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Study Guide

for

**The Strange
Case of
Dr Jekyll and
Mr Hyde**

by Robert Louis Stevenson



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McGraw-Hill**

New York, New York Columbus, Ohio Woodland Hills, California Peoria, Illinois

Meet Robert Louis Stevenson



*Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures;
and that when I reached years of reflection, and
began to look around me and take stock of my
progress and position in the world, I stood already
committed to a profound duplicity of life.*

—from *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Robert Louis Stevenson, born in 1850 in Edinburgh, Scotland, was a sickly child. His father was a designer of lighthouses, and he wanted his only son to study engineering. However, when Stevenson entered Edinburgh University, he chose to study literature.

After graduation Stevenson was forced to split his time between the French Riviera and southern England because the warmer climates helped his deteriorating health, now known to have been caused by tuberculosis. His travels in France led to his first book, *An Inland Voyage* (1878), the story of a canoe trip on the country's many canals. While in France, he fell in love with Fanny Osbourne, a married American.

In 1879 Stevenson undertook an extremely risky voyage to California, where Fanny was divorcing her husband. The dreadful transatlantic crossing to New York and the cross-country train trip to the West Coast nearly killed him. The strain was so hard on his health that when he

reached California and finally married Fanny, he was barely able to stand. His doctor told Fanny that her new husband could live for only a few months.

Fortunately, the doctor was wrong. The couple returned to Scotland. It was there that Stevenson began to write his first great success, *Treasure Island* (1883), the thrilling story of a swashbuckling pirate named Long John Silver. The writer's deteriorating health prompted the couple to move to the south of France, where Stevenson completed *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885). At his next home, in southern England, Stevenson wrote *Kidnapped*. Nonetheless, financial worries were never far away. One night Stevenson had a nightmare so strange that he decided to use it as the basis for a novel. This novel, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886), became one of Stevenson's most popular creations and helped to ease his financial strain.

In 1888 an American publisher asked Stevenson to write a travel book about the South Pacific. The couple jumped at the chance to escape to the tropics. They chartered a yacht and sailed from San Francisco to the Marquesas Islands, Tahiti, and Hawaii. The author's health improved in the tropical sun, and in 1890 the Stevensons decided to settle in Samoa.

On his estate in Samoa, Stevenson finished *David Balfour* (1893), a sequel to *Kidnapped*, as well as several books about nature and life in the South Seas. His descriptions of his exotic and romantic lifestyle captivated readers. During his years in Samoa, legends grew up about Stevenson that led to his reputation of being one of the most beloved storytellers of his time.

Stevenson died in Samoa on December 3, 1894, at the age of forty-four. At the time of his death, he was working with friends in Scotland to prepare an edition of his complete works.

Introducing the Novella

It deals with the relation of the baser parts of man to his nobler—of the capacity for evil that exists in the most generous natures, and it expresses these things in a fable which is a wonderfully happy invention.

—Henry James, American novelist

Robert Louis Stevenson spent three years (from September 1884 to July 1887) living on England's southern coast with his wife, Fanny, in a house that his father had given them. Stevenson had already written *Treasure Island* and *A Child's Garden of Verses*, along with many stories and essays, which earned him popularity and some money.

Yet, financial woes were always howling at the Stevensons' door, and the climate, often cold and damp even in the southern part of the country, further weakened Stevenson's lungs. The writer spent much of the three years lying in bed. Not surprisingly, the combination of money troubles and ill health caused the author to brood and worry.

One night in 1885, Stevenson had a dream. When Fanny woke him, he told her with irritation that she had interrupted "a fine bogey tale." The word *bogey* refers to a frightening person or thing. Stevenson wrote a first version of the story in the following three days. When he read his work to Fanny, she judged that it was nothing more than a spooky story and challenged her husband to do more with its philosophical possibilities. She urged him to make the tale an exploration of the darker side of human nature. Agreeing with her, Stevenson tossed the manuscript into the fire and turned to a second draft. In three more days, he turned his dream story into the classic study of hidden evil that we know today.

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (1886) became an instant success. Critics compared Stevenson with Edgar Allan Poe, master of the horror story, and with Nathaniel Hawthorne, whose novels also contained explorations of evil. So popular did the story become that within a month, the humor magazine *Punch* was already publishing a parody of the tale.

