

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

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Plot Summary

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a classic story by Robert Louis Stevenson. In this story, Mr. Utterson, a lawyer and friend of Dr. Jekyll's, is bothered by a will written by his friend that completely benefits a strange fellow named Mr. Hyde. To protect his friend, Mr. Utterson begins investigating Mr. Hyde, only to discover some truths about his friend that he could never have suspected. The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a mystery that brings into question the basic duality of the human personality.

Mr. Utterson is walking with his kinsman when they pass a door that Mr. Utterson has reason to question. Mr. Utterson asks his kinsman if he knows the man that lives in this home and is surprised to discover his kinsman not only has met this man, but he experienced a dark episode involving this same person. One day, the kinsman was walking on that same street when he witnessed the resident of that home run over a child while walking quickly over the sidewalk. The man began to leave when the kinsman and members of the child's family stopped him. They finally convinced the man to pay the family compensation for his act. The man presented them with a check. However, they were unsure that they could trust him. So, he remained in their presence until the check was cashed.

Mr. Utterson returns home and reviews a will written by Dr. Jekyll, his good friend, that benefits this violent stranger, Mr. Hyde. Mr. Utterson is concerned about this will and speaks to Dr. Lanyon, who is a mutual friend of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Utterson. Dr. Lanyon says he has never heard of Mr. Hyde, but that he and Dr. Jekyll have had a falling out over a difference in opinion. He has not seen him recently. A short time later, Mr. Utterson has occasion to meet Mr. Hyde and is not impressed with his rough, unfriendly attitude.

Mr. Utterson seeks out his friend, Dr. Jekyll, and they talk about the will. Dr. Jekyll tries to reassure Mr. Utterson that everything is okay. No one is trying to take advantage of him. However, Mr. Utterson continues to worry. When Mr. Utterson learns that Mr. Hyde has killed another client of Mr. Utterson's for no apparent reason, he becomes doubly concerned. Afterward, Dr. Jekyll assures him that he no longer wants that will to be enforced and that his relationship with Mr. Hyde is done.

For a few months, Dr. Jekyll behaves more socially and more at ease. However, his behavior suddenly changes once more. He goes back to living an isolated life, hiding out in his rooms. Mr. Utterson goes to visit Dr. Lanyon and finds him dying. Dr. Lanyon leaves a letter to Mr. Utterson that is to be opened only upon Dr. Jekyll's death or disappearance.

A short time later, Mr. Utterson is called to the home of Dr. Jekyll where he learns that his friend has been hiding in his laboratory for days on end, begging his servants to run errands for him to various chemists all over the city, but unsatisfied with the product they bring back. Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll's butler bust down the door to his laboratory and



find Mr. Hyde dead on the floor of an apparent suicide. Afterward, Mr. Utterson and the butler find a letter to Mr. Utterson along with a large package also left to Mr. Utterson.

Mr. Utterson returns home and reads first Dr. Lanyon's letter and then opens the package from Dr. Jekyll. It turns out that Dr. Jekyll has been curious about the duality of human nature and devised a way to separate the darkness of his own personality from the overall personality. This darkness came out of him in the form of Mr. Hyde. At first, Dr. Jekyll enjoyed the freedom of being Mr. Hyde from time to time, but he soon discovered that Mr. Hyde was pure evil, that he was always filled with anger and darkness. Therefore, Dr. Jekyll begins to think he should not drink the potion that turns him into Mr. Hyde any more. To his surprise, however, Dr. Jekyll finds himself transforming into Mr. Hyde without the use of the potion. It is a shocking and frustrating situation for Dr. Jekyll that he scrambles to try to fix, without success. One of the powders Dr. Jekyll originally used was tainted with something, but he cannot find a similar combination again; therefore, his potion no longer works. For this reason, Dr. Jekyll makes the decision to kill himself rather than allow Mr. Hyde loose on the world.



Chapters 1-2

Summary

Chapter 1

Story of the Door

Mr. Utterson is a lawyer. One Sunday, he is out walking in London with his kinsman. As they pass a specific door, Mr. Utterson asks his kinsman if he knows the man who lives there. The kinsman, to his surprise, says that he does. Mr. Enfield, the kinsman, describes how he was once walking in this same neighborhood when he saw a little girl rushing home from the doctors. A man, walking in the opposite direction, walked right into the girl, knocking her to the ground. The man continued walking despite the collision, until Mr. Enfield and members of the girl's family, stopped him. The man seemed unsympathetic, so the family and Mr. Enfield suggest he pay a sum of money to make amends for his wrong doing. The man agrees, takes them to the door in question, and returns with some cash and a check for the sum. The man, whose name Mr. Enfield recognizes, agrees to remain with the group until the bank cashes the check.

Chapter 2

Search for Mr. Hyde

Mr. Utterson returns to his office and takes out a will written by his good friend, Dr. Jekyll, and sees that the name of the man to whom Dr. Jekyll has left all his money and worldly goods is the same as the stranger Mr. Enfield met on that fateful night, Mr. Edward Hyde. Mr. Utterson is deeply concerned about this will because he is afraid that someone is trying to take advantage of his friend. For this reason, Mr. Utterson begins spending a great deal of time not far from the door in question in hopes of running into Mr. Hyde and assessing his character. At the same time, Mr. Utterson also visits another friend of his and Dr. Jekyll's, Dr. Lanyon. Dr. Lanyon informs Mr. Utterson that he has had a falling out with Dr. Jekyll over a difference in opinions about a scientific point. Dr. Lanyon has never heard of Mr. Hyde.

