Stevenson indicates how "It was a nut to crack for many" to understand Utterson and Enfield's friendship as they have little in common. Despite this, both men enjoy regular Sunday walks together. During one such occasion, Enfield sparks Utterson's interest in Hyde when he tells him "The Story of the Door". In the "Incident at the Window", both Utterson and Enfield offer advice and help, urging Jekyll to join them on their walk to improve his health.
- **Respected:** Enfield, like Utterson, values the importance of a good reputation, typical of a gentleman in Victorian society. Although he could be viewed as being largely indifferent to Hyde's violence throughout the novella, he does pursue Hyde when he trampled the child and ensures the family receive compensation. However, Enfield's integrity could also be questioned when he recounts to Utterson that "from some place at the end of the world, about three o'clock of a black winter morning" he witnessed this incident. This may prompt the reader to question why Enfield would be in an undesirable area at such a late hour.

Mr Richard Enfield's use of language

- **Reserved tone:** Enfield's language is deliberately restrained, reflecting his position as a gentleman who embodies the Victorian ideal of protecting one's reputation. For example, when Utterson asks Enfield whether he made further enquiries about what happened after the incident with Hyde in Chapter 1, Enfield says that he makes it "a rule of mine: the more it looks like Queer Street, the less I ask". Although he occasionally engages in gossip, he criticises his tendency to do so and informs Utterson that he will no longer engage in this activity stating, "I am ashamed of my long tongue. Let us make a bargain never to refer to this again".
- **Informal and conversational:** Enfield's use of informal, colloquial and sometimes humorous language contrasts to that of Utterson's more serious demeanour. While his language reflects his amiable and friendly nature, it could also perhaps signify his superficiality and his inability to engage with the more sinister aspects of human nature.

Mr Richard Enfield key quotes



Your notes



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Richard Enfield key quotes

Mr Richard Enfield character symbolism

Although Enfield seeks compensation for an innocent child's family (after witnessing Hyde trampling a child) he does not pursue Hyde any further. His character therefore could be viewed as symbolic of the hypocrisy of Victorian society which believed in preserving respectability and appearances rather than confronting more deeper and sinister issues which may have been lurking underneath. Stevenson also juxtaposes Enfield's passive nature with Utterson who actively pursues Hyde in order to uncover the truth.

Mr Richard Enfield character interpretation

Morally dubious

Stevenson uses the character of Enfield to convey the theme of duality. While Enfield has all of the appearance of a respectable Victorian gentleman, there are hints about his secretive and perhaps deceitful nature. While Victorian society strongly adhered to conventions of behaviour and etiquette, these expected behaviours could be subject to enormous hypocrisy, as gentlemen could keep up the appearance of respectability but act quite differently in secret.

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Context



Your notes

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde historical context

The Industrial Revolution

- Due to the **Industrial Revolution**, the population of London grew from 1 million in 1800 to approximately 6.7 million in 1900 and became the largest city in the world
- London was home to many people who lived in extreme poverty and the poor, who made up the majority of London's population, lived in cramped and squalid conditions:
 - The city was a reflection of the stark inequality between the classes, with the wealthy living in luxury, and the poor struggling in poverty
 - This led to a stark contrast between the wealthy and the poor and this social divide was further defined by the differences in the locations they inhabited
- The **Industrial Revolution** also resulted in a shift from a rural farming lifestyle in the countryside to that of technology and industry in the city:
 - As factories and railroads were constructed, smoke filled the city's atmosphere and as a result, the air quality in London was heavily polluted

How this links to the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Setting of London	The theme of duality is revealed in the novella's setting of London. Stevenson presents the city with contrasting descriptions, where affluent streets exist directly next to areas of degradation and poverty. Stevenson vividly describes the choking fog in the novella which hung over the city like a shroud. This heightens the atmosphere of mystery and secrecy and also creates a Gothic atmosphere.
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Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde social context

Victorian repression

- The strict nature of Victorian society could be seen to have resulted in individuals having to suppress an element of their character in order to appear respectable
- The overcrowded London city meant that crime became prevalent and the idea that sinister individuals could remain largely hidden within the city's large population became a popular theme within Gothic literature



Your notes

- Many novels from the 19th century examined moral, ethical, and social themes and it also reflected the Victorian era's interest in the inner workings of the human psyche
- The emergence of the field of psychology in this era presented a distinct philosophical challenge to the existing understanding of mental processes:
 - The development of insane asylums (including new definitions of and treatments for madness) became a significant feature of Victorian society
- The science of **physiognomy** was viewed as a respected science during the 19th century and suggested that the study of a person's physical characteristics, especially their facial features, could determine aspects about their morality or personality

How this links to the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Victorian repression	Repression is evident in the character of Jekyll who can not suppress his inner desires, which results in the creation of Hyde. Stevenson also depicts other characters as suppressing some aspect of themselves, such as Utterson, Lanyon and Enfield.
Physiognomy	Stevenson's depiction of Hyde focuses predominantly on his appearance as evidence for him being evil, which could appear to support the theory of physiognomy . However, Stevenson could also be viewed as contesting this theory as Hyde and Jekyll are one and the same person and therefore appearance may provide no indication of the nature within.

Secrecy and Reputation

- The novella is set during the Victorian era in England, a period of time that spanned Queen Victoria's reign from 1837 to 1901:
 - Queen Victoria placed a strong emphasis on duty, seriousness, hard work, and self-control
- Victorians were eager to ensure that they were adhering to the conventions of behaviour and **etiquette** and this was evidenced by the **proliferation** of guides about proper behaviour and conduct
- Respectability was a key aspect of Victorian society and there were strict social codes regarding behaviour
- Victorian social standards of the time expected gentlemen and bachelors (unmarried men) to act in a dignified and respectable manner:
 - Gentlemen were expected to adhere to the highest standards of behaviour and one was expected to restrain themselves when it came to emotional and sexual desires
- This period saw the emergence of a new middle class who were able to gain wealth and power through their own success, rather than through being born into the aristocracy:



Your notes

- This led to debates about what it meant to be a “gentleman” and whether the qualities of one could be acquired or were merely based upon one’s birthright
- Some argued that a gentleman was someone who behaved with respect and civility, regardless of his social class; others argued a gentleman was someone of a certain social standing who had certain privileges and obligations
- These expected behaviours could be subject to enormous hypocrisy, as gentlemen could keep up the appearance of respectability but act quite differently in secret

How this links to the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Jekyll's reputation	Stevenson's initial description presents Jekyll as a respectable man but he also hints at his secretive and deceitful nature. Jekyll finds himself living a double life and he is unable to reconcile the two sides of his character: he wishes to be a respected doctor adhering to the highest moral standards, yet he also yearns to engage in malevolent acts. In the final chapter of the novella, Jekyll's battle within himself to be “respectable” is revealed. Indeed, it could be argued that Hyde would not exist if Jekyll could live without rigid social constraints.
Other characters' reputations and secrets	While the proper standards of behaviour are exemplified by the character of Utterson (who is renowned for his restrained and respectable demeanour), Enfield is depicted as being late out at night which could hint he is not content to live according to the strict moral code required of a Victorian gentleman.

Science and Religion

- The 19th century was a time of great exploration and discovery and, in particular, science, medicine and psychology were all undergoing rapid changes and advances
- The Victorian era was very religious and religion pervaded most aspects of everyday life:
 - The Christian Bible was viewed as an essential guide to leading a moral life
 - Victorian notions of morality and respectability were heavily rooted in Christian teachings and values
- Victorians traditionally sought solace in the notion that religion was the only viable explanation for the natural world, though the emergence of new scientific ideologies played a crucial role in challenging these established religious beliefs
- Christian theology defined creation as an act of God, whereas **Charles Darwin** promoted the argument that man had evolved similarly to other species:
 - This led to traditional assumptions about religion being challenged and revised

- The theory of evolution haunted Victorian society and the idea that humans evolved from apes led to anxieties about the possibility of returning to this primitive state



Your notes

How this links to the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	
Victorian psychology	Jekyll's experiments reflect the Victorian fascination with scientific exploration and advancements in psychology: Stevenson explores ideas about psychological duality through the twin characters of Jekyll and Hyde.
Evolution versus Christian science	Victorian society's strong religious influence — even in the field of science — is evident in the character of Dr Lanyon, who represents traditional Christian morality. His shock and eventual death upon witnessing Jekyll's transformation into Hyde illustrates the moral consequences of tampering with nature and playing God, but also the chilling effect that evolution had on orthodox thinking. The theory of evolution is also evident when Stevenson describes Hyde as "ape-like" and "troglodytic", a reflection of the fact that humans perhaps were indeed descended from primates.
Hyde as a representation of Hell	Stevenson also associates Hyde with Christian ideas about Hell and Satan and Jekyll repeatedly refers to him as "my devil". This suggests that all human beings have the capacity for evil, an idea that frightened polite Victorian society.