Why has *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* touched so many readers so powerfully? One answer lies in the spirit of the time in which it was written. At the end of the 1800s, Britain was experiencing a period of intense social, economic, and spiritual change, after many decades of confident growth and national self-fulfillment. *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* perfectly captured some readers' fears that their carefully built society was hypocritical.

Stevenson was aware of the new ideas about economics, science, and the workings of the mind. To many readers, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was a symbolic representation of these threats to traditional British society. Political reforms had given many more men the right to vote, and the working classes were beginning to flex their political muscles. Karl Marx's ideas about the struggle for power among the different social classes were becoming more influential. To some of Britain's upper-class readers, the character of Edward Hyde represented the increasing political power of the working class.

Other readers saw in the novella echoes of Charles Darwin, who earlier in the century had challenged the long-held religious belief in God's creation of the universe. Darwin had claimed that life-forms developed as a result of *evolution*, the extremely slow and gradual changes species underwent in response to their environments. Gone was the certainty of the religious model of life. It was replaced by social Darwinism, a radical new conception of life as a struggle in which only the fittest survived. Some readers considered Hyde to be a model of the strong yet evil individual who would survive while Jekyll fell. Hyde was the *natural man*, free of the civilizing influences of society and religion. Stevenson himself had received an extremely strict religious upbringing, which emphasized sin and the punishments of hell. He seems to have reacted against this upbringing, and the conflict between religion and science probably interested him greatly.

Still other readers found in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* a reflection of the new ideas about the workings of the human mind. A Viennese doctor named Sigmund Freud had begun the investigations that would lead him to create psychoanalysis, a method of analyzing psychic phenomena and treating emotional disorders. Freud believed that human beings are powerfully influenced by impulses of which they are not aware and which are often expressed in dreams. To many readers, Hyde represented Dr. Jekyll's subconscious desire to be freed from his society's restrictions.

THE TIME AND PLACE

The novella takes place in London in the 1880s. The settings include Jekyll's fine home in a formerly grand neighborhood now in decay; Lanyon's comfortable home in Cavendish Square, where many distinguished doctors have their houses and offices; and Hyde's house in Soho, a part of London known for its immigrant populations.

The Victorian Era

Robert Louis Stevenson was born at the height of the Victorian Era, which stretched from the 1830s to the beginning of the 1900s. Britain's Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837 at the age of eighteen and ruled until her death in 1901. During her sixty-four-year reign, Great Britain

was the world's leading economic and military power and controlled a vast empire.

Queen Victoria's reign was a period of intense change in many arenas. Railroads and a postal system expanded to link almost every corner of the nation, making transportation and communication much faster. Medical and sanitary advances led to improvements in health. The government began to support schools financially. Political reforms allowed more people to participate in self-government. Industry grew rapidly, while agriculture became less important to the economy. Cities like London, Manchester, and Glasgow became densely populated as masses of people flocked to them in search of work.

The prosperous decades between 1850 and 1870 were characterized by a general optimism and a sense of accomplishment. By the 1880s, however, pessimism and worry had begun to cloud the thoughts of many Victorians. With the increase in the urban population, poverty became a formidable problem. The strength of Britain's vast empire was challenged by difficult foreign wars. Workers demanded more power, and women were entering the workforce in greater numbers. The changes in traditional society disturbed and frightened many Britons.

It was at this historical juncture that Stevenson wrote *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. As you read, look for signs of a society undergoing major changes.

Did You Know?

Robert Louis Stevenson intended that the last name of his famous doctor be pronounced JEEK-uhl. Such a pronunciation would have been more common in the author's Scottish dialect. Stevenson himself tried hard to convince his

readers that the name was pronounced with a long e. In spite of Stevenson's preference, the tormented doctor has come to be known as JECK-uhl by almost every reader, actor, and critic since the first appearance of the story.

Before You Read

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Story of the Door *through* Incident of the Letter

FOCUS ACTIVITY

How do you approach a friend who you believe is in trouble?

Think-Pair-Share

Think of a situation from your own life when you had to approach a friend you thought needed help with a problem. Discuss with a partner the difficulties in confronting a friend, and explain how you addressed the situation.

Setting a Purpose

Read to discover how one man decides to approach a friend in trouble.