One day, Mr. Utterson finally meets Mr. Hyde, catching him as he returns to his home late one night. Mr. Utterson is left with an uneasy feeling. There is something unnatural about Mr. Hyde that leaves Mr. Utterson with the impression that he is deformed in some way even though there is nothing visibly wrong with him. After Mr. Hyde goes inside, Mr. Utterson walks around the building and discovers that it is actually the home and laboratory of his friend, Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Utterson speaks to Poole, Dr. Jekyll's butler, and learns that Mr. Hyde has been given full proprietary rights to the home. At this point, Mr. Utterson's fears for Dr. Jekyll grow as he worries that Mr. Hyde might be the product of an indiscretion that Dr. Jekyll feels he must care for.



Analysis

Mr. Utterson is a lawyer whose client is a good friend of his from youth, Dr. Jekyll. This client has made a single person his heir, a person Mr. Utterson has never met. When Mr. Utterson inquires about this man to his kinsman, another friend, and Dr. Jekyll's butler, he learns the man is unkind and that there is something basically wrong with him. No one can really say what is wrong with this man, but something that makes everyone who meets him uncomfortable. For this reason, Mr. Utterson becomes more deeply concerned about Dr. Jekyll. For this reason, he seeks out this potential heir and also finds him odd. Mr. Utterson's concern only grows.

The reader is introduced to the plot of this novel through Mr. Utterson. Mr. Utterson is a kind man, a man who is clearly concerned about the welfare of those around him. This is especially true when it comes to his good friends, including Dr. Jekyll. As Mr. Utterson investigates the intended heir of Dr. Jekyll's will, he finds a man who is odd, a man who has some basic deformity that no one can really put their finger on. Mr. Utterson, based on his investigation and common social structures of the time period, comes to the conclusion that Mr. Hyde, the intended heir, is a child Dr. Jekyll fathered in a moment of weakness and feels now he must care for. This is a common conclusion for the time period, but it only makes Mr. Utterson more concerned due to the fact that the young man could be lying about his paternity and taking advantage of a wealthy, older bachelor.

Discussion Question 1

Who is Dr. Jekyll? How does Mr. Utterson know him? Why is Mr. Utterson concerned about Mr. Jekyll's handwritten will?

Discussion Question 2

What is important about the story Mr. Utterson's kinsman tells him? What does this story suggest about Mr. Hyde? Why does this concern Mr. Utterson?

Discussion Question 3

What is the nature of Dr. Lanyon's relationship with Dr. Jekyll? Why have they had a falling out? What does this suggest about Dr. Jekyll's recent change in behavior?

Vocabulary

Transparency, clauses, continue, secrets, conceive, memory, punishment, misgive, avoided, indeed, menace, polished, pleasant, architects, enterprises, obscure,



engravers, decayed, comfortable, furnished, admitting, signature, perplexed, unknown, timidity, murderous.



Chapters 3-4

Summary

Chapter 3

Dr. Jekyll was Quite at Ease

A few weeks later, Dr. Jekyll invites Mr. Utterson to a dinner party. After the party, Dr. Jekyll asks Mr. Utterson to stay. They talk about the will. Dr. Jekyll tries to ease Mr. Utterson's mind by telling him that he understands his concerns, but they are unfounded. Dr. Jekyll tells Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is an important part of his life. He goes on to say that he is not being taken advantage of by Mr. Hyde. In fact, Dr. Jekyll suggests that he is trying to rid himself of Mr. Hyde, but in the meantime would like understanding from Mr. Utterson.

Chapter 4

The Carew Murder Case

A year later, there is a murder in London. An eyewitness sees Mr. Hyde walking in the street. He begins to pass another man, and the other man says something to Mr. Hyde. They speak for a moment. Then, Mr. Hyde becomes enraged and viciously beats the other man to death with a cane that breaks in the process of the murder. Later, the police come to Mr. Utterson because the man who was murdered was his client, Sir Danvers Carew. Mr. Utterson goes with the police to the home of Mr. Hyde where they discover the other half of the cane. They also find a burned bank book. The police see this as a good thing because they hope to catch Mr. Hyde when he goes to the bank to withdraw cash.

Analysis

Mr. Utterson speaks to Dr. Jekyll at a dinner party. Dr. Jekyll tries to convince Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is an important part of his life and basically harmless. Mr. Utterson wants to believe his friend, but he continues to worry that Mr. Hyde is taking advantage of Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Utterson's fears seem to be confirmed when he receives a visit from the police telling him that Mr. Hyde has committed a murder. There is a witness who saw Mr. Hyde beat a man to death in the street for no apparent reason. This seems to prove that there is something amiss in Mr. Hyde's personality and suggests that he is, indeed, taking advantage of Dr. Jekyll.



Discussion Question 1

Why does Mr. Utterson express concern over Mr. Hyde to Dr. Jekyll? How does Dr. Jekyll respond to this information? How does Dr. Jekyll convince Mr. Utterson to stop investigating and to leave things alone?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Sir Carew? How does he die? Who witnesses this death? Why is this significant to the plot?

