

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde

Hessle High School Revision Guide



Characters



Dr Henry Jekyll



Mr Edward Hyde



Mr Gabriel Utterson
Lawyer



Dr Hastie Lanyon
Doctor



Mr Richard Enfield
*Mr Utterson's friend
and distant cousin*



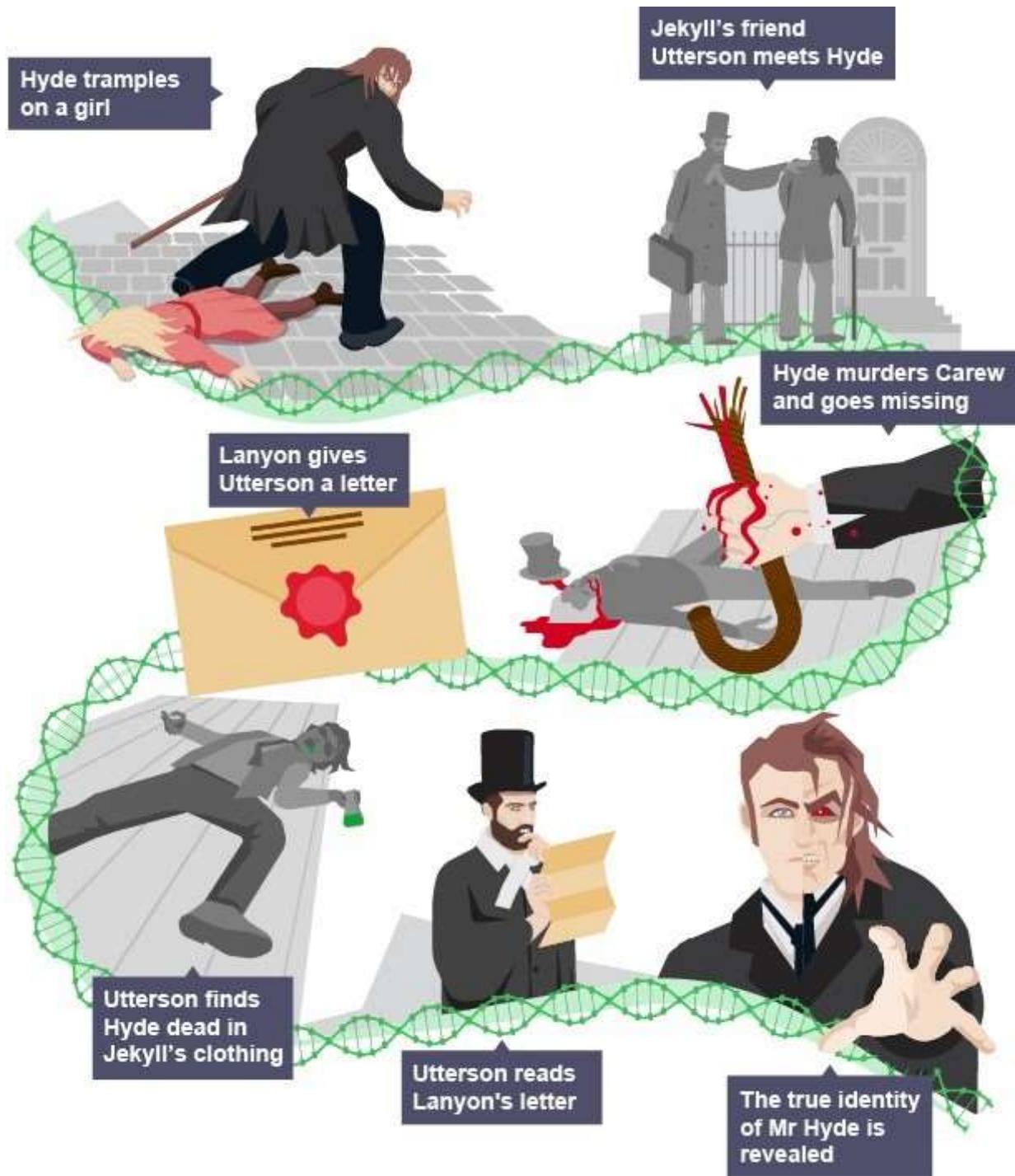
Mr Poole
Dr Jekyll's butler



Sir Danvers Carew
MP murdered by Hyde

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| Dr Henry Jekyll | <i>A doctor and experimental scientist who is both wealthy and respectable.</i> |
| Mr Edward Hyde | <i>A small, violent and unpleasant-looking man; an unrepentant criminal.</i> |
| Gabriel Utterson | <i>A calm and rational lawyer and friend of Jekyll.</i> |
| Dr Hastie Lanyon | <i>A conventional and respectable doctor and former friend of Jekyll.</i> |
| Richard Enfield | <i>A distant relative of Utterson and well-known man about town.</i> |
| Poole | <i>Jekyll's manservant.</i> |
| Sir Danvers Carew | <i>A distinguished gentlemen who is beaten to death by Hyde.</i> |