BACKGROUND

Victorian Society

In *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, Robert Louis Stevenson describes life in London during the 1880s, the latter half of the Victorian period. During that time, society was sharply divided into distinct social classes and their corresponding communities. In *Forlorn Sunset* (1947), Michael Sadleir described the city as “three parts jungle” noting that very few districts were truly public in the sense that people could move in and out of them with ease. Generally, people were uncomfortable and often unwelcome in parts of town that were not inhabited by their own social group. To avoid wandering into an unknown area, most Londoners stayed in their own neighborhoods. This geographical and social fragmentation is an essential part of the setting of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.

Did You Know?

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde belongs to a category of fiction known as the **novella**, **novellette**, or **short novel**. Novellas are longer and more complex than short stories but shorter and simpler than novels. The novella form has appealed to many great writers. Among the best-known novellas are Joseph Conrad’s *Heart of Darkness*, Henry James’s *The Turn of the Screw*, Herman Melville’s *Billy Budd*, and Stevenson’s *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. As you read the story, ask yourself why Stevenson chose to limit the length of his story. How might it have been different if the author had chosen to make it either a short story or a novel? What might Stevenson’s tale have lost or gained by being written in a different form?

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

abominable [ə bom’ ə nəbəl] *adj.* horrible

austere [ô s tēr’] *adj.* severe, stern

conflagration [kon’ flə grā’ shən] *n.* raging fire

demeanour [di mē’ nər] *n.* manner

eddy [ed’ ē] *n.* whirlpool

negligence [neg’ li jəns] *n.* carelessness

odious [ô’ dē əs] *adj.* hateful

perplexity [pər plək’ sə tē] *n.* confusion

sedulously [sej’ ə ləs lē] *adv.* tirelessly

sullenness [sul’ ən nes] *n.* gloominess



Active Reading

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde **Story of the Door *through* Incident of the Letter**

At a number of points in this part of the novella, Stevenson uses physical descriptions to create atmosphere, to illuminate characters, and to communicate feelings. In one revealing scene, Stevenson portrays Mr. Hyde and Sir Danvers Carew as the murder unfolds. Another vivid description is that of Dr. Jekyll's laboratory, at the beginning of "Incident of the Letter." As you read the descriptive details in these parts of the story, use the chart on this page to keep track of how Stevenson creates atmosphere, reveals characters, and communicates emotions.

Episode: Sir Danvers Carew's murder

Details	Effects on Reader
"He had in his hand a heavy cane, with which he was trifling; but he answered never a word, and seemed to listen with an ill-contained impatience."	feelings of anxiety for the victim because of Hyde's sense of anger; a feeling of impending violence

Episode: First view of Jekyll's laboratory

Details	Effects on Reader

Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Story of the Door *through* Incident of the Letter

Personal Response

Describe your reactions to the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde at the end of this section.

Are you confident that Edward Hyde will no longer bother Dr. Jekyll? Why or why not?

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What story does Enfield tell when he and Utterson pass the door? What does hearing the story cause Utterson to do?

2. After their meeting, what do Enfield and Utterson both suspect about the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde? What evidence does the text give for this suspicion?

3. What two pieces of information does Utterson learn about Hyde's letter to Jekyll? What do you predict that Utterson will do to help his old friend, who he suspects is in serious trouble? Justify your answer on the basis of evidence from the text.

Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Story of the Door *through* Incident of the Letter

Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. What picture do you have in your mind of Edward Hyde's appearance? For what reasons might Stevenson have deliberately avoided describing him fully?

5. All of the characters in the story who see Hyde comment about how uncomfortable his appearance makes them feel. In your opinion, how might Hyde's looks be a symbol of something else? Why would this make people feel uncomfortable? Explain.

Literature and Writing

Good versus Evil

One of the important themes of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is the battle between good and evil. This battle can be fought, as in the story, in the mind of a single person, or it can be waged on a grander scale, between individuals or between countries. Imagine that you have been asked to give a short speech to your class on the battle between good and evil in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Make an outline of the important points that you would make in your speech. Then write the opening paragraph of the speech.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

One of Mr. Hyde's faults is his inability to control his anger. Have group members read aloud these passages: Enfield's description of the trampling of the little girl, Utterson's first meeting with Hyde, and the maid's account of the murder of Carew. Then discuss in your group how the inability to control anger can lead to serious problems. Share examples of situations from books, movies, or television shows in which anger led to conflict or violence. Critique the actions of the persons involved. Brainstorm reasons why readers and audiences seem to be either attracted to or repelled by anger and violence.

Art Connection

Imagine that you are the police inspector in charge of investigating the murder of Sir Danvers Carew. In order to capture the suspected murderer, you need to create a wanted poster to place throughout London. Examine the text for details about the murderer's physical description, clothing, habits, and any other characteristics that might lead to his identification and apprehension. Use the information you find in the story to draw a picture of the suspect and write informational text for the wanted poster.



Save your work for your portfolio.

Before You Read

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon *through* The Last Night

FOCUS ACTIVITY

In your opinion, does knowing the ending ruin a story for you?

Chart It

Some stories are told in such a way that the reader must ask not “What happened?” but “Why?” or “How?” Telling a story in this way has both advantages and disadvantages. Create a chart listing two advantages and two disadvantages of an author’s revealing the ending of a story before explaining how and why events occurred.

Setting a Purpose

Read to find out how Stevenson reveals the essential plot elements of his story.

BACKGROUND

Point of View

Point of view is the relationship of the narrator to the story. In a story with **first-person point of view**, the narrator is a character in the story, referred to as “I.” In a story with **third-person limited point of view**, the narrator reveals the thoughts, feelings, and observations of only one character, referring to that character as “he” or “she.” In a story with **third-person omniscient point of view**, the narrator is not a character but someone who stands outside the story and comments on the action.

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is told from different points of view. Except for Enfield’s description of Hyde’s trampling the little girl, the first two sections are told from a third-person limited point of view: the narrator reports the thoughts and feelings of Utterson but not those of the other characters.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

allusion [ə lōō´zhən] *n.* reference

calamity [kə lam´ə tē] *n.* disaster

dire [dīr] *adj.* dreadful; extremely urgent

disreputable [dis rep´yə tə bəl] *adj.* of a bad reputation

flags [flags] *n.* paving stones

inscrutable [in skrōō´tə bəl] *adj.* not readily interpreted or understood; mysterious