Discussion Question 3

Why do the police come to Mr. Utterson in the aftermath of Sir Carew's death? Why does Mr. Utterson go to Mr. Hyde's home? What is found there?

Vocabulary

Observers, beholders, servant, resisted, clinched, murderer, gratification, disinterred, elegant, napery, character, observed, popular, inspector, exchanged, smoothed, manners, excellent, hypocrisy, quarter, sterling, conscious, extinguished, passengers, blackguardly, surroundings, nationalities.



Chapters 5-6

Summary

Chapter 5

Incident of the Letter

Mr. Utterson goes to Dr. Jekyll's home in the aftermath of Sir Carew's death. Mr. Utterson asks Dr. Jekyll if he knows the whereabouts of Mr. Hyde. Dr. Jekyll assures Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is gone and will never be heard from again. To support his opinion, Dr. Jekyll shows Mr. Utterson a letter from Mr. Hyde announcing that he is leaving the area to protect Dr. Jekyll's reputation. Mr. Utterson is relieved to see that Dr. Jekyll is well and apparently safe. However, he is curious about the lack of an envelope or a messenger in regard to the letter. Later, Mr. Utterson shows Hyde's letter and an invitation from Dr. Jekyll to his clerk and is not very surprised when the clerk suggests both were written by one man.

Chapter 6

Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon

For several months after the murder of Sir Carew, Dr. Jekyll returns to his more sociable behavior, throwing and going to many parties. However, he soon returns to his anti-social behavior, causing Mr. Utterson to be concerned once more. After being turned away from Dr. Jekyll's door several times in a row, Mr. Utterson goes to see their mutual friend, Dr. Lanyon. Dr. Lanyon is clearly ill and dying. Mr. Utterson quickly writes to Dr. Jekyll, but his response leaves Mr. Utterson worried for his friend's sanity. When Dr. Lanyon dies, a letter is delivered to Mr. Utterson from Dr. Lanyon, but the instructions on the envelope tell him not to read it until the death or disappearance of Dr. Jekyll.

Analysis

In the aftermath of Mr. Hyde's death, Mr. Utterson is even more concerned for Dr. Jekyll. It has always been Mr. Utterson's concern that Mr. Hyde might kill Dr. Jekyll in order to receive his inheritance that much sooner. Therefore, the death of Sir Carew leaves Mr. Utterson convinced that Dr. Jekyll's life is in ever closer peril. However, Dr. Jekyll assures Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde has left town, going so far as to prove it by showing him a letter written by Mr. Hyde. However, there seems to be an overwhelming amount of evidence to suggest the letter was written by Dr. Jekyll himself. This leaves Mr. Utterson and the reader wondering why Dr. Jekyll would go to such lengths to protect a murderer.

Dr. Lanyon suddenly becomes ill and dies after a shock that somehow involves Dr. Jekyll. This comes after a long period in which Dr. Jekyll has come out of seclusion and



spent time with his friends again. Dr. Lanyon will not tell Mr. Utterson what has happened. Yet, before Dr. Lanyon dies, he sends a letter to Mr. Utterson. He instructs Mr. Utterson to only open the letter upon the death or disappearance of Dr. Jekyll. This seems to prove that Dr. Lanyon's death is somehow related to Dr. Jekyll and, perhaps, Mr. Hyde.

Discussion Question 1

What has Mr. Hyde written in his letter to Dr. Jekyll after the murder of Sir Carew? What does this suggest about Mr. Hyde's feelings toward Dr. Jekyll? What does it suggest about the two men's relationship?

Discussion Question 2

Why does Mr. Utterson question Mr. Hyde's letter? What does he think of the letter? Who suggests that Dr. Jekyll wrote both letters? What might this mean?

Discussion Question 3

How does Dr. Lanyon die? How does Dr. Jekyll respond to this death? What does Dr. Lanyon send to Mr. Utterson upon his death? What does it suggest to the reader?

Vocabulary

Laboratory, preferred, denied, admittance, eagerness, society, doubted, unvarying, obligations, stringent, prohibition, curiosity, disappearance, bracketed, predeceased, funeral, affected, madness, unprepared, disloyalty, emphatically.



Chapters 7-8

Summary

Chapter 7

Incident at the Window

Mr. Utterson is walking once more with his kinsman, Mr. Enfield. They pass the door that Mr. Utterson once thought belonged to Mr. Hyde. However, he now knows that it is the back door to Dr. Jekyll's lab, Dr. Jekyll himself appears. Mr. Utterson calls out to him and tries to get him to join them, but Dr. Jekyll insists he is ill and would rather stay inside. Suddenly Dr. Jekyll shuts the window through which he was speaking to them, but it is not before both Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield see something shocking.

Chapter 8

The Last Night

Poole comes to Mr. Utterson and tells him that something is wrong with Dr. Jekyll. Poole insists that Mr. Utterson go with him to Dr. Jekyll's home. As they arrive, Poole describes how Dr. Jekyll has been hiding in his lab for a week, hardly eating and never coming out. Almost daily, Dr. Jekyll demands that the servants go to various chemists and ask for the same chemical over and over. When they reach the home, Poole knocks on the lab door and tells Dr. Jekyll that Mr. Utterson is there. When Dr. Jekyll responds, Poole insists the voice is not that of Dr. Jekyll, but of Mr. Hyde. Poole insists that Dr. Jekyll has been killed or injured by Mr. Hyde. For this reason, Poole and Mr. Utterson break down the door. When they gain entrance, they find Mr. Hyde dead on the floor from an apparent suicide. They search for Dr. Jekyll's body, but cannot find it anywhere. Poole suggests that Mr. Hyde took it out the back and hid it, but the key for the back door has been damaged. Mr. Utterson searches for a will and finds one along with a letter to himself and a packet that Dr. Jekyll wanted him to read upon his death or disappearance. Mr. Utterson decides to take these back to his office so that he might read Dr. Lanyon's letter as well.

Analysis

Mr. Utterson and his kinsman, Mr. Enfield, are once again walking when they come across Dr. Jekyll in his laboratory. As they stop to speak, they witness something disturbing. The author does not describe the sight to the reader, but the reader is left thinking that perhaps something terrible is going on with Dr. Jekyll that might have something to do with his odd behavior over the past few weeks.

Mr. Utterson is then visited by Poole, Dr. Jekyll's butler, who talks about Dr. Jekyll's increasingly odd behavior. Mr. Utterson is so concerned that he encourages the butler to



help him break down the door. They find Dr. Jekyll missing and Mr. Hyde dead on the floor. Left for Mr. Utterson are a new will, leaving Mr. Utterson as the sole heir of Dr. Jekyll's estate, a letter from Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Utterson, and a package that contains a story Dr. Jekyll thought it was important for Mr. Utterson to hear. Mr. Utterson decides not to call the police until he can read all these letters, including the letter from Dr. Lanyon. The reader must wonder what story there might be to explain all these odd events and the missing key to the puzzle, Dr. Jekyll himself.

Discussion Question 1

Where does the mystery door of Mr. Hyde's lead? How does the reader learn about this? Why is this significant?

Discussion Question 2

Who tells Mr. Utterson of Dr. Jekyll's latest odd behaviors? What might these behaviors suggest about Dr. Jekyll?

Discussion Question 3

Who is found dead in Dr. Jekyll's lab by Mr. Utterson and Poole? How has he died? When? What does this suggest about Dr. Jekyll?

Vocabulary

Narrative, documents, confession, situation, circumstances, penetration, enclosure, catastrophe, suicide, destroyed, possession, eccentric, testament, amazement, indescribable, tones, conquering, weakness, stranger, repetitions, presses, countenances, annotated, blasphemies, pious, esteem.



Chapters 9-10

Summary

Chapter 9

Dr. Lanyon's Narrative

Mr. Utterson returns to his office and opens the letter from Dr. Lanyon. The letter describes how Dr. Lanyon received a letter from Dr. Jekyll asking him to go to his lab and retrieve a box. Dr. Lanyon was then asked to take this box back to his home where a representative of Dr. Jekyll's would come for it in a few days. Dr. Lanyon did this, only to find that the representative was Mr. Hyde. Mr. Hyde went directly to the box and prepared a solution out of the ingredients in the box. When Mr. Hyde drank this preparation, he suddenly transformed into Dr. Jekyll. This was the shock that led to Dr. Lanyon's death.

Chapter 10

Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

In the packet Poole gave to Mr. Utterson, he finds Dr. Jekyll's story. The story tells Mr. Utterson how Dr. Jekyll was always interested in the dual aspects of the human personality. For this reason, he decided to find a way to separate these two sides of his own personality. To do this, he worked with various chemicals until he found one that worked. Upon finding the right combination, he was surprised to discover that when his own duality was separated, he transformed into a man who was younger and smaller than himself, Mr. Hyde.

Dr. Jekyll found that he liked being Mr. Hyde as Mr. Hyde had fewer inhibitions. For this reason, he set up a household and a bank account in Mr. Hyde's name so that he could go out in the city without raising too many questions. However, after Sir Carew's death, Dr. Jekyll realized that Mr. Hyde was pure evil, leaving Dr. Jekyll with both the good and evil aspects of his own personality. For this reason, Dr. Jekyll made the choice to stop taking the elixir that would bring Mr. Hyde out. However, somehow he began transforming into Mr. Hyde without taking the elixir. Dr. Jekyll ran out of the ingredients for the elixir. When he bought more ingredients, he discovered that the salt he used had been tainted with an unknown substance that made it work. So, he cannot recreate the elixir which means that he cannot stop Mr. Hyde from appearing. He cannot make him disappear either. For these reasons, Dr. Jekyll killed himself when Mr. Utterson and Poole broke into his lab.



Analysis

Mr. Utterson has had in his possession a letter from Dr. Lanyon since the former's death. This letter tells Mr. Utterson to open it upon Dr. Jekyll's death or disappearance. Since it appears that Dr. Jekyll has disappeared, Mr. Utterson finally opens it to learn that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are the same person. This gives Mr. Utterson testimony from a semi-partial party that will help Mr. Utterson believe some of the things he learns from the papers left to him by Dr. Jekyll.

