

Individual Learning Packet

Teaching Unit

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

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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Objectives

By the end of this Unit, the student will be able to:

1. identify the following literary devices:
 - metaphor
 - simile
 - allusion
2. recognize the differences between third and first person narrative and identify when the point of view changes in the story; discuss how the change enhances the believability of the story.
3. discuss how the main conflict in the story, man's struggle with himself, is central to the overall theme of the novel—the presence of and struggle between good and evil in the human soul.
4. find examples in the book to support the following themes:
 - human ugliness originates in the soul
 - people who succumb to the temptations of evil risk losing their capacity for good
 - people who suppress their natural desires risk having them surface out of control.
5. point out the dual roles of the protagonist/antagonist in this novel.
6. discuss how the author's use of allusion to the Biblical story of Cain and Abel may be an example of foreshadowing.
7. write a character sketch for Mr. Utterson. Point out why, despite his attention to details, he often draws the incorrect conclusion from the facts.
8. contrast the views of Dr. Jekyll and Dr. Lanyon, pointing out the ways in which they view the science of medicine differently. In addition, point out how both respond to their initial confrontation with evil.
9. comment on the three levels on which this book may exist:
 - a mystery story in which the mystery is gradually revealed
 - a morality tale about the struggle between good and evil in the human soul
 - a psychological tale in which Jekyll's potion is not a physical entity. Instead, the potion symbolizes man's inclination to dabble in evil and the subsequent results this dabbling has on his body and mind.

Questions for Essay and Discussion

1. Write a character sketch of Mr. Utterson. What qualities does he possess that make him a good friend?
2. Use events from the story to prove the following statement: Evil grows stronger as it is exercised.
3. List the ways Dr. Jekyll tries to control Mr. Hyde. Are any of them successful?
4. What scientific argument does Dr. Jekyll have with Dr. Lanyon? Why do you think Dr. Lanyon dies after witnessing Mr. Hyde's transformation into Dr. Jekyll? Is his death believable?
5. How does the death of Sir Danvers Carew and the subsequent changes Dr. Jekyll makes in his life support the following two themes?
 - People who succumb to the temptations of evil risk losing their capacity for good.
 - People who suppress their natural desires risk having them surface out of control .
6. List three mistakes Dr. Jekyll makes that directly lead to his downfall. What do you think he could have done differently to avoid dying and still rid the world of Mr. Hyde?
7. Throughout most of the novel, the other characters are ignorant of Mr. Hyde's connection to Dr. Jekyll. Write a character sketch of Dr. Jekyll as the other characters see him.
8. Write a description of Mr. Hyde and relate it to the idea that human ugliness originates in the soul.
9. As in any good mystery, clues are given to help the reader solve the mystery before it is finally revealed. What clues does the author give you to solve this mystery?
10. If this is a morality tale about the struggle between good and evil in the human soul, who won and who lost? (Remember the body in the lab is Hyde's, not Jekyll's.)
11. If this is viewed as a psychological tale, what is it that affects Jekyll and in what way does it affect him?
12. Discuss how the author appears to view the nature of good and evil in the human soul. Point out why we know he is not simply thinking of a duality in which the soul is fifty percent good and fifty percent evil.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

All references come from the Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Press edition of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, published 2005.

Chapter One - Story of the Door

VOCABULARY

- austere** – strict
- catholicity** – liberality
- coquetry** – the act of flirting
- eminently** – prominently or being noteworthy
- emulously** – characterized by a desire for equaling or surpassing
- florid** – gaudy, showy
- harpies** – mythological creatures with the head of a woman and body of bird that carried off the souls of the dead
- pedantically** – being particular about trivial points
- proprieties** – accepted standards of behavior in polite society
- quaintly** – fancifully, whimsically

1. Briefly identify the following characters introduced in this chapter.

Mr. Utterso

Mr. Richard Enfield

Chapter Five - Incident of the Letter

VOCABULARY

carbuncles – deep red gems
cupola – a rounded roof or ceiling
eddy – a whirlpool
gaunt – grim and desolate
qualm – a sudden feeling of sickness
ruminated – meditated or reflected
sedulously – diligently

1. We are told that now Jekyll appears to be “looking deadly sick.” How would you account for this change in his appearance?

2. When Jekyll tells Utterson that Hyde will never be seen again, do you think he means it?

3. Why do you think Dr. Jekyll gives the letter to Mr. Utterson?

18. Which kind of narrative is used in this novel? Why is it appropriate?

19. Find a quotation in this last chapter which demonstrates the point in the story where Dr. Jekyll recognizes he has been in error all along. The literary term for this revelation is called anagnorisis.

20. We speak of the duality in the human soul as if man's nature was fifty percent good and fifty percent evil. Point out comments in the book that suggests that the author did not see it as a fifty-fifty split.