mien [mēn] *n.* air or bearing; appearance

scud [skud] *n.* loose vapor clouds driven swiftly by the wind

stringent [strin´jənt] *adj.* strict, extremely severe

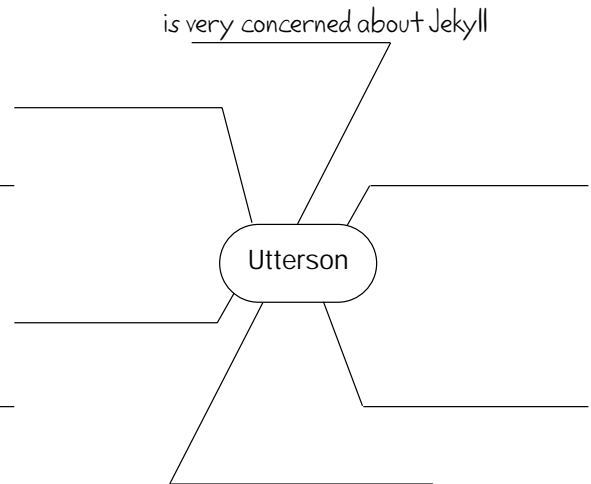
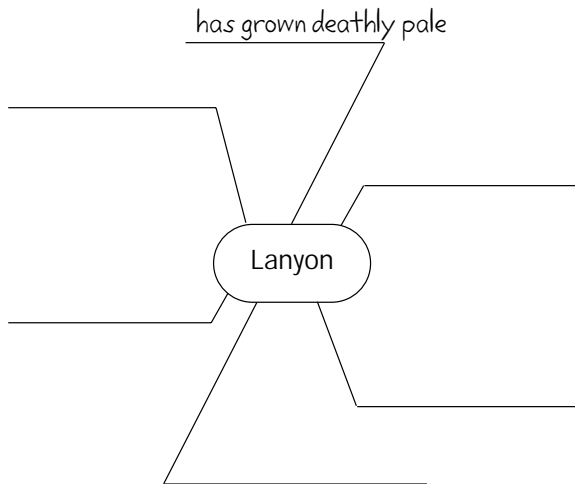
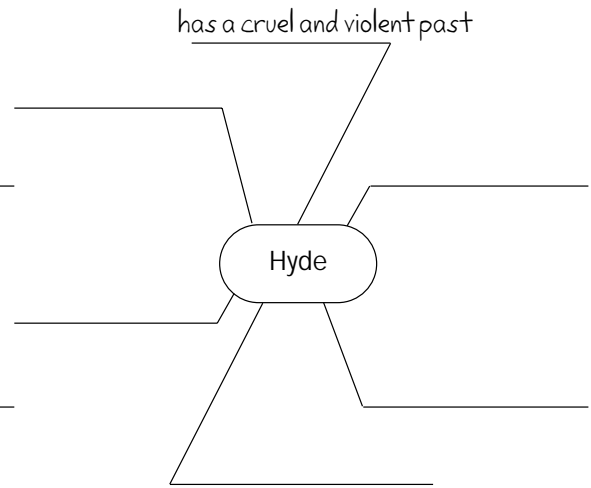
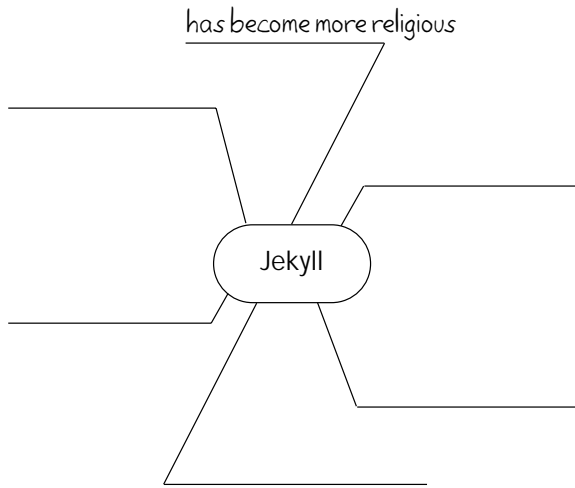
vile [vīl] *adj.* morally despicable, or abhorrent; physically repulsive

Active Reading

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon *through* The Last Night

In this section of the novella, you learn more about several of the characters from what they do and say, as well as from what others say about them. As you read, use the word webs on this page to make notes about the different characters.



Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon *through* The Last Night

Personal Response

What was your reaction when Poole explained that he had heard Hyde “weeping like a woman or a lost soul” inside the cabinet? Did learning this change your feelings about Mr. Hyde? Why or why not?

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What happens to Dr. Lanyon at the beginning of this section? What suspicions do you have about the cause of this occurrence? Look at the items you listed in the **Focus Activity**. What might be a reason for Stevenson’s not telling us what happened to Lanyon? What other important details are left unexplained at this point?

2. What do Utterson and Poole find when they break into the cabinet? What do they expect to find that is *not* in the cabinet? How do they explain this mystery?

3. What is the weather like as Utterson and Poole hurry to Jekyll’s house? Discuss how Stevenson uses descriptive language in this passage to create a mood appropriate to the climax of the story.

Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon *through* The Last Night

Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. Authors often give their characters names that are symbolic. Do you think any names in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* are symbolic? Find evidence in the story to support your interpretations.

5. One issue raised by *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is that of drug abuse. How does a person who is abusing drugs change in personality, appearance, and habits? What evidence in this section of the novella indicates that one of the characters is abusing drugs?

Literature and Writing

Letter to Dr. Jekyll

In this section of the novella, Jekyll becomes more and more isolated, cutting himself off from his closest friends. Why is isolation dangerous for Dr. Jekyll? What does he sacrifice by shunning all his friends? Assuming the role of Utterson, write a letter to Dr. Jekyll, explaining why he should not isolate himself from his friends during times of emotional distress. Use details from the story to convince Jekyll of your position.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

Many people may envision Romantic literature as emphasizing only love, happiness, and valor, but its darker side might emphasize isolation, moodiness, and death, as well as the mysterious, supernatural events of gothic literature. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is considered a Romantic work. Examine the text for characteristics of Romantic literature. Note your ideas, and then discuss them in your group.

