

Long Stratton High School English Department

Jekyll and Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

The plot		The Characters
Chapter	Key events	A brief description
The Story of the Door	Passing a strange-looking door whilst out for a walk, Enfield tells Utterson about incident involving a man (Hyde) trampling on a young girl. The man paid the girl compensation. Enfield says the man had a key to the door (which leads to Dr Jekyll's laboratory)	Dr Henry Jekyll A doctor and experimental scientist who is both wealthy and respectable.
		Mr Edward Hyde A small, violent and unpleasant-looking man; an unrepentant criminal.
Search for Hyde	Utterson looks at Dr Jekyll's will and discovers that he has left his possessions to Mr Hyde in the event of his disappearance. Utterson watches the door and sees Hyde unlock it, then goes to warn Jekyll. Jekyll isn't in, but Poole tells him that the servants have been told to obey Hyde.	Gabriel Utterson A calm and rational lawyer and friend of Jekyll.
		Dr Hastie Lanyon A conventional and respectable doctor and former friend of Jekyll.
Dr Jekyll was Quite at Ease	Two weeks later, Utterson goes to a dinner party at Jekyll's house and tells him about his concerns. Jekyll laughs off his worries.	Richard Enfield A distant relative of Utterson and well-known man about town.
The Carew Murder Case	Nearly a year later, an elderly gentleman is murdered in the street by Hyde. A letter to Utterson is found on the body. Utterson recognises the murder weapon has a broken walking cane of Jekyll's. He takes the police to Jekyll's house to find Hyde, but are told he hasn't been there for two months. They find the other half of the cane and signs of a quick exit.	Poole Jekyll's manservant.
		Sir Danvers Carew A distinguished gentlemen who is beaten to death by Hyde.
Incident of the Letter	Utterson goes to Jekyll's house and finds him 'looking deadly sick'. He asks about Hyde but Jekyll shows him a letter that says he won't be back. Utterson believes the letter has been forged by Jekyll to cover for Hyde.	Mr Guest Utterson's secretary and handwriting expert.
Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon	Hyde has disappeared and Jekyll seems more happy and sociable until a sudden depression strikes him. Utterson visits Dr Lanyon on his death-bed, who hints that Jekyll is the cause of his illness. Utterson writes to Jekyll and receives a reply that suggests he is has fallen 'under a dark influence'. Lanyon dies and leaves a note for Utterson to open after the death or disappearance of Jekyll. Utterson tries to revisit Jekyll but is told by Poole that he is living in isolation.	Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The duality of human nature • Science and the unexplained • The supernatural • Reputation • Rationality • Secrecy and silence • Urban terror
Incident at the Window	Utterson and Enfield are out for walk and pass Jekyll's window, where they see him confined like a prisoner. Utterson calls out and Jekyll's face has a look of 'abject terror and despair'. Shocked, Utterson and Enfield leave.	
The Last Night	Poole visits Utterson and asks him to come to Jekyll's house. The door to the laboratory is locked and the voice inside sounds like Hyde. Poole says that the voice has been asking for days for a chemical to be brought, but has rejected it each time as it is not pure. They break down the door and find a twitching body with a vial in its hands. There is also a will which leaves everything to Utterson and a package containing Jekyll's confession and a letter asking Utterson to read Lanyon's letter.	
Dr Lanyon's Narrative	The contents of Lanyon's letter tells of how he received a letter from Jekyll asking him to collect chemicals, a vial and notebook from Jekyll's laboratory and give it to a man who would call at midnight. A grotesque man arrives and drinks the potion which transforms him into Jekyll, causing Lanyon to fall ill.	Key locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central London • Soho • The cabinet • Jekyll's house • Utterson's house • Lanyon's house • Jekyll's window • Jekyll's back and front doors
Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case	Jekyll tells the story of how he turned into Hyde. It began as a scientific investigation into the duality of human nature and an attempt to destroy his 'darker self'. Eventually he became addicted to being Hyde, who increasingly took over and destroyed him.	