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde literary context

The Gothic genre

- The Gothic genre rose to prominence in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and was widespread in Victorian literature
- The belief in the supernatural also played a significant role in the 19th century:
 - It permeated all forms of art and was seen as a reaction to the "Victorian crisis of faith", which meant people began to question organised religion and its role in their lives
- As a result of the Victorian era's increasing **secularisation**, an interest in the supernatural began to increase:
 - In literature, the interest in the supernatural and the unknown were linked to Victorian Gothic conventions
- The atmosphere of horror, the possibility of supernatural occurrences, and the present being haunted by the past are key characteristics of Gothic fiction:
 - The atmosphere is typically claustrophobic and incarceration or persecution are common elements

- Gothic fiction frequently uses the description of horrific occurrences to metaphorically express psychological or social tensions

How this links to the novel Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Your notes

The Gothic

Stevenson uses Gothic conventions to create a feeling of confinement and entrapment. Jekyll feels increasingly trapped by Hyde's growing dominance. The novella also creates suspense through Hyde's mysterious and sinister presence: he is described as physically repulsive and morally depraved and he embodies the Gothic trope of "the monster". Horrific occurrences, such as Hyde's crimes of trampling a child and the murder of Sir Danvers Carew, reflect the Gothic theme of persecution and violence.



Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Writer's Methods & Techniques

'Methods' is an umbrella term for anything the writer does on purpose to create meaning. Using the writer's name in your response will help you to think about the text as a conscious construct and will keep reminding you that Stevenson purposely put the text together. This guide includes the following sections:

- Form and Structure
- Narrative
- The Gothic Genre
- Setting
- Imagery, Motifs and Symbolism

Form and Structure

- The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is written in the form of a novella and consists of ten chapters
- It is a mix of a gothic, science fiction and detective story
- Stevenson delays introducing the character of Jekyll into the narrative until Chapter III:
 - Stevenson may have chosen to introduce Hyde in the narrative before Jekyll to reinforce the reader's perception that he is a separate **entity**
- In Chapter IV, Stevenson chooses to move the events of the narrative on by one year and provides no information as to what Hyde may have been doing during this period:
 - By omitting this from the narrative, Stevenson increases the sense of mystery and foreboding, as the reader is left to wonder what further crimes he may have committed during this period
 - This is further heightened in this chapter as it is revealed that he savagely beats an elderly man to death, which also suggests that his capacity for evil is increasing
- The structure of the novella is used to create a sense of mystery throughout and it is only the final chapter that resolves the identity of Hyde:
 - Stevenson narrates and structures the novella in a way which makes the reader think that Jekyll and Hyde are two separate characters
 - However, throughout the narrative, Stevenson does provide hints about Jekyll's character which indicate an alternative side to his character:
 - For example, Jekyll is described as having "something of a slyish cast" and that he "was wild when he was young"

- Stevenson makes some of the chapters in the novella quite concise in order to quicken the pace and increase the tension

Narrative



- The narrative of the novella is fragmented and largely follows the character of Utterson:
 - There are a number of occasions when the narrative introduces other accounts which could be seen to help piece events together
 - These shifts in narration could also be seen as increasing the level of doubt in the version of events and presents the possibility of additional meanings being agreed upon
- Stevenson largely uses an **omniscient third-person** narrator, which enables the narrator to be aware of all of the characters' thoughts and emotions:
 - This could be viewed as giving the narrative a sense of objectivity and truthfulness as the narrative mainly depicts events through the seemingly dependable Utterson
- The last two chapters are written in **epistolary** form from the perspective of Lanyon and Jekyll:
 - These **first-person** accounts present the reader with a more unreliable narrator as they are recounted solely from the perspectives of Lanyon and Jekyll:
 - This heightens the sense of mystery and forces the reader to question the credibility of their version of events
 - For example, Lanyon's account of Jekyll's transformation is described in very contrasting terms from the manner in which Jekyll recounts it
- Stevenson uses a significant amount of dialogue in order to add an element of realism to the characters and settings:
 - This enables the reader to be fully immersed with the character's feelings and thoughts

The Gothic Genre

- Stevenson firmly situates his novella within the gothic genre of literature and the narrative employs many of its conventional features:
 - A sinister, grotesque and mysterious atmosphere
 - A setting within a dark place or ruined building
 - Experiences on the margins of normality which lead to horror, madness or despair
 - Supernatural elements
- Gothic literature was intended to create an atmosphere of terror and/or horror, suggesting some unknown entity exists which is evil and dangerous:

- Stevenson achieves this through his use of setting, language and characterisation

Setting



- Stevenson uses the city of London as the setting for his narrative and the perpetual fog and darkness depicted in the streets creates a disturbing and threatening atmosphere
- London functions as an appropriate backdrop due to its vastness and Stevenson establishes a link between the urban setting of the city with the evil crimes committed by Hyde:
 - Imagery depicting dark and sinister landscapes suggest Hyde is at home in his surroundings, where he can remain hidden and unexposed
 - The vastness of the city enables Hyde to carry out his obscenities in the more secluded parts of London, remote from his upper-class environment

Imagery, Motifs and Symbolism

- The **fog** is used as a motif to signify the moral ambiguity and hidden darkness of the city which creates an oppressive atmosphere:
 - It is used to represent the blurred boundaries between good and evil and alludes to hidden secrets and desires
 - It also serves to heighten the novella's atmosphere of suspense, tension and mystery, highlighting the uncertainty of human nature
- **Pathetic fallacy** is used throughout the novella and London is made to appear as a duality of good and evil:
 - For example, "reinvasion of darkness" and "black winter morning" suggests the weather appears oppressive and a struggle exists between darkness and light
 - It also hints at the darker aspects of human nature that the reader encounters through the character of Hyde
- Stevenson uses **doors** and **keys** as a metaphor throughout the novella as they symbolise the barrier between Jekyll and Hyde and the two worlds in which they inhabit:
 - Further, they symbolise the inner struggles of the two identities and the doors are a physical representation of the duality of the characters
- Hyde is described in terms of animalistic imagery which increases as the novella develops: for example, "savage", "snarled", "with ape-like fury" and "hardly human" all allude to his aggressive, **predatory** and **primitive** nature:
 - Stevenson's deliberate use of animal imagery is used to suggest Hyde's separateness from human society and his unrestrained nature
- Religious symbolism and biblical allusions are used repeatedly throughout the novella:

- For example, Stevenson refers to “I incline to Cain’s heresy”, which is a biblical reference to the tale of **Cain and Abel** (which depicts one evil and one good son) and Stevenson does this as a further symbol of the duality of Jekyll and Hyde



Your notes



Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Key Quotations

Remember the assessment objectives explicitly state that you should be able to “use textual references, *including quotations*”. This means summarising, paraphrasing, referencing single words and referencing plot events are all as valid as quotations in demonstrating that you understand the text. It is important that you remember that you can evidence your knowledge of the text in these two equally valid ways: both through references to it and direct quotations from it.

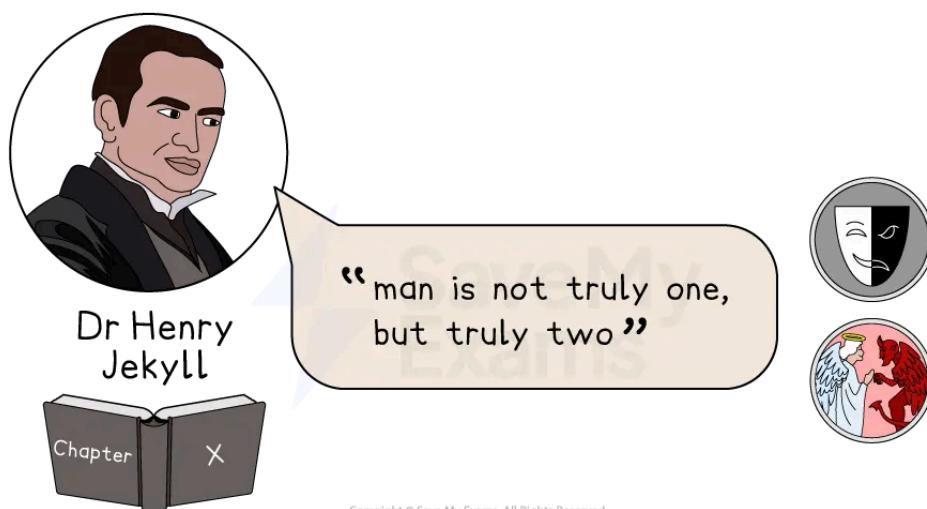
Overall, you should aim to secure a strong knowledge of the text, rather than rehearsed quotations, as this will enable you to respond to the question. It is the quality of your knowledge of the text which will enable you to select references effectively.

If you are going to revise quotations, the best way is to group them by character, or theme. Below you will find definitions and analysis of the best quotations, arranged by the following themes:

- Duality
- Good and Evil
- Secrecy and Reputation
- Science and Religion

Duality

The theme of duality is one of the most prevalent themes in the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Although the theme does not become fully evident to the reader until the final chapter, Stevenson presents clues and references to this duality throughout the narrative.

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"man is not truly one, but truly two" – Jekyll, Chapter X



Your notes

Meaning and context

- In the final chapter of the novella, Jekyll considers the duality of man, which is revealed in his letter

Analysis

- Stevenson presents the theme of duality primarily in the character of Jekyll as his inner sinister desires and his outward respectable persona are in conflict with each other, leading to his creation of Hyde
- Stevenson is concerned about the duality of human nature and society in general and considers the idea that everyone is capable of good and evil deeds

Good and Evil

The theme of good and evil is closely linked to ideas about duality. Stevenson explores the tension which exists between good and evil and presents the temptation and **allurement** of evil within the novella.



“ My devil had long been caged;
he came out roaring ”



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"My devil had long been caged; he came out roaring" – Jekyll, Chapter X

Meaning and context

- In the final chapter, Jekyll considers the duality of man, which is revealed in his letter

Analysis

- Stevenson associates Hyde with Christian ideas about Hell and Satan and Jekyll repeatedly refers to him as "my devil"

- Hyde's sinister presence and actions are a constant reminder of the power of evil throughout the novella
- He invokes terror in other characters and again this may hint at the possibility of the inner evil and depraved nature that resides within each person



Your notes



Dr Henry
Jekyll



“ all human beings ... are commingled out of good and evil ”



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“ all human beings ... are commingled out of good and evil ” – Jekyll, Chapter X

Meaning and context

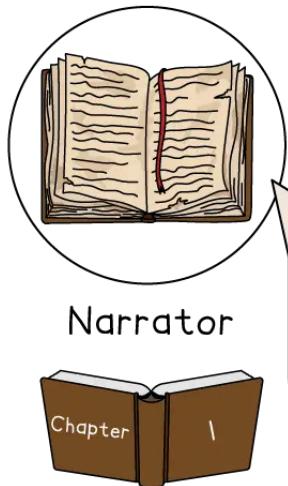
- In this quote, Jekyll reveals the duality of good and evil in all human beings

Knowledge and evidence:

- Stevenson explores the tension which exists between good and evil and presents the temptation and allurement of evil within the novella
- Jekyll believes that it is the “curse of mankind” that good and evil are bound together within him and the two parts are in direct conflict with one another

Secrecy and Reputation

Stevenson’s narrative explores the uncovering of Jekyll’s secret and the mystery of Hyde’s actions and identity. Other characters also display hints of secretive behaviour and the lengths they are determined to go to in order to preserve and protect their reputation and those of others.



“ Though he enjoyed the theatre,
[Mr Utterson] had not crossed
the doors of one for twenty years ”


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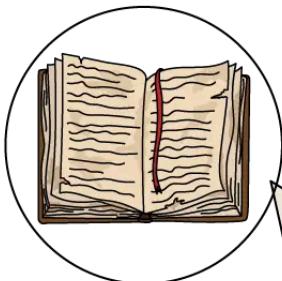
“Though he enjoyed the theatre, [Mr Utterson] had not crossed the doors of one for twenty years” – Narrator, Chapter I

Meaning and context

- This quote is from Chapter I of the novella and describes the character of Utterson

Analysis

- Stevenson presents Utterson as a highly moral and devout Christian and he is depicted as a model Victorian gentleman
- He is described as being “austere with himself” and that he restricting his pleasures and even though he enjoys attending the theatre, he had not frequented one for twenty years, due to their somewhat poor reputation
- This quote suggests that Utterson has repressed his desire for theatre as perhaps the enjoyment of theatre may lead him to sinful thoughts



“ something eminently human
beaconed in his eye ”


Your notes

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“something eminently human beaconed in his eye”- Narrator, Chapter I

Meaning and context

- This quote is from Chapter I of the novella and describes the character of Utterson

Analysis

- Gabriel Utterson is presented as having “an approved tolerance for others” and Stevenson suggests he is a kind and genial character
- Stevenson presents Utterson as a respectable lawyer and as a trustworthy, discreet and loyal friend to Jekyll
- He is presented as both rational and calm and through his objective perspective, Stevenson enables the reader to judge the evidence alongside him

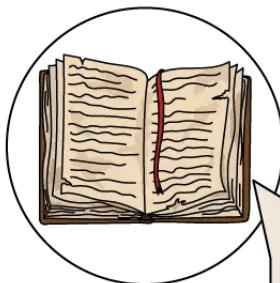
Science and Religion

As science was considered new and unpredictable in the Victorian period, this led to increased anxieties about it. Stevenson uses the Victorians’ fear and uncertainty of science to make Jekyll’s experiment appear more frightening to his readership.

