

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Knowledge Organiser

Plot summary:

1. 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)
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon: Hyde has disappeared and Jekyll seems happier and more 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.

Key characters		Key themes	Context and literary tradition	Stylistic features & relevant terms
Dr Henry Jekyll	<i>A doctor and experimental scientist who is both wealthy and respectable.</i>	-Duality	Duality – lots of contrasts in terms of setting, character and themes including: reality vs appearance, Jekyll and Hyde, light and dark,	-Imagery
Mr Edward Hyde	<i>A small, violent and unpleasant-looking man; an unrepentant criminal.</i>	-Science and the unexplained	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. Utterson is our stereotypical Victorian male.	-Simile -Sensory
Gabriel Utterson	<i>A calm and rational lawyer and friend of Jekyll.</i>	-The supernatural	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.	-Metaphor
Dr Hastie Lanyon	<i>A conventional and respectable doctor and former friend of Jekyll.</i>	-Reputation	Gothic genre – the key features of the gothic genre are shown through the: setting e.g. the alleyway, character e.g. the antagonist of Hyde, the plot e.g. the vicious murder of Carew.	-Pathetic fallacy
Richard Enfield	<i>A distant relative of Utterson and well-known man about town.</i>	-Rationality	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.	-Alliteration
Poole	<i>Jekyll's manservant.</i>	-Urban terror	Urban terror – as London grew wealthy, poverty in the city also grew. The overcrowded city became rife with crime. Gothic and detective literature became more relevant.	-Antithesis
Sir Danvers Carew	<i>A distinguished gentleman who is beaten to death by Hyde.</i>	-Secrecy and silence	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.	-Oxymoron
Mr Guest	<i>Utterson's secretary and handwriting expert.</i>	-Gothic	Religion vs Science. Religious people believed that you should not go against God and what he created but then scientists such as Dr Jekyll manipulated DNA.	

Key quotations	Useful vocabulary		Responding to the extract
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ‘The man trampled calmly over the child’s body and left her screaming on the ground. It sounds nothing to hear, but it was hellish to see.’ ▪ Utterson: ‘If he be Mr Hyde, I shall be Mr Seek’ Hyde: ‘snarled aloud into a savage laugh’ Utterson on Jekyll: ‘he was wild when he was young, a long while ago’ ▪ Jekyll: ‘the moment I choose, I can be rid of Mr Hyde’ – ‘I ask you to help him for my sake, when I am no longer here’ ▪ Hyde: ‘with ape-like fury... trampling his victim under foot’ (Danvers Carew) Hyde: described by Utterson as ‘particularly small and particularly wicked-looking’ Hyde: ‘haunting sense of unexpressed deformity’ ▪ Utterson: ‘it was Hyde who dictated the terms in your will about that disappearance’ – ‘he meant to murder you’ Clerk: Hyde and Jekyll’s handwriting: ‘the two hands are in many points identical’ ▪ ‘Now that the evil influence had been withdrawn, a new life began for Dr Jekyll’ Dr Lanyon: ‘he had his death-warrant written legibly upon his face’ Lanyon: ‘I have had a shock and I shall never recover’ Jekyll: ‘I mean from henceforth to lead a life of extreme seclusion’ ▪ Jekyll’s expression of ‘abject terror and despair’ ▪ Pathetic fallacy: ‘the wind made talking difficult, and flecked the blood into the face’ Poole: ‘all this last week, whatever it is that lives in that cabinet has been crying night and day for some sort of medicine’ – ‘this drug is wanted bitter bad’ – ‘weeping like a woman or a lost soul’ Hyde: ‘dressed in clothes far too large for him, clothes of the doctor’s bigness’ ▪ Lanyon: ‘his face became suddenly black, and the features seemed to melt and alter’ Lanyon: ‘like a man restored from death’ Lanyon: ‘What he told me in the next hour I cannot bring my mind to set on paper’ ▪ Jekyll: ‘I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life’ – ‘though so profound a double-dealer, I was in no sense a hypocrite; both sides of me were in dead earnest’ Jekyll: ‘I looked upon that ugly idol in the glass, I was conscious of no repugnance, rather of a leap of welcome’ Dilemma: ‘to cast in my lot with Jekyll was to die to those appetites which I had long secretly indulged and had of late begun to pamper. To cast it in with Hyde was to die to a thousand interests and aspirations, and to become, at a blow and for ever, despised and friendless.’ 	Aberration	Abnormal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sustained focus on the extract and the question given. ✓ Coherently structure and present ideas. ✓ Appropriate, sensitive and mature approach to the extract, looking at finer details and interpretations. ✓ Show a perceptive understanding of events within the extract and the wider effect they have. ✓ Give a thoughtful and considered personal response that looks at the audience, as well as their own opinion. ✓ You must reference and give context for the extract, referring to events and quotations across the play as a whole. ✓ Use pertinent, direct quotations from the extract. ✓ Make reference to and analyse the writer’s use of language, form and structure as a way of conveying ideas and meaning to the audience. ✓ Use precise subject terminology to enhance analysis and use this in an accurate way. ✓ Explore the genre of the text and the contexts in which the text is viewed by different audiences. ✓ Explore the text in relation to period, location, social structures and literary contexts.
	Abhorrent	Disgusting	
	Allegory	Story with a moral parallel	
	Allusion	Reference	
	Anxiety	Nervousness	
	Atavism	Evolutionary throwback	
	Consciousness	Awareness	
	Debased	Become lower	
	Degenerate	Disgusting	
	Depraved	Morally corrupt	
	Duality	Two aspects explored	
	Duplicity	Lying or dissembling	
	Epistolary	Story written in letter form	
	Ethics	The moral rules you live your life by	
	Eugenics	Population control	
	Evolution	Slow change over many years	
	Feral	Wild	
	Genre	Type of writing	
	Metamorphosis	Change	
	Perversion	Corruption from original	
Professional	Belonging to a profession; respectable		
Respectability	Socially acceptable		
Restraint	Holding oneself back		
Savage	Wild		
Subconscious	Part of the mind not fully aware		
Suppression	Holding something down		
Supernatural	Beyond the natural		
Unorthodox	Against the usual		
Victorian	During the reign of Queen Victoria		