Performing

Radio call-in shows in which listeners describe personal, family, work, or other problems and receive advice from professional counselors are very popular. Working in small groups, create a script for such a show in which all the callers are characters from *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Examine the chapters you have read so far for incidents, situations, and problems that the characters could discuss. For example, Lanyon might want to ask how to approach an old friend who has been acting oddly for the past year or so. Script five or six calls, along with the host's responses, and perform your show for the class. Try to make the script as entertaining as possible while basing it on the events and characters of the novella.



Save your work for your portfolio.

Before You Read

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Dr. Lanyon's Narrative *and* Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

FOCUS ACTIVITY

Is any person completely good or completely evil? Instead, are people usually a mixture of the two? Explain.

Freewrite

In your journal, write any ideas you may have on these questions.

Setting a Purpose

Read to explore how Robert Louis Stevenson addresses the question of good and evil in humankind.

BACKGROUND

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Freud

The theory that has most influenced interpretations of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* is Sigmund Freud's theory of repression. According to Freud, repression is a process by which unacceptable desires or impulses are excluded from consciousness and left to operate in the unconscious. Only by such means as psychoanalysis, dream analysis, or hypnosis can the repressed desires or impulses be brought to light and examined.

From a psychoanalytic point of view, Henry Jekyll, outwardly a respectable doctor, has repressed his desires to live a life of vice and forbidden activities. Stevenson hints at Jekyll's wild youth and secret desires. Jekyll's need for respectability keeps him from openly admitting and pursuing his desires, and the resulting conflict between what he secretly wants and what he feels his position in society requires of him causes a mental disorder.

Did You Know?

When Robert Louis Stevenson was a boy in Edinburgh, his family owned a piece of furniture made by a craftsman named William Brodie. Well known as a leading citizen and respectable businessman, Brodie had a dark side. Secretly, he was the leader of a band of criminals who robbed at night. He was finally caught and hanged in 1788. The famous figure fascinated the young boy, and in 1882, Stevenson and a friend wrote a play on the subject.

VOCABULARY PREVIEW

enigmas [i nig' məz] *n.* riddles, mysteries

faggots [fag' əts] *n.* pieces of wood

idiosyncratic [id' ē ə sin kra' tik] *adj.* peculiar to one person, eccentric

infallibly [in fal' ə blē] *adv.* without error

ludicrous [lōō' də krəs] *adj.* ridiculous

repugnance [ri pung' nəns] *n.* disgust

sever [sev' ər] *v.* to cut off

unscrupulous [un skrōō' pyə ləs] *adj.* without moral standards

whet [hwet] *v.* to sharpen

Active Reading

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Dr. Lanyon's Narrative *and* Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

In the final section of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, many events that occurred earlier in the novella are at last explained. As you read the narratives of Lanyon and Jekyll, use the table on this page to keep track of how unexplained or mysterious occurrences in the first two sections are finally made clear.

Earlier Event		Explanation
Lanyon sees something that makes him fatally ill.	→	Hyde drinks the potion and turns into Jekyll.
Jekyll's will makes Hyde his heir in case of death or disappearance.	→	
Hyde's writing resembles Jekyll's.	→	
The key to Hyde's door looks as if it had been stomped on.	→	
For a two-month period, Jekyll meets old friends again.	→	
Lanyon is asked to go to Jekyll's lab and pick up the contents of the drawer.	→	
Utterson and Enfield see something at Jekyll's window when the shade is quickly pulled down.	→	
Jekyll's books on religion are defaced with blasphemies.	→	
Hyde kills himself.	→	

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Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
Dr. Lanyon's Narrative *and* Henry Jekyll's
Full Statement of the Case

Personal Response

What is your reaction to the ending of the novella?

Evaluate the decision that Jekyll/Hyde makes. Do you think that the decision is reasonable or that it is a hasty action arising from a tormented mind? Explain.

Analyzing Literature

Recall and Interpret

1. What did Lanyon see that shocked him so much? How did the experience affect him?

2. What does Jekyll say about his youth in the letter to Utterson? How do the actions of his youth lead him to his experiments with the transforming drug?

3. How does Jekyll's attitude toward his dual personality change as he uses the drug more often? What physical results occur with continued use of the drug?

Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Dr. Lanyon's Narrative and Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

Analyzing Literature (*continued*)

Evaluate and Connect

4. One critic has written of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, "Without Jekyll, there could never have been a Hyde; without Hyde, one can never fully know Jekyll." Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? Choose details from the story to support your argument.
-

5. In his final letter, Jekyll explains why Hyde became the more powerful half of his personality. He says, "[I]t fell out with me, as it falls with so vast a majority of my fellows, that I chose the better [Jekyll] part and was found wanting in the strength to keep to it." Explain in your own words the dilemma Jekyll is describing. Then discuss whether you agree with his statement.
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Literature and Writing

Face to Face

Imagine that the two characters, Jekyll and Hyde, can talk to one another. What would each ask the other, and how would each respond? Write an imaginary conversation between the two characters. Use details from this and earlier sections of the novella to create a spirited dialogue.

Extending Your Response

Literature Groups

Like Victor Frankenstein, the scientist in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Dr. Jekyll pushes beyond the boundaries of the scientific knowledge of his time. What drives people to explore the unknown? Why do scientists take great risks and use time, energy, and money to do and learn new things? Did Dr. Jekyll go too far? What criteria would you use to determine what "too far" means? In your group, discuss several recent scientific discoveries and decide whether they "go too far." Possibilities to explore include cloning and genetic manipulation, growing new organs for human use, transplanting organs, facilitating artificial intelligence through computers, prolonging life through deep-freezing (cryogenics), and colonizing outer space.

Learning for Life

Health care professionals are often asked to conduct psychological evaluations of prospective patients. Imagine that you are a psychologist at a mental health facility. It is your job to evaluate the mental and emotional status of persons who may need the services of your clinic. Your assistant has handed you a document called "Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case." He is asking for your opinion on whether the person described is mentally ill and should be admitted to your clinic for observation. Examine the document. Pay particular attention to what the prospective patient says about the attractions of his life as Hyde, his guilt about past episodes, and his own weaknesses. Then write a recommendation on whether Jekyll should be admitted to your facility.



Save your work for your portfolio.

Responding

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Personal Response

What questions would you like to ask Henry Jekyll? Edward Hyde?

Writing About the Novella

What are the strengths and weaknesses of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*? Evaluate the novella's success, focusing on such elements as the presentation of themes, use of symbols, characterization, plot construction, setting and atmosphere, and point of view. In which areas does the novella succeed? Why? Which areas are less successful? Use details from the novella to support your evaluation.

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Dr. Heidegger's Experiment

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Before You Read

Focus Question

If you could, what parts of your life would you live over again? What makes it possible for you to use the knowledge that you have gained to avoid making mistakes that you made earlier in life?

Background

The nineteenth-century American writer Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804–1864) took as his special subject the Puritan past of his native New England. In his novels *The Scarlet Letter* and *The House of the Seven Gables* and in numerous short stories, he examined the nature of sin, evil, and guilt. His style is symbolic and sometimes fantastic, which places many of his stories in the category of prose romance. Often his characters are not entirely realistic but instead represent an idea or a quality. In “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment,” one of his best-known stories and an early form of science fiction, Hawthorne presents an important moral lesson.

Responding to the Reading

1. What request does Dr. Heidegger make of the four old people before he lets them drink the water? How do they react to his suggestion?

2. Express the “moral” of this story in your own words.

3. **Making Connections** Which work, “Dr. Heidegger’s Experiment” or *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, seems more realistic to you? Which seems more like a fairy tale? Why? What qualities of the two works help create this distinction?

Learning for Life

Think of the experiences you have had, the knowledge you have gained, and the mistakes you have made over the past three or four years. Write a letter to a seventh-grader giving advice, based on what you know now, on how to approach life’s challenges and overcome difficulties.

Richard Cory

Edwin Arlington Robinson

Before You Read

Focus Question

What makes it difficult to know a person really well? Why do people often keep their true feelings hidden from others?

Background

The American poet Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869–1935) is best known for his short poems about the people of an imaginary New England village. In these poems, Robinson explores different problems faced by the villagers in their daily lives. His poetic language is natural and simple. “Richard Cory” is one of his most famous poems.

Responding to the Reading

1. What qualities does the speaker attribute to Richard Cory? What is the speaker’s attitude toward him?

2. How does the speaker portray the other people in Cory’s town? Why do you think they react to Cory’s actions the way they do?