Paired Quotation



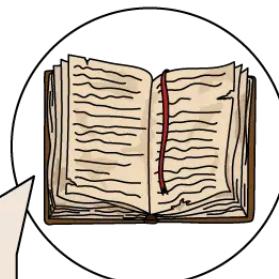
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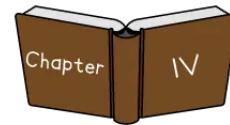
Narrator



“ My Hyde was pale and dwarfish,
he gave an impression of deformity ”



Narrator



“ And next moment, with ape-like fury,
he was trampling his victim under foot ”

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“My Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity” – Narrator, Chapter II

“And next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot” Narrator, Chapter IV

Meaning and context

- Both of these quotes describe the character of Hyde to the reader

Analysis

- Hyde is described throughout in terms of animalistic imagery which increases as the novella develops: “savage”, “snarled”, “with ape-like fury” and “hardly human” all allude to his aggressive, predatory and primitive nature
- Stevenson’s deliberate use of animal imagery is used to suggest Hyde’s separateness from human society and his unrestrained nature

- It could also be an allusion to Charles Darwin's ideas about evolution:
 - That human beings are descended from apes
- Stevenson suggests that "he gives a strong feeling of deformity" though he does not specify what this deformity is
- This casts an uncertainty as to Hyde's character and also hints at a supernatural element as the descriptions of him are quite ambiguous



Paired Quotation

"My life is shaken to its roots" – Lanyon, Chapter IX

and

"I ask myself if I believe it, and I cannot answer" – Lanyon, Chapter IX

Meaning and context

- This quote appears in Lanyon's letter which Utterson reads in Chapter IX and it reveals Lanyon's final encounter with Jekyll

Analysis

- Stevenson positions Lanyon as the only character to witness Jekyll's transformation as his belief in the laws of science does not enable him to accept what he has witnessed
- Lanyon is a respectable and conventional scientist and stands in contrast to Jekyll, as he views Jekyll's experiments as dangerous and describes them as "scientific balderdash"
- Lanyon's shock at Jekyll's experiment is so great that it leads to his own physical and mental deterioration and subsequent death



Your notes

Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde: Character Quotations

GCSE English Literature exam questions usually focus on a theme, a character or a relationship between two or more characters. Examiners reward responses that track the development of characters or themes through the novella.

When revising, try to consider quotes in terms of their narrative effects — how characters are presented, what attitudes or relationships are presented and why these ideas have been shown to the reader.

We've included the best Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde quotes — with detailed analysis — to help you to revise and organised them by the following characters:

- Dr Henry Jekyll
- Mr Edward Hyde
- Mr Gabriel John Utterson
- Dr Hastie Lanyon



Examiner Tips and Tricks

Examiners say that the strongest responses explore how Stevenson presents his characters and what ideas are conveyed through them. You could consider, for example, their attitude and motivations, or how they contrast with other characters. Examiners suggest that you explore the way characters in Stevenson's novella convey individual, societal, scientific and religious values.

To help you revise precise references, we've included a "key word or phrase" from every one of our longer quotations to help you keep your focus on the most important part.

Dr Henry Jekyll



"it is not as bad as that; and just to put your good heart at rest, I will tell you one thing: the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr. Hyde" - Dr Henry Jekyll, Chapter 2

	Key word or phrase to memorise: "the moment I choose"	What the quotation means: Dr Jekyll tries to reassure Utterson that he has nothing to worry about regarding his relationship with Mr Hyde, and that he has complete control over the situation	Theme: Duality
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- Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll as a suspiciously confused character:
 - Having told Utterson he is "painfully situated" a few lines prior, here, he tells him he has full control
 - The **emphatic** "the moment I choose" stresses his autonomy to Utterson
- In this line, Stevenson perhaps introduces the **binary** attitudes that Jekyll represents:
 - He juxtaposes "bad" with "good" to convince Utterson he is overstating matters