After Dr. Lanyon's letter, Mr. Utterson learns about Dr. Jekyll's experiments and how those experiments led to the creation of Mr. Hyde. Mr. Utterson then learns how the appearance of Mr. Hyde impacted Dr. Jekyll's life, explaining some of the oddities in behavior Mr. Utterson had previously noticed, as well as some of Mr. Hyde's behaviors. Finally, Mr. Utterson has the whole story. He can now understand Dr. Jekyll's actions. However, this does little to bring Dr. Jekyll back. Mr. Utterson finds himself left alone, with the deaths of his two good friends and a strange story that he might have trouble making anyone else believe.

Discussion Question 1

What does Mr. Utterson learn was the shock that led to Dr. Lanyon's death? Why was this such a shock? Who caused it?

Discussion Question 2

Who is Mr. Hyde? Who created him? For what purpose? How did this creation get out of control?

Discussion Question 3

Why did Mr. Hyde commit suicide as Mr. Utterson and Poole broke into the lab? How does Mr. Utterson learn his true motives? What does this suggest about Dr. Jekyll?

Vocabulary

Personality, confession, selfishness, wonderful, throes, influence, miracle, ransacked, efficiency, ebullition, experiment, awfully, punishment, calamity, provision, renewed, fallen, callousness, habit, ruined, continually, dislike, portrait, gallows, temporary, insurgent, horror, usurp, amorphous, gesticulated.



Characters

Mr. Utterson

Mr. Utterson is a lawyer working in London. Mr. Utterson is good friends with a doctor named Dr. Jekyll. When Dr. Jekyll writes his own will, leaving all his belongings and money to a Mr. Hyde, Mr. Utterson becomes concerned. Mr. Utterson begins a small investigation into Mr. Hyde, trying to find out who he is and why Dr. Jekyll feels obliged to provide for him. Mr. Utterson meets Mr. Hyde and hears stories about him, all leading him to think that he might harm Dr. Jekyll in order to get his inheritance early.

Mr. Utterson tries to talk Dr. Jekyll into changing his will again, but fails. Eventually Dr. Jekyll convinces Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is harmless. When Mr. Hyde commits murder, however, Mr. Utterson again tries to convince his friend to change his will. Dr. Jekyll assures Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is gone, and he has changed the will. However, Mr. Hyde shows up again, and Dr. Jekyll's butler becomes afraid he has killed Dr. Jekyll. In the end, however, Mr. Utterson learns that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde were one in the same.

Dr. Jekyll

Dr. Jekyll is a researcher who deals mostly with chemicals. Dr. Jekyll has always been curious about the dual nature of man, especially his own dual nature. In an attempt to take the darkness from his own soul, he used chemicals to create an elixir that would separate the two sides of his nature. This causes Dr. Jekyll to separate into Mr. Hyde each time he drinks the elixir, but he is stuck with both sides of his nature when the elixir wears off.

After learning of Mr. Hyde's evil nature, Dr. Jekyll decides to end the experiment. However, Dr. Jekyll has had several episodes where he turns into Mr. Hyde without the elixir. Dr. Jekyll has also discovered that one of the key ingredients of his elixir was tainted. This unknown substance was what caused the transformation. Without the mystery ingredient, Dr. Jekyll cannot recreate his elixir or control Mr. Hyde's appearance. For this reason, Dr. Jekyll kills himself when he realizes his time has run out in finding a way to control Mr. Hyde.

Mr. Hyde

Mr. Hyde is a small, compact man who is decades younger than Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Hyde seems intelligent, but there is something about him that leaves people feeling as though he has some deformity that is not obvious. Mr. Hyde also has an evil streak, as evidenced by his act of running down a girl in the streets of London and later by his murder of Sir Carew. The reader learns in the final chapter of the novel that Mr. Hyde is the dark half of Dr. Jekyll's dual nature.



Dr. Lanyon

Dr. Lanyon is another old school friend of Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll. Dr. Lanyon and Dr. Jekyll had a falling out over a difference of scientific opinion, but they later became friends again. It soon becomes clear as the novel progresses that Mr. Utterson and Dr. Lanyon are truly Dr. Jekyll's closest friends. Both are deeply concerned for Dr. Jekyll. Then Dr. Lanyon becomes ill for unknown reasons. After his death, he leaves a mysterious letter to Mr. Utterson. This letter reveals, after Dr. Jekyll's disappearance, that Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde are the same person. Dr. Jekyll has created an elixir that somehow changes him into Mr. Hyde then back to himself. The shock of seeing this transformation caused Dr. Lanyon's death.

Mr. Enfield

Mr. Enfield is a kinsman of Mr. Utterson. Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield go for a walk in their London neighborhood every week. On their walk, they often pass the door of Mr. Hyde. Mr. Utterson, who is concerned about Mr. Hyde's intentions for Dr. Jekyll, asks Mr. Enfield about him and learns of an incident when Mr. Hyde ran over a young child in his rush to get home one night and was forced to pay a sum to the family. Later, Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield see Dr. Jekyll in the window of this home and are shocked to see something unusual happen to Dr. Jekyll.

