

STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL and MR HYDE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Context – <i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> was written by Robert Louis Stevenson, and was first published in 1886.	
<p>Robert Louis Stevenson – Stevenson was born in 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Within his family, there were engineers, scientists, philosophy, and religious ministers, and so there were both <u>religious and scientific influences</u> in his family. He was a sickly man, who had <u>severe lung issues</u>. However, he had a keen sense of adventure, and travelled the world. He eventually settled and died in Samoa, in 1894.</p> 	<p>Darwin and Evolution – Charles Darwin had just published his research paper 'The Origin of Species.' This first set out the theory of evolution – that humans and other life has developed from <u>more primitive species</u>. People at the time saw this as an attack on religion, countering the belief that God created the world in seven days. Many people at the time thus felt that they must pick between science and religion.</p> 
<p>The Victorian Era – The Victorian era describes the period in which Queen Victoria sat on the English throne – between 1837 and 1901. Whilst this was a harsh time to live, it was also signalled the start of the <u>industrial revolution</u>, and great <u>advancements in science</u>, literature and medicine. The Victorian era was a period of great change. In this time, the population of England doubled – from 16.8 million 1851 to over 30 million in 1901. <u>New discoveries were being made</u> all the time, constantly changing people's perceptions.</p> 	<p>The Jack the Ripper Murders – The Jack the Ripper Murders were a spate of <u>brutal murders</u> that remained <u>unresolved</u> in London, likely committed by the same person. It was rumoured that the murderer was highly educated (and possibly even a royal) which captured an interest amongst the British public in the different areas of the human psyche – the <u>calm, rational, everyday life</u>, alongside nightmarish behaviour and <u>violence</u>. There was a wide interest amongst the public in these cases, as part of some sort of morbid fascination.</p> 
<p>Science and Religion – The Victorian era was a period of great <u>discovery and scientific advancement</u>. Aspects of life that were previously attributed to being religious or supernatural phenomena or were now being explained in some parts by science. Some believed that the work of <u>scientists was now encroaching upon the sphere of God</u>, and felt that this was wrought with danger. <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> approaches this subject through Jekyll's work with separating the human soul.</p> 	<p>Healthcare and Death – Healthcare was more of a luxury at the time, and medicine was nowhere near as advanced today. Many <u>diseases were rife</u>, and childbirth and poverty were very real dangers to people living in the era. As a result, a middle class person may expect to live to 45 at the time – a working class person would have been lucky to have lived half that time. In <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i>, the numerous <u>deaths and illnesses</u> that the characters suffered would be less shocking than today.</p> 

Main Characters – Consider what Stevenson intended through his characterisation of each of the below...	
<p>Dr Henry Jekyll – Jekyll is a <u>highly-respected doctor</u> and a friend to both Lanyon and Utterson. He is a <u>prosperous</u> man, who is <u>well-established</u> in the community, and is known for <u>decency and charity</u>. He has another side to his nature, however, that feels the need to commit corrupt behaviour. Burdened, he seeks to separate the two sides of his nature, thus forming Mr Edward Hyde.</p> <p>Quote: "the smile was struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair."</p>	<p>Mr Edward Hyde – Edward is a <u>strange, detestable</u> man who looks <u>mildly pre-human</u>. He is <u>small in stature</u> and is seen as <u>ugly and deformed</u>. He evokes hatred from those who encounter him, and he himself is both <u>cruel and violent</u>. Hyde is Jekyll's dark side, not held by the boundaries of conscience, and is released into the world via a mysterious potion. He commits atrocious acts <u>without compassion</u>.</p> <p>Quote: "Mr. Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity without any nameable malformation, he had a displeasing smile"</p>
<p>Mr Gabriel Utterson – Utterson is a <u>prosperous and upstanding</u> lawyer, who is <u>well respected</u> in the London community. He is reserved and calculated, yet he contains a <u>morbid fascination</u> and curiosity that leads him to explore the occurrences of the novel more closely. Although he himself is not a scientist, he represents Victorian society as a whole in his <u>devotion to finding rational answers</u>.</p> <p>Quote: "a man of a rugged countenance that was never lighted by a smile."</p>	<p>Dr Hastie Lanyon – Dr Lanyon is a <u>respected London doctor</u>, and one of Jekyll's closest friends (alongside Utterson). Lanyon is <u>rational and skeptical</u>, which contrasts with the characteristics of his good friend Jekyll. <u>Jekyll shares his dark secret with Lanyon</u>, which is dramatic in that it instigates Lanyon's downfall. His death represents a victory for supernaturalism over materialism.</p> <p>Quote: "I wish to see or hear no more of Dr. Jekyll,"</p>
<p>Mr Poole and Mr Guest – Mr Poole is <u>Jekyll's loyal butler</u>, who has worked for him for over twenty years. His <u>concern for his master</u> eventually leads him to seek Utterson's help, as he has become convinced that something has happened to Jekyll. <u>Mr Guest is Utterson's clerk and confidant</u>. He is an <u>expert in handwriting</u>, which becomes useful when Utterson gets him to analyse Hyde's writing. It is noted that it bears striking resemblances to Jekyll's.</p> <p>Quote: "I think there's been foul play," said Poole, hoarsely."</p>	<p>Mr Enfield and Sir Danvers Carew – Mr Enfield is a distant cousin and friend of Utterson. He is <u>reserved and formal</u>, like his good friend Utterson. The two men often walk for a distance without saying a word to one another. Sir Danvers Carew is a <u>well-liked old nobleman</u> and a client to Utterson. He is <u>brutally murdered</u> (seemingly without reason) by Hyde during a chance encounter. This is witnessed by a maid, who faints upon witnessing the violence.</p> <p>Quote: "with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot."</p>

Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.	
<p>Responsibility and Guilt – Jekyll feels the weight of <u>responsibility and guilt</u> for his <u>negative behaviours</u> throughout his early life. Burdened by these feelings, he seeks to <u>separate himself from them</u>. Creating Hyde, Jekyll is able to split the positive and negative aspects of his character, so that he no longer feels responsibility and guilt for evil actions (these are committed by Hyde, not Jekyll).</p> 	
<p>The Duality of Human Nature – <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> focuses upon the idea that humanity is dual in nature. Jekyll asserts that 'man is not <u>truly one, but truly two</u>.' He imagines the soul as a <u>battleground between an 'angel' and a 'fiend'</u>. Eventually, Jekyll's evil side takes over and wins out, suggesting perhaps that man is predominantly primal and animalistic. Stevenson deliberately leaves this ambiguous.</p>	
<p>Reputation – <u>Preserving one's reputation emerges as all important</u>. This is why characters such as Utterson and Enfield avoid gossip at all costs. Similarly, when Utterson suspects Jekyll's implication in Hyde's actions, he refuses to inform the authorities as doing so would blacken Jekyll's reputation. Even Jekyll splitting his personality partially stems from his fear of his reputation being damaged by his actions.</p>	
<p>The Dangers of Science and Discovery – Jekyll and Lanyon feud over what constitutes <u>appropriate research</u> for scientific discovery – the more conservative Lanyon labelling Jekyll's attempts as '<u>unscientific balderdash</u>.' By the end, it is clear that this is Jekyll's work with separating the human soul. Lanyon's view of this as dangerous and unnecessary is proven to be the case.</p> 	