“

“unless it were that hide-bound pedant, Lanyon, at what he called my scientific heresies” – Dr Henry Jekyll, Chapter 3

 Dr Henry Jekyll	Key word or phrase to memorise: "scientific heresies"	What the quotation means: Dr Jekyll expresses his dislike for Dr Lanyon (who he calls conservative and petty), suggesting that Lanyon criticised his scientific experiments for their anti-religious nature	Theme: Science and religion
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- Stevenson contrasts Lanyon and Jekyll's characters to illustrate the conflicts between science and religion in Victorian England:
 - Jekyll thinks Lanyon is too focused on the rules, and too cautious
 - Stevenson portrays Lanyon as less reckless than the radical Jekyll

- The reference to **heresy** refers to contemporary debates about the effect of scientific advancement on religion:
 - Rather than a criticism of science though, Stevenson explores reckless and obsessive advancement that does not consider the consequences



Your notes

"

"Evil besides (which I must still believe to be the lethal side of man) had left on that body an imprint of deformity and decay" - Dr Henry Jekyll, Chapter 10

 Dr Henry Jekyll	Key word or phrase to memorise: "deformity and decay"	What the quotation means: Dr Jekyll writes that he estimated that Hyde was shorter and uglier than he was because the evil side of his nature had been repressed, and because it represented the "lethal" (deadly) side of a human being	Theme: Good and evil
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- Dr Jekyll's full summary of his experiment ends the novella dramatically
- His conclusions on the duality of humans is that the evil side is destructive:
 - The **alliterative** "deformity and decay" is strikingly **macabre**
- After this, though, Jekyll says, rather surprisingly, that the evil side is still natural:
 - He says it is smaller and deformed as it has been suppressed
 - Stevenson conveys ideas about his society's repression of imperfections, however, he is not suggesting Hyde's characteristics are good
 - The novella draws attention to the idea that evil behaviour is natural, and will go on even if it is hidden

Mr Edward Hyde

"

“Common friends,’ echoed Mr. Hyde, a little hoarsely. ‘Who are they?” – Mr Edward Hyde,
Chapter 2



Your notes

 Mr Edward Hyde	Key word or phrase to memorise: “Common friends”	What the quotation means: Mr Hyde is nervous when he meets Utterson, especially as Utterson reports that he knows him and that they share friends	Theme: Secrecy and reputation
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- When Mr Utterson meets Mr Hyde the exchange is tense:
 - Stevenson shows how each character hides their true feelings
 - He highlights the secrecy resulting from a preoccupation with politeness
- Here, Mr Hyde is nervous that he may be found out for who he really is (Dr Jekyll):
 - The adverb “hoarsely” shows his concern about his reputation
 - The **irony** here is that he is, in fact, Jekyll, the “common” friend

“ ”

“Utterson,’ said the voice, ‘for God’s sake, have mercy!” – Mr Edward Hyde, Chapter 8

 Mr Edward Hyde	Key word or phrase to memorise: “have mercy”	What the quotation means: Utterson recognises Hyde’s desperate voice from within the laboratory; Hyde asks him to be compassionate	Theme: Good and evil
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- Stevenson’s depiction of Hyde is sympathetic despite his violent rage:

- His character can be seen as a "monster" and victim
- Hyde's desperation is conveyed as he begs for "mercy" and forgiveness
- What is notable is his reference to God, although it is spoken **blasphemously**:
 - He seems to acknowledge the need for spiritual salvation



Your notes

"

"a new province of knowledge and new avenues to fame and power shall be laid open to you, here, in this room, upon the instant" – Mr Edward Hyde, Chapter 9

 Mr Edward Hyde	Key word or phrase to memorise: "fame and power"	What the quotation means: Lanyon describes how Jekyll (who appears as Hyde) offers the doctor "new" knowledge that, he says, will bring celebrity and status	Theme: Science and religion
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- Stevenson portrays Dr Jekyll as obsessive:
 - His language is persuasive
 - Stevenson draws attention to the extreme nature of scientific experimentation in his society
- While Jekyll convinces himself that his experiment is revolutionary and important, here he alludes to another motivation:
 - His offer of "fame and power" either implies that Lanyon may be persuaded by this, or that this is Jekyll's real ambition
 - Jekyll's dubious and **hyperbolic** words do not gain him respect

Mr Gabriel John Utterson

"