Plot Summary



Chapter Summaries

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| Chapter 1 - Story of the Door | <p>Mr Utterson and his cousin Mr Enfield are out for a walk when they pass a strange-looking door (which we later learn is the entrance to Dr Jekyll's laboratory). Enfield recalls a story involving the door. In the early hours of one winter morning, he says, he saw a man trampling on a young girl. He chased the man and brought him back to the scene of the crime. (The reader later learns that the man is Mr Hyde.)</p> <p>A crowd gathered and, to avoid a scene, the man offered to pay the girl compensation. This was accepted, and he opened the door with a key and re-emerged with a large cheque.</p> <p>Utterson is very interested in the case and asks whether Enfield is certain Hyde used a key to open the door. Enfield is sure he did.</p> |
| Chapter 2 - Search for Mr Hyde | <p>That evening the lawyer, Utterson, is troubled by what he has heard. He takes the will of his friend Dr Jekyll from his safe. It contains a worrying instruction: in the event of Dr Jekyll's disappearance, all his possessions are to go to a Mr Hyde.</p> <p>Utterson decides to visit Dr Lanyon, an old friend of his and Dr Jekyll's. Lanyon has never heard of Hyde, and not seen Jekyll for ten years. That night Utterson has terrible nightmares.</p> <p>He starts watching the door (which belongs to Dr Jekyll's old laboratory) at all hours, and eventually sees Hyde unlocking it. Utterson is shocked by the sense of evil coming from him.</p> <p>Utterson goes next door to warn his friend, Jekyll, against Hyde, but is told by the servant, Poole, that Jekyll is out and the servants have all been instructed by Jekyll to obey Hyde.</p> <p>Utterson is worried that Hyde may kill Jekyll to benefit from the will.</p> |
| Chapter 3 - Dr Jekyll Was Quite at Ease | <p>Two weeks later, following a dinner party with friends at Jekyll's house, Utterson stays behind to talk to him about the will.</p> <p>Jekyll laughs off Utterson's worries, comparing them to Lanyon's 'hidebound' (conventional and unadventurous) attitude to medical science. The reader now sees why Lanyon and Jekyll have fallen out, and starts to understand that Jekyll's behaviour has become unusual.</p> <p>Utterson persists with the subject of the will. Jekyll hints at a strange relationship between himself and Hyde. Although he trusts Utterson, Jekyll refuses to reveal the details. He asks him, as his lawyer not his friend, to make sure the will is carried out. He reassures him that 'the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr Hyde'.</p> |
| Chapter 4 - The Carew Murder Case | <p>Nearly a year later, an elderly gentleman is brutally clubbed to death in the street by Hyde. The murder is witnessed by a maid who recognises Hyde.</p> <p>Utterson recognises the murder weapon as the broken half of a walking cane he gave to Jekyll years earlier. When he hears that the murderer is Hyde, he offers to lead the police to his house.</p> <p>They are told that Hyde has not been at home for two months. But when they search the house they find the other half of the murder weapon and signs of a hasty exit.</p> |
| Chapter 5 - Incident of the Letter | <p>Utterson goes to Jekyll's house and finds him 'looking deadly sick'. He asks whether he is hiding Hyde. Jekyll assures him he will never see or hear of Hyde again. He shows Utterson a letter from Hyde that indicates this.</p> <p>Utterson asks Guest, his head clerk, to compare the handwriting on the letter to that on an invitation from Jekyll. There is a resemblance between the two, though with a different slope. Utterson believes Jekyll has forged the letter in Hyde's handwriting to cover his escape.</p> |