Poole

Poole is Dr. Jekyll's butler. Poole is very loyal to Dr. Jekyll. For this reason, he obeys the orders given to him to allow Mr. Hyde full run of the house. However, when Dr. Jekyll begins to act oddly after the death of Sir Carew, Poole begins to fear for the life of his boss. Poole goes to Mr. Utterson when Dr. Jekyll locks himself in his lab for over a week and refuses to come. With Poole's help, Mr. Utterson bursts down the door of the lab to find Mr. Hyde dying on the floor and Dr. Jekyll missing.

Sir Carew

Sir Carew is a client of Mr. Utterson. One night, while walking in the streets of London, Sir Carew is beaten to death by Mr. Hyde. The murder is quite shocking, and it causes a great deal of public fear in London. This death also confirms for Mr. Utterson that Mr. Hyde is dangerous and could pose a threat to his friend, Dr. Jekyll.

Mr. Guest

Mr. Guest is Mr. Utterson's clerk. After the murder of Sir Carew by Mr. Hyde, Dr. Jekyll gives Mr. Utterson a letter that Mr. Hyde wrote to apologize to Dr. Jekyll and to suggest he has left the area never to return. Later, Mr. Utterson gives this letter to Mr. Guest



along with a dinner invitation from Dr. Jekyll. Mr. Guest examines the two letters and suggests that they were written by the same hand. This gives Mr. Utterson and the reader reason to think that Dr. Jekyll is helping Mr. Hyde.

Maid

A maid is walking in the street late one night and she witnesses two gentlemen walking toward each other on the opposite side of the street. The maid watches as the two men approach one another. One man speaks to the other. The other becomes enraged and begins to beat the other gentlemen with both his walking cane and his hands and feet. The maid faints as the beating becomes severe. It is clear that the victim is dead. This testimony is quickly given to the police, causing them to suspect Mr. Hyde of the murder.

Child in the Street

Mr. Enfield witnessed a scene in which a child was walking in the street. The child was passing a small, bulky man, who for unknown reasons, ran the child over. The child was moderately injured, leaving her family quite angry over the situation. The man was then forced to pay the family money in order to make up for his actions. This is the first violent incident associated with Mr. Hyde of which the reader becomes aware.



Symbols and Symbolism

Mr. Hyde's Cane

When Mr. Hyde kills Sir Carew, he beats him with a cane that breaks into two pieces. Half of the cane is left behind at the scene. The other half is at Mr. Hyde's home.

Key

When Mr. Utterson and Poole search the lab for Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Utterson finds the key for the back door broken on the floor, as though someone stomped it.

Chemical

There is a salt like chemical that Dr. Jekyll used in his original elixir that was tainted. This taint proves to have been the element that made the elixir work, but Dr. Jekyll does not know the name of the the unknown element. So, he cannot repeat his success.

Back Door

Mr. Hyde is often seen coming and going from a specific door. This door is later shown to be the back door of Dr. Jekyll's laboratory.

Bank Book

When police search Mr. Hyde's home, they find a partially burned bank book in the fireplace. This gives them hope that they might find Mr. Hyde at the bank when he tries to withdraw some cash.

Home Decor

When Mr. Utterson sees Mr. Hyde's house for the first time, he recognizes some things that make him think Dr. Jekyll decorated, or had a hand in helping to decorate, the home.

Dr. Lanyon's Letter

After Dr. Lanyon's death, Mr. Utterson receives a letter from him that tells him not to read it until Dr. Jekyll dies or disappears.



Mr. Hyde's Letter

After the death of Sir Carew, Dr. Jekyll shows Mr. Utterson a letter from Mr. Hyde that explains that he has decided to leave the area to protect Dr. Jekyll's reputation.

Dr. Jekyll's Story

Dr. Jekyll leaves his story behind in a packet for Mr. Utterson after he disappears. This story tells Mr. Utterson about Mr. Hyde's origins and why Dr. Jekyll will never be found again.

Dr. Jekyll's Will

Mr. Utterson has received a will written by his friend and client, Dr. Jekyll. The will leaves all of Dr. Jekyll's possessions and money to a man called Mr. Hyde. This leaves Mr. Utterson fearful for Dr. Jekyll's life.



Settings

London in 1800s

The novel takes place in London. As the novel begins, Mr. Utterson and his kinsman, Mr. Enfield, are walking in the streets of London near where Mr. Utterson's office is. This leads to a discussion of a specific door they pass. This door appears to belong to Mr. Hyde, a strange man who was involved in an incident in which a little girl was injured and Mr. Enfield observed. The reader later learns that this door is the back door to Dr. Jekyll's laboratory.

Mr. Utterson's Office

Mr. Utterson spends a great deal of time in his office. This office is a typical lawyer's office of the time period and includes a space where his clerk, Mr. Guest, works.

Dr. Lanyon's Home

Mr. Utterson visits Dr. Lanyon's home on several occasions in the plot of this novel. The first time is to gain information on Mr. Hyde. Later at the home, they discuss Dr. Jekyll and his recent odd behavior.

Dr. Jekyll's Home

Dr. Jekyll lives in a home that includes a full laboratory with an operating theater. This laboratory is where Mr. Hyde is often seen entering from the street. It is also here that Mr. Utterson breaks in and finds Mr. Hyde recently dead from suicide and Dr. Jekyll missing.