Chapter-by-Chapter Summary – Alongside key quotations from each scene.		
<p>1. Story of the Door</p>	<p>Mr Utterson is described as a well-liked and reserved man. He shares a friendship with Mr Enfield, who he takes walks with. On one walk, they approach an ugly building on a prosperous street. Enfield recalls it as the scene where a small misshapen man trampled a young girl. Revealed to be a man named Hyde, he then bought off the angry crowd with a cheque from a respectable man, which Enfield questions as curious.</p>	<p>"Mr. Utterson the lawyer was a man of a rugged countenance . . . the last good influence in the lives of down-going men."</p>
<p>2. Search for Mr Hyde</p>	<p>Utterson finds that Dr Jekyll's will is made out to Mr Hyde, which concerns him. He visits Dr Lanyon, who no longer speaks with Jekyll due to Jekyll's latest line of research. Intrigued, Utterson hangs around the decrepit building and sees Hyde. He confronts him, and is struck by his ugliness. He then finds out that the ugly building is a laboratory behind Jekyll's house. Hyde has a key, and the staff are told to obey his requests.</p>	<p>"Mr. Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity"</p> 
<p>3. Mr Jekyll was Quite at Ease</p>	<p>Two weeks later, Dr Jekyll throws a well-attended dinner party. Utterson stays after the party and the two men speak to one another privately. Jekyll jokes when Utterson mentions Hyde's presence on the will. However, he then turns pale when Utterson says that he knows about Hyde's behaviour. Jekyll states that the issue with Hyde is unique and cannot be solved through talking, and that he can deal with it if he needs to. He makes Utterson promise that he will carry out his will, should it come to it.</p>	<p>"I only ask for justice; I only ask you to help him for my sake, when I am no longer here."</p>
<p>4. The Carew Murder Case</p>	<p>One year later, a maid witnesses Hyde brutally and impulsively beat a polite old man to death. Utterson is called and identifies the man as Danvers Carew, a local politician. Utterson takes the police to Hyde's quarters. They do not find Hyde, but they do find incriminating evidence. Everyone that they ask knows nothing of Hyde.</p>	<p>"with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows."</p> 
<p>5. Incident of the Letter</p>	<p>Utterson speaks with Jekyll, who looks ill. Jekyll claims that Hyde has now left, that their friendship is over, and that the police will never find him. He gives Utterson a letter from Hyde, as he is afraid to show it to the police. He affirms that Hyde had dictated the terms of his will. Utterson asks Poole who delivered the letter, but Poole claims that no letters have been delivered. That night, he asks his clerk Mr Guest (a handwriting expert) to look over the letter. He compares the writing with some of Jekyll's own writing and concludes that they were written with the same hand. Utterson is alarmed that his friend Jekyll would forge a letter to conceal a murderer.</p>	<p>"Well, sir," returned the clerk, "there's a rather singular resemblance; the two hands are in many points identical: only differently sloped."</p> 
<p>6. Incident of Dr Lanyon</p>	<p>With Hyde no longer around, Jekyll becomes healthier and devotes himself to charity. However, one day when Utterson calls on Jekyll, Poole reports that he is not taking visitors. As this continues, Utterson visits Lanyon, who he finds gravely ill. Lanyon says that he expects to die, and refuses to talk about Jekyll. After writing to Jekyll, Utterson receives a reply stating that he understands why Lanyon does not want to speak of him, and also that he will live a life of seclusion from now. Lanyon then dies, fulfilling his prophecy. Utterson cannot open Lanyon's letter until Jekyll too is dead.</p>	<p>"not to be opened till the death or disappearance of Dr. Henry Jekyll."</p> 
<p>7. Incident at the Window</p>	<p>Utterson is on his usual walk with Enfield and they walk past the house where Hyde has entered. Enfield notes that it is physically linked to Jekyll's. They spot Jekyll in one of the high open windows. They are in polite conversation, when suddenly a look of sheer terror seizes Jekyll's face, and he disappears inside, slamming the window shut.</p>	<p>"...succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below."</p>
<p>8. The Last Night</p>	<p>Poole visits Utterson and worries of 'foul play.' They knock on Jekyll's laboratory door and a strange voice answers, nothing like Jekyll's, and saying that no visitors can come in. Poole reveals that the same voice has sent him on numerous errands, desperate for an ingredient that is not available anywhere. Utterson (suspecting Hyde) helps Poole break into the lab. There they find Hyde, dead, seemingly by suicide, wearing Jekyll's suit. He does not find Jekyll, but 3 items from him, a will, a note to read Lanyon's letter, and a sealed packet.</p>	<p>"Right in the middle there lay the body of a man sorely contorted and still twitching."</p> 
<p>9. Dr Lanyon's Narrative</p>	<p>Lanyon's letter reveals that he received instructions to go to the upper room of Jekyll's home and retrieve a vial. When there Hyde emerged, and took the vial. He then turned into Jekyll before his eyes. Lanyon reveals that his deep shock about what Jekyll told him afterwards is too shocking to repeat, and that the horror of the event will kill him.</p>	<p>"He put the glass to his lips, and drank at one gulp. . . . there before my eyes . . . there stood Henry Jekyll!"</p>
<p>10. Henry Jekyll's Full Statement</p>	<p>Jekyll's letter reveals the story from his own viewpoint. He tells of how his good, upstanding side felt constantly burdened by his misdemeanours. As a result, he sought to separate his good nature from his evil characteristics. After many failed attempts, he finally succeeded – taking the potion, he became Hyde. He became overjoyed at being able to become Hyde, committing evil deeds with no sense of guilt. However, he began to involuntarily transform into Hyde. Jekyll started to take double doses to keep Hyde away, but eventually ran out of a crucial ingredient. In his last moments before turning into Hyde permanently, Jekyll writes his letter, stating that he does know what Hyde will do.</p>	<p>"I learned to recognise the thorough and primitive duality of man . . . if I could rightly be said to be either, it was only because I was radically both."</p> 

Stevenson's Language Devices		Gothic Features		
<p>Simile</p> <p>Jekyll, at a low point, is described as being "like some disconsolate prisoner."</p>	<p>Horror</p> <p>Details are included to deliberately make the reader feel tense or scared, for example the description of Hyde's appearance or Jekyll's ghostly look at the window.</p>	<p>Death</p> <p>Gothic texts often deal with the issue of death, and Jekyll and Hyde is no different. Jekyll, Hyde, Lanyon, and Danvers Carew all die at some point throughout the novella.</p>	<p>Settings and Supernatural</p> <p>A gloomy, decaying setting is used (Hyde's lodgings) as are elements of the supernatural (splitting one's soul is not possible, as far as we know!)</p>	
<p>Metaphor</p> <p>Utterson worries about his friend Jekyll, stating: "my mind misgives me he is in deep waters!"</p>				
<p>Alliteration</p> <p>Used to emphasise Hyde's hideous appearance: "something displeasing, something down-right detestable."</p>				
<p>Personification</p> <p>This technique is used throughout. Hyde, for example, personifies the darker, more primitive side of the human soul.</p>				