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| <p>Chapter 6 - Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon</p> | <p>The police cannot find Hyde. Coincidentally, Jekyll seems happier and, for two months, he socialises again.</p> <p>Suddenly, however, he appears depressed and will not see Utterson. Utterson visits Dr Lanyon to discuss their friend's health, but finds Lanyon on his death-bed.</p> <p>Lanyon refuses to discuss Jekyll who, he hints, is the cause of his illness.</p> <p>Trying to find out what has happened, Utterson writes to Jekyll. He receives a reply which suggests Jekyll has fallen into a very disturbed state and talks of being 'under a dark influence'.</p> <p>Lanyon dies and leaves a letter for Utterson in an envelope marked 'not to be opened till the death or disappearance of Dr Henry Jekyll'. Utterson, being a good lawyer, locks it away unopened in his safe.</p> <p>Utterson tries to revisit Jekyll several times, but his servant, Poole, says he is living in isolation and will not see anyone.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 7 - Incident at the Window</p> | <p>Utterson and Enfield are taking one of their walks, as at the opening of the book. They pass Jekyll's window and see him looking like a prisoner in solitary confinement. Utterson calls out to him and Jekyll replies, but his face suddenly freezes in an expression of 'abject terror and despair'. The change in Jekyll's expression is so sudden and horrible it 'froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below', and they depart in silence.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 8 - The Last Night</p> | <p>One evening, Jekyll's servant comes to Utterson and asks him to come to Jekyll's house. They go to the laboratory, but the door is locked. The voice from inside does not sound like Jekyll's and both men believe it is Hyde.</p> <p>Poole says the voice has for days been crying out for a particular chemical to be brought, but the chemicals given have been rejected as 'not pure'. Poole says that earlier he caught a glimpse of a person in the lab who looked scarcely human.</p> <p>They break down the door and inside find a body, twitching. In its hand are the remains of a test tube (or vial). The body is smaller than Jekyll's but wearing clothes that would fit him.</p> <p>On the table is a will dated that day which leaves everything to Utterson, with Hyde's name crossed out. There is also a package containing Jekyll's 'confession' and a letter asking Utterson to read Dr Lanyon's letter which he left after his death and is now in Utterson's safe. Utterson tells Poole he will return before midnight, when he has read all the documents.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 9 - Dr Lanyon's Narrative</p> | <p>Chapter 9 lists the contents of Dr Lanyon's letter. It tells of how Lanyon received a letter from Jekyll asking him to collect a drawer containing chemicals, a vial and a notebook from Jekyll's laboratory and to give it to a man who would call at midnight. Lanyon says he was curious, especially as the book contained some strange entries.</p> <p>At midnight a man appears. He is small and grotesque, wearing clothes that are too large for him. The man offers to take the chemicals away, or to drink the potion. Lanyon accepts and, before his very eyes, Hyde transforms into none other than Dr Jekyll.</p> <p>In horror at what he has witnessed, Lanyon becomes seriously ill.</p> |
| <p>Chapter 10 - Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case</p> | <p>Jekyll tells the story of how he turned into Hyde. It began as scientific curiosity in the duality of human nature (the good and evil sides), and his attempt to destroy the 'darker self'. Eventually, however, he became addicted to the character of Hyde, who increasingly took over and destroyed him.</p> |

Context and Themes

The Duality of Man

- The idea of 'duality' is that humans have 2 sides.
- This is represented in the character of Dr Jekyll/ Mr Hyde but it's also subtly hinted at in other characters, such as the description of Utterson at the opening of the novel.
- Duality is also represented through Dr Jekyll's house with the front and back door of the house.
- Duality is also used to emphasise the concept of good and evil which is central to the novel. However, whilst Hyde is pure evil, Dr Jekyll is not purely good which encourages us to think more deeply about the nature of humanity.
- The novel asks questions about whether we should be trying to live as one or other, or whether we should accept both sides of ourselves.

Reputation – Victorian Gentlemen

- In the Victorian period, there was a very clear idea of what it meant to be a good, honourable and respectable person. This was heavily influenced by Christian teaching.
- To have a good reputation in that time people needed to be religious, have good morals, behave in way which was not sinful (this meant that drinking to excess, sex outside of marriage, gambling etc. were all frowned upon)
- Dr Jekyll says (c. 10) that he wanted to be well respected and held himself to very high standards. However, this did not make him happy which led to his experiment.
- If you did something to damage your reputation then you'd be an outcast in society – rejected by friends and family.