Themes and Motifs

Friendship

Friendship is one of the main themes of the novel. Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll have been friends since school. Mr. Utterson is deeply concerned when Dr. Jekyll writes his own will and leaves all his belongings and money to a stranger. For this reason, Mr. Utterson begins investigating Dr. Jekyll's heir, which causes Dr. Jekyll to insist that Mr. Hyde is an innocent who has no ill will toward Dr. Jekyll.

As the novel progresses, Mr. Utterson continues to worry for Dr. Jekyll. Dr. Jekyll's odd behavior, such as locking himself away for weeks at a time, refusing to see friends, and asking his servants to repeatedly go to a chemist to ask for samples of the same chemical over and over again increase Mr. Utterson's concern. If not for Mr. Utterson's concerns over his good friend, Dr. Jekyll's story might never have been told.

Another aspect to the friendship theme in this novel is the appearance of Dr. Lanyon. Dr. Lanyon is another friend of Mr. Utterson and Dr. Jekyll. Dr. Lanyon has had a falling out with Dr. Jekyll when the novel begins, but soon overcomes these differences to be a witness to Dr. Jekyll's attempt to extract himself from Mr. Hyde and his failure to do so. Dr. Lanyon also gives Mr. Utterson an important part of the story that without he might not have truly understood the magnitude, or the truth, of Dr. Jekyll's story. For this reason, friendship is an important theme of the novel.

Good versus Evil

Good versus evil is a theme of this novel in the sense that Dr. Jekyll's obsession with the duality of man's nature was about the combination of good and evil that exists in all man's natures. Dr. Jekyll recognized the duality of his own personality and wanted to find a way to separate those qualities into two separate pieces. When he did this, he created Mr. Hyde, the embodiment of his own evil nature.

As Dr. Jekyll's experiment begins to show success, he finds himself drawn to Mr. Hyde. The freedom from inhibitions that Dr. Jekyll feels when he is Mr. Hyde is exhilarating. It leaves Dr. Jekyll feeling as though he can do almost anything. However, when Mr. Hyde commits murder, Dr. Jekyll begins to recognize the downside to having an uninhibited personality. Dr. Jekyll tries to stop transforming into Mr. Hyde, but finds himself drawn to him.

In the end, Mr. Hyde commits suicide. Dr. Jekyll has transformed into Mr. Hyde and cannot recreate the elixir that allows him to change back. For this reason, Dr. Jekyll has decided to kill himself, and Mr. Hyde, in order to protect the world from evil. At the same time, Dr. Jekyll leaves behind his story and admits that he was disappointed in the fact that he was never really able to divide the two natures of his own personality, he was



only able to extract one part of it. This seems to suggest to the reader that evil cannot exist without good, just as good cannot exist without evil.

Repression

This novel is set in Victorian England. The nature of this time period was one of certain standards among the members of society, especially the educated and wealthy. Dr. Jekyll grew up in a world where he was not supposed to indulge in behaviors that were regarded as improper, such as public displays of affection, nudity, and displays of violence. Dr. Jekyll was deeply bothered by the side of his personality that wanted to witness these things.

Dr. Jekyll manages to separate one part of his dual nature to create his alter ego, Mr. Hyde. Dr. Jekyll enjoys the freedom from repression that Mr. Hyde represents. However, Mr. Hyde is pure evil, a man who cannot control his violent side, as witnessed by his murder of Sir Carew. For this reason, Dr. Jekyll becomes spooked and decides to stop transforming into Mr. Hyde. However, the call of that freedom, the desire to indulge in some of the behaviors that Mr. Hyde allows himself to enjoy, becomes too much and Dr. Jekyll finds himself struggling to not drink the elixir that will bring Mr. Hyde out.

Repression is an important theme of this novel because it not only illustrates the nature of the time period in which Dr. Jekyll lives, but it also illustrates the repression Dr. Jekyll lives with before he separates his dual nature, and the repression necessary after he realizes that allow free reign to his more evil side is an unwise move. Dr. Jekyll has lived his whole life trying not to indulge in the behaviors that Mr. Hyde sees as his only desire. This makes Mr. Hyde desirable for Dr. Jekyll even after Mr. Hyde commits a murder that makes it doubly dangerous for Dr. Jekyll to transform into Mr. Hyde. For this reason, repression is an important theme of the novel.



Styles

Point of View

The novel is written in the third person point of view. The author tells his story from Mr. Utterson's point of view, describing Mr. Utterson's concern for Dr. Jekyll and showing his search for Mr. Hyde in his attempt to figure out why Dr. Jekyll would want to leave all his worldly goods to some unknown person. The reader also follows along with Mr. Utterson as he finds out the truth of Dr. Jekyll's actions.

The point of view of this novel is typical of fiction written in this time period. The authors of this time often took something of a backseat to their own story, showing the story not through the eyes of the people directly involved, but through the eyes of someone on the outside of the story. By doing this, the author removes some of the emotion from the plot, but he adds a mystery to the plot that might not be there otherwise. The point of view of this novel works well with the authors intentions.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is a sophisticated English that reflects the time period in which it was written and the plot in which it is set. The language also reflects the education level of the main characters who are all professional, educated people. Although sophisticated, the language is not complicated. It is a language that even the youngest readers can comprehend with some patience.

The language of this novel works with the plot because it is authentic not only to the characters and the plot, but to the setting. The author uses a language that is both practical and flowing, a language that is sometimes used simply for its beauty. The author tells a strong story with his simple, yet sophisticated, language that leaves the reader thinking about the themes of the novel rather than struggling with a language that was too difficult to understand or too simplistic to give life to the story.

Structure

The novel is told in ten chapters. Each chapter is given a title that describes something that takes place within the chapter. The chapters are fairly short, each less than a dozen pages each. The story is told mostly in narrative, with some examples of dialogue.

The novel has one main plot. The main plot follows Mr. Utterson as he finds himself wrapped in the mystery of Mr. Hyde. Mr. Utterson is concerned that Mr. Hyde is taking advantage of his friend, Dr. Jekyll, and might actually take Dr. Jekyll's life. For this reason, Mr. Utterson spends the majority of the novel trying to figure out how to stop Dr. Jekyll from being involved with Mr. Hyde. The plot comes to a satisfying conclusion at the end of the novel.



Quotes

It is the mark of a modest man to accept his friendly circle ready-made from the hands of opportunity; and that was the lawyer's way.

-- Narrator (Chapter 1 paragraph 3)

Importance: This quote describes the way in which Mr. Utterson makes friends and keeps them. Friendship is an important theme of the novel.

There is something wrong with his appearance; something displeasing, something downright detestable. I never saw a man I so disliked, and yet I scarce know why.

-- Mr. Enfield (Chapter 1 paragraph 11)

Importance: This quote relates Mr. Enfield's impression of Mr. Hyde. It is a description that is often repeated in regard to Mr. Hyde.

It offended him both as a lawyer and as a lover of the sane and customary sides of life, to whom the fanciful was the immodest.

-- Mr. Utterson (Chapter 2 paragraph 2)

Importance: This quote is in regard to Mr. Utterson's opinion of Dr. Jekyll's will that benefits Mr. Hyde. This quote also illustrates to a certain degree the repression of society in the setting of this novel.

God bless me, the man seems hardly human! Something troglodytic, shall we say? or can it be the old story of Dr. Fell? or is it the mere radiance of a foul soul that thus transpires through, and transfigures, its clay continent?

-- Mr. Utterson (Chapter 2 paragraph 39)

Importance: This is Mr. Utterson's opinion of Mr. Hyde upon their first meeting. This quote also seems to illustrate the unnatural nature of Mr. Hyde.

I only ask for justice; I only ask you to help him for my sake, when I am no longer here.

-- Dr. Jekyll (Chapter 3 paragraph 13)

Importance: This is Dr. Jekyll's argument to Mr. Utterson on behalf of his decision to leave all his worldly possessions to Mr. Hyde.

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.

-- Mr. Utterson (Chapter 4 paragraph 1)

Importance: This is the description of Mr. Hyde's murder of Sir Carew. This is a significant moment in the novel that seems to underscore all Mr. Utterson has feared in Mr. Hyde.



Well, sir,' returned the clerk, 'there's a rather singular resemblance; the two hands are in many points identical: only differently sloped.

-- Mr. Guest (Chapter 5 paragraph 32)

Importance: This is Mr. Guest's suggestion that Dr. Jekyll wrote the letter that Mr. Hyde supposedly sent announcing his decision to leave town after the murder of Sir Carew.

A week afterwards Dr. Lanyon took to his bed, and in something less than a fortnight he was dead.

-- Narrator (Chapter 6 paragraph 12)

Importance: This quote illustrates how quickly Dr. Lanyon died after the shock of seeing Mr. Hyde transform into Dr. Jekyll.

But the words were hardly uttered, before the smile was struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below. They saw it but for a glimpse, for the window was instantly thrust down; but that glimpse had been sufficient, and they turned and left the court without a word.

-- Narrator (Chapter 7 paragraph 12)

Importance: This describes what Mr. Utterson and Mr. Enfield saw while talking with Dr. Jekyll through the window of his lab. This suggests that the men witnessed Dr. Jekyll's transformation into Mr. Hyde.

No, sir; master's made away with; he was made away with eight days ago, when we heard him cry out upon the name of God; and who's in there instead of him, and why it stays there, is a thing that cries to Heaven, Mr. Utterson!

-- Poole (Chapter 8 paragraph 30)

Importance: This is Poole's description of what has been happening in Dr. Jekyll's laboratory for a week.

A cry followed; he reeled, staggered, clutched at the table and held on, staring with injected eyes, gasping with open mouth; and as I looked there came, I thought, a change--he seemed to swell--his face became suddenly black and the features seemed to melt and alter--and the next moment, I had sprung to my feet and leaped back against the wall, my arm raised to shield me from that prodigy, my mind submerged in terror.

-- Dr. Lanyon (Chapter 9 paragraph 29)

Importance: This is Dr. Lanyon's description of witnessing Mr. Hyde transform into Dr. Jekyll, the event that he attributed to the cause of his death.

The pleasures which I made haste to seek in my disguise were, as I have said, undignified; I would scarce use a harder term. But in the hands of Edward Hyde, they soon began to turn toward the monstrous.



-- Dr. Jekyll (Chapter 10 paragraph 11)

Importance: This is part of Dr. Jekyll's description of what he took from his experiment with Mr. Hyde. It relates his fear of Mr. Hyde's actions.