“that's a good rule of yours” – Mr Gabriel John Utterson, Chapter 1



Your notes

 Mr Gabriel John Utterson	Key word or phrase to memorise: “a good rule”	What the quotation means: Utterson tells Enfield that he agrees with a rule that he lives by, and says that he, too, thinks that asking questions is too judgemental and rude	Theme: Duality
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- Stevenson introduces the **dichotomies** of Victorian society in Chapter 1:
 - Mr Utterson likes rules
 - Here, he agrees with Enfield’s rule, that asking questions of someone is impolite and judgemental
- Stevenson shows the irony of this:
 - Utterson’s curious nature and need for the truth may be hindered by his polite avoidance of questions
 - Nevertheless, this line portrays Utterson as impartial and keen to avoid judging others

“

“you know me: I am a man to be trusted. Make a clean breast of this in confidence” – Mr Gabriel John Utterson, Chapter 2

 Mr Gabriel John Utterson	Key word or phrase to memorise: “a man to be trusted”	What the quotation means: Utterson tells Jekyll that he should tell him the truth because he has a good reputation and can be trusted to keep a secret	Theme: Secrecy and reputation
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Your notes

- At the beginning of the novella, Stevenson builds suspense by withholding information from the reader and Utterson:
 - This is a typical convention of the mystery and detective genre
- Utterson values his good reputation, evident in the phrase “you know me”:
 - He believes he has proved himself worthy of Jekyll’s secrets
 - A reputable name, Stevenson shows, is vital amongst gentlemen

“ ”

“Did I ever tell you that I once saw him, and shared your feeling of repulsion?” – Mr Gabriel John Utterson, Chapter 7



Mr Gabriel John Utterson

Key word or phrase to memorise:
“repulsion”

What the quotation means:
Utterson tells Enfield that he met Hyde once, and that he, too, was repulsed and disgusted by him

Theme:
Good and evil

- Utterson’s description of Hyde suggests he does indeed pass judgement, in contrast to his initial rule to never do so
- That Utterson, an impartial and reasonable character, felt “repulsion” when he “saw” Hyde confirms Hyde’s ugly appearance:
 - Utterson conveys a strong response in contrast to his usually reserved demeanour
 - Stevenson illustrates his character’s fear at the sight of a deformed man
 - This quote raises questions about the nature of good and evil

Dr Hastie Lanyon

“

“But it is more than ten years since Henry Jekyll became too fanciful for me” – Dr Hastie Lanyon, Chapter 2



Your notes

 Dr Hastie Lanyon	Key word or phrase to memorise: “too fanciful for me”	What the quotation means: When Utterson is surprised that Lanyon and Jekyll’s friendship has ended, Lanyon explains that it has long been over, and says that it ended because of Jekyll’s wild ideas	Theme: Science and religion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stevenson draws attention to conflicts that arose amongst the scientific community:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ His portrayal of Lanyon and Jekyll’s friendship depicts how this created divisions, and split opinion at the time▪ Certain individuals like Lanyon see experimentation as “fanciful” and unrealistic:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lanyon serves as a foil for Jekyll as his attitudes to scientific advancement are sceptical			

“

“Some day, Utterson, after I am dead, you may perhaps come to learn the right and wrong of this” – Dr Hastie Lanyon, Chapter 6

 Dr Hastie Lanyon	Key word or phrase to memorise: “right and wrong of this”	What the quotation means: Lanyon says that, perhaps, in the future, clearer conclusions will be drawn about their disagreement, and over the “right and “wrong” of Jekyll’s experimentation	Theme: Good and evil
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lanyon’s concern about Jekyll’s activities is stressed so that Stevenson can convey the significance of experimentation:			

- His response conveys his doubt over who is "right", him or Jekyll
- This offers an unbiased presentation of the conflict between the doctors
- His uncertainty about the morality of scientific advancement may represent Stevenson's attitudes or, at least, the concerns of his society



Your notes

"

"**my soul sickened at it**" – Dr Hastie Lanyon, Chapter 9

 Dr Hastie Lanyon	Key word or phrase to memorise: "soul sickened"	What the quotation means: Lanyon describes his response when Hyde becomes Jekyll before his eyes and implies that he was disgusted by it	Theme: Science and religion
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- Stevenson depicts Lanyon's shock to convey the strength of his values:
 - He illustrates the strength of opinion about new science at the time
 - The sibilance of "soul sickened" stresses Lanyon's spiritual values
 - He suggests Jekyll's scientific experimentation goes against nature

Source

Stevenson, Robert Louis. (2016). *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Scholastic.