Fear and horror

- This novel is a gothic horror. It is intended to frighten the reader (a bit like a modern horror film) whilst also being thought provoking – particularly about the idea of good and evil.
- Evil wins at the end of this novel which is extremely frightening for readers (especially highly religious Victorian readers).
- The writer is communicating a message about the need to control our sinful side and not let it take control of us and our actions.
- There are many frightening scenes in the novel where Stevenson uses descriptive techniques to create terrifying images in the reader's mind and associate things in the novel with the devil.

Violence

- There is a lot of violence from the character of Mr Hyde in the novel.
- The first chapter gives details of the little girl being trampled. This foreshadows the events of Chapter 4 where Sir Danvers Carew is clubbed to death.
- Both of Mr Hyde's victims are described by Stevenson as vulnerable and innocent individuals to encourage the reader to feel sympathy for them, and to feel even more horrified by Mr Hyde. The little girl represents both children and women (who were considered to be weaker by the Victorians) and Sir Danvers represents the elderly and by being a 'Sir' it implies he is worthy of respect.
- Mr Hyde seems completely unmoved by violence, as if it is simply part of his nature. He is also presented as wild and out of control during his violent rages which makes him even more frightening as he is unpredictable.

Secrecy and Mystery

- Secrecy is used throughout the novel to hide the truth of the situation until the 'big reveal' at the end. This creates tension and suspense for readers making the book compelling.
- Secrecy is shown in many ways in the novel, such as: locked doors, letters that cannot be opened, characters refusing to give information, unexplained/ mysterious events.
- The core mystery that Utterson is trying to work out is the nature of the relationship between Mr Hyde and Dr Jekyll. Utterson theorises blackmail and forgery but never guesses the truth.
- Pathetic fallacy is used throughout the novel to represent the mystery and Mr Utterson's inability to see clearly to the truth: fog is used repeatedly to represent this.

Science and the unexplained

- Science was considered new, modern, unpredictable and slightly scary in the Victorian period. People were making discoveries and advancements like never before, but this meant that experiments were happening with unpredictable outcomes which was quite unsettling for many people.
- Science was also criticised as opposing religion. Darwin's theory of evolution began to be circulated and proved and this upset many people as it disproved what was written in the Bible. Many felt this was morally wrong, and were also frightened because if the bible was wrong, what could you have faith in?
- This novel uses people's uncertainty of science and fear of what it might do to create a frightening story for Victorian readers. Because the limits of science were unknown, Jekyll's experiment would have been more believable to original readers than it is to us.
- Fear of the unknown and unexplained is common in many novels and films. Things that we can't apply logic or reason to unsettle us because we don't understand them. Stevenson uses this to create fear in readers.

Quotations

Duality

"...the street shone out in contrast to its dingy neighbourhood, like a fire in a forest."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"I saw Mr Hyde go in by the old dissecting room, Poole"

Search for Mr Hyde, Chapter 2.

"The two hands are in many points identical: only differently sloped."

Incident of the Letter, Chapter 5.

"I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of me."

"I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame."

"...those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature."

"...that man is not truly one, but truly two."

"I learned to recognise the thorough and primitive duality of man."

5 quotes above from Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, Chapter 10.

Good/Evil

"Now that that evil influence had been withdrawn, a new life began for Dr Jekyll."

Incident of Dr Lanyon, Chapter 6.

"Evil, I fear, founded-evil was sure to come of – that connection."

The Last Night, Chapter 8.

"...and from these agonies of death and birth I had come forth an angel instead of a fiend."

"...all human beings, as we meet them, are commingled out of good and evil: and Edward Hyde, alone in the ranks of mankind, was pure evil."

"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."

"My devil had been long caged."

"I gnashed my teeth upon him with a gust of devilish fury"

5 quotes above from Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, Chapter 10.

Animalism/Amorality

"The man seems hardly human! Something troglodytic*, shall we say?"

Search for Mr Hyde, Chapter 2.

*Troglodytic: brutish and primitive. Can also refer to cave dwellers.

"The other snarled aloud into a savage laugh."

Search for Mr Hyde, Chapter 2.

"And the next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows"

The Carew Murder Case, Chapter 4.

"Hence the ape-like tricks he would play me, scrawling in my own hand blasphemies on the pages"

Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, Chapter 10.

Reputations and Secrets

"I was coming home from some place at the end of the world, about three o'clock of a black winter morning"

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"We told the man we could and would make a scandal out of this as should make his name stink from one end of London to the other."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"No gentleman but wishes to avoid a scene."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"Black mail I suppose; an honest man paying through the nose for some capers of his youth."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"No sir, I make it a rule of mine: the more it looks like Queer Street, the less I ask."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"Ay it must be that; the ghost of some old sin, the cancer of some concealed disgrace"

Search for Mr Hyde, Chapter 2.