Context	Literary devices used by Stevenson			
Fin-de-siècle fears – at the end of the 19 th century, there were growing fears about: migration and the threats of disease; sexuality and promiscuity; moral degeneration and decadence.	Pathetic fallacy Look specifically at descriptions of fog and of the night sky			
Victorian values – from the 1850s to the turn of the century, British society outwardly displayed values of sexual restraint, low tolerance of crime, religious morality and a strict social code of conduct.	Symbolism Doors and windows, mirrors, locks, cabinets, bars, railings, the colour red- all heavily symbolic in the text			
The implications of Darwinism and evolution haunted Victorian society. The idea that humans evolved from apes and amphibians led to worries about our lineage and about humanity's reversion to these primitive states.	Antithesis, oxymoron, contrast Linked to the theme of duality			
Physiognomy – Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso (1835-1909) theorised that the 'born criminal' could be recognised by physical characteristics, such as asymmetrical facial features, long arms or a sloping forehead. Many Victorians liked to dabble in physiognomy and phrenology (the belief that a person's character was determined by the shape of the skull)	Motif- recurring image Violence against innocents Silence Urban terror			
Victorian London – the population of 1 million in 1800 to 6.7 million in 1900, with a huge numbers migrating from Europe. It became the biggest city in the world and a global capital for politics, finance and trade. The city grew wealthy. Stevenson shows two sides to the city	Semantic field Punishment, restraint, death, concealment, suppression – there are semantic fields around these throughout the novel			
Urban terror – as London grew wealthy, so poverty in the city also grew. The overcrowded city became rife with crime. The crowd as something that could hide sinister individuals became a trope of Gothic and detective literature.	Imagery Imagery of light and darkness, day and night, concealment and revealing runs throughout the text			
Robert Louis Stevenson was born and raised in Edinburgh, giving him the dual identity of being both Scottish and British. Edinburgh was a city of two sides - he was raised in the wealthy New Town area, but spent his youth exploring the darker, more sinister side of town.	Allusion- biblical and mythological References to Cain and Abel, Satan, Utterson as a shepherd The metaphor of London as a labyrinth and Hyde as the minotaur			
Deacon Brodie – a respectable member of Edinburgh's society and town councilor, William Brodie lead a secret life as a burglar, womaniser and gambler. He was hanged in 1788 for his crimes. As a youth, Stevenson wrote a play about him.	Personification Especially of the weather, the moon, parts of London			
Key vocabulary to learn, spell correctly and use! Find the meanings				
allegory	abhorrent	aberration	troglydytic	atavistic
Victorian	savage	ethics	degenerate	debased
unorthodox	restraint	eugenics	depraved	consciousness
supernatural	respectability	feral	duality	atavism
suppression	professional	genre	duplicity	anxiety
subconscious	perversion	metamorphosis	epistolary	allusion
Key quotations				
Enfield, describing Hyde to Utterson, " There is something wrong with his appearance; something displeasing, something downright detestable. "			Jekyll, reassuring Utterson, " The moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr. Hyde. "	
Utterson, speaking to himself, " If he be Mr. Hyde, I shall be Mr. Seek. "			Lanyon's letter to Utterson, " ...like a man restored from death—there stood Henry Jekyll. "	
Jekyll's letter to Utterson, " Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look round me, and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life. "			Jekyll describing his fascination with Hyde, " It seemed natural and human. In my eyes it bore a livelier image of the spirit, it seemed more express and single, than the imperfect and divided countenance I had been hitherto accustomed to call mine. "	
Jekyll's letter to Utterson, describing Hyde, " ...they were the expression, and bore the stamp, of lower elements in my soul. "			Jekyll, reflecting on mankind, " All human beings... are commingled out of good and evil. "	
Jekyll, highlighting his lack of control over Hyde, " I was slowly losing hold of my original and better self, and becoming slowly incorporated with my second and worse. "			Jekyll, continuing his description of his own desire to be Hyde, " ...and it was as an ordinary secret sinner that I at last fell before the assaults of temptation. "	