3. **Making Connections** What similarities can you see in the situations of Henry Jekyll and Richard Cory? What differences?

Performing

Respond creatively to Robinson’s poem. By yourself or in a group, (1) recite the poem with background music that you choose or perform, (2) create an interpretive movement or dance that reflects the poem’s theme and imagery, (3) create a work of visual art inspired by some aspect of the poem, or (4) represent the poem in another artistic medium that you enjoy. Present your performance or artistic response to the class.

The Strange Case of Dr. T. and Mr. H. from *Punch*

Before You Read

Focus Question

Think of a comedian who can imitate other people well. Why is it funny when people imitate others? What can we learn about a person when he or she is imitated in a humorous way?

Background

A **parody** is a literary or musical work in which the style of an author or a work is closely imitated for comic effect or in ridicule. A visual counterpart would be a cartoon or a caricature. In good parodies, a significant and familiar aspect of the original work is focused on. Certain elements are carried to a ridiculous extreme. Weaknesses or flaws in the original are pointed out and made fun of. This parody of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* was written in 1886, less than a month after Stevenson's novella was first published. It appeared in the English humor magazine *Punch*, which is still publishing parodies and other comic writing today.

Responding to the Reading

1. What does the writer of a parody require of readers in order for the parody to be successful? What can you infer from the fact that this parody was published so quickly after the original?

2. What events in Stevenson's original are referred to in the parody?

3. **Making Connections** What element of the structure of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* does the parodist make fun of several times? Do you think that this is an effective parody of the original novella? Explain your answer.

Research Connection

Today, as in the past, the parody is a popular literary form. Find a contemporary example of a parody and the original on which it is based. Present the parody and the original to the class. Discuss what elements of the original the parodist uses. Evaluate the parody's effectiveness and humor. Resources for finding parodies are your school or community library and librarian, the Internet (using keywords such as *humor* or *parody*), humor magazines, television shows, and bookstores.

Markheim

Robert Louis Stevenson

Before You Read

Focus Question

What control do people have over the good or bad circumstances of their lives?

Background

In this short story, written in 1885, Stevenson pursues the same conflict between good and evil that captivated readers in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. Within the boundaries of the short-story form, he has created a tale equal in suspense and horror to his famous novella. Elements of the setting provide powerful symbols that increase the psychological terror for which Stevenson has become famous.

Responding to the Reading

1. Describe the character of the dealer. Through his use of descriptive details, does Stevenson create sympathy for the man? Explain your answer.

2. What causes Markheim's agony? Is his conflict external, internal, or both? Support your answer with examples from the text.

3. **Making Connections** In your opinion, is Markheim different from Edward Hyde? Why or why not?

Creative Writing

Write another ending to "Markheim" that might have been acceptable to Robert Louis Stevenson. Include descriptive details to enhance the general mood of the story, keeping in mind Stevenson's depiction of human nature. Exchange your written work with a partner and provide constructive comments on each other's conclusions.

William Wilson

Edgar Allan Poe

Before You Read

Focus Question

How does a person develop feelings of guilt or shame about his or her thoughts or behaviors?

Background

Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849) was one of the great American writers. He achieved success in poetry, fiction, and critical essays. Among his famous poems are “The Raven,” “The Bells,” and “Annabel Lee.” Poe’s poetry is known for its beautiful sounds and sense of mystery. Stories like “The Pit and the Pendulum,” “The Fall of the House of Usher,” and “The Tell-Tale Heart” are masterpieces of horror; “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” is considered the world’s first detective story. In “William Wilson,” Poe explores some of his favorite themes, including the effects of crime and evil on a person.

Responding to the Reading

1. Where does the narrator first meet the other William Wilson? What is unusual about this other person? What is notable about his speaking voice?

2. Reread the end of the story. Describe the events that occur after Wilson has appeared at the masquerade in the black silk mask. What is your interpretation of the last paragraph?

3. **Making Connections** Compare and contrast the William Wilson who haunts and torments Poe’s narrator with the character of Edward Hyde in *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. How are they similar? How do they differ? What do the two characters represent in each work?

Creative Writing

Write a story, poem, song, or another work on the conflict between good and evil that is experienced by all people. Use your own experiences along with your response to the **Focus Question** to explore your own thoughts about an age-old dilemma.