"This Master Hyde, if he were studied," thought he, "must have secrets of his own; black secrets, by the look of him; secrets compared to which poor Jekyll's worst would be like sunshine."

Search for Mr Hyde, Chapter 2.

"This is a private matter and I beg of you to let it sleep."

Dr Jekyll was Quite at Ease, Chapter 3.

"If it came to a trial, your name might appear."

Incident of the Letter, Chapter 5.

Violence

"...the man trampled calmly over the child's body and left her screaming on the ground."

Story of the Door, Chapter 1.

"And then all of a sudden he broke out in a great flame of anger, stamping with his foot, brandishing the cane, and carrying on (as the maid described it) like a madman."

The Carew Murder Case, Chapter 4.

"Mr Hyde broke out of all bounds and clubbed him to the earth. And next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway."

The Carew Murder Case, Chapter 4.

"...tales came out of the man's cruelty, at once so callous and violent"

Incident of Dr Lanyon, Chapter 6.

"Poole swung the axe over his shoulder; the blow shook the building, and the red baize door leaped against the lock and hinges. A dismal screech, as of mere animal terror, rang from the cabinet. Up went the axe again, and again the panels crashed and the frame bounded"

The Last Night, Chapter 8.

"The most racking pangs succeeded: a grinding in the bones, deadly nausea, and a horror of the spirit that cannot be exceeded at the hour of birth or death."

Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, Chapter 10.

"With a transport of glee, I mauled the unresisting body, tasting delight from every blow"

Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case, Chapter 10.

Revision Quiz

- 1. What is Mr Utterson's occupation?**
- 2. What did Mr Enfield see Mr Hyde do late one night?**
- 3. Who does Jekyll's will say will inherit his fortune?**
- 4. What happened to Dr Lanyon and Jekyll's friendship?**
- 5. What happens to Sir Danvers Carew?**
- 6. What do we find out from the handwriting of Hyde's letter?**
- 7. What caused Dr Lanyon's death?**
- 8. Who does Utterson find in the laboratory at the end of the novella?**
- 9. Why does Jekyll say he transformed into Hyde?**
- 10. How does Jekyll eventually lose control of Hyde forever?**

Example Exam

Question

Read the following extract from Chapter 8 (The Last Night) of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract Poole, Jekyll's servant, talks with Utterson about events at Jekyll's house.

- “That's it!” said Poole. “It was this way. I came suddenly into the theatre from the garden. It seems he had slipped out to look for this drug, or whatever it is; for the cabinet door was open, and there he was at the far end of the room digging among the crates. He looked up when I came in, gave a kind of cry, and whipped
- 5 upstairs into the cabinet. It was but for one minute that I saw him, but the hair stood up on my head like quills. Sir, if that was my master, why had he a mask upon his face? If it was my master, why did he cry out like a rat, and run from me? I have served him long enough. And then ...”, the man paused and passed his hand over his face.
- 10 “These are all very strange circumstances,” said Mr. Utterson, “but I think I begin to see daylight. Your master, Poole, is plainly seized with one of those maladies that both torture and deform the sufferer; hence, for aught I know, the alteration of his voice; hence the mask and his avoidance of his friends; hence his eagerness to find this drug, by means of which the poor soul retains some hope
- 15 of ultimate recovery – God grant that he be not deceived. There is my explanation; it is sad enough, Poole, ay, and appalling to consider; but it is plain and natural, hangs well together, and delivers us from all exorbitant alarms.”
- “Sir,” said the butler, turning to a sort of mottled pallor, “that thing was not my master, and there's the truth. My master” – here he looked round him and began
- 20 to whisper – “is a tall, fine build of a man, and this was more of a dwarf.” Utterson attempted to protest. “O sir,” cried Poole, “do you think I do not know my master after twenty years? do you think I do not know where his head comes to in the cabinet door, where I saw him every morning of my life? No, sir, that thing in the mask was never Dr. Jekyll – God knows what it was, but it was never Dr. Jekyll;
- 25 and it is the belief of my heart that there was murder done.”

Starting with this extract, explore how Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as an inhuman and disturbing member of society.

Write about:

- how Stevenson presents Mr Hyde in this extract
- how Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as an inhuman and disturbing member of society in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]