

# Knowledge Organiser – Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde GCSE



## Main Characters

<b>Dr Henry Jekyll</b>	Respected doctor. A seemingly prosperous man, well established in the community. Since his youth, however, he has secretly engaged in unspecified inappropriate and corrupt behaviour.	<i>covert façade compulsion subjugate clandestine repressed subordinate furtive dissimulation metaphysical recondite bifurcation</i>
<b>Mr Edward Hyde</b>	Hyde is Jekyll's dark side, released from the bonds of conscience and loosed into the world by a mysterious potion.	<i>duality heterogeneity latent manifestation unbridled atavistic bestial depravity alter ego malevolence propensity uninhibited recondite</i>
<b>Mr Gabriel Utterson</b>	Prominent and upstanding lawyer. Reserved, dignified and perhaps even lacking somewhat in imagination — but curiosity about the more sordid side of life. Typically Victorian in his devotion to reasonable explanations and his denial of the supernatural.	<i>decorum propriety orthodoxy respectable rationalistic inquisitive reasonable empirical</i>
<b>Dr Hastie Lanyon</b>	Reputable London doctor. An embodiment of rationalism, scientific materialism, and scepticism, Lanyon serves a contrast with Jekyll, who embraces mysticism.	<i>scientific sceptical traditional materialist rational scoffing</i>
<b>Mr Poole</b>	Jekyll's butler. A loyal servant, his concern for his master eventually drives him to seek Utterson's help.	<i>loyal anxious unnerved</i>
<b>Mr Enfield</b>	Distant cousin and lifelong friend of Mr. Utterson.	<i>traditional propriety decorum respectable</i>

## Some Themes

<b>secrecy and concealment</b>	Jekyll admits he "concealed my pleasures". His house hides secrets, as does the fog which shrouds London's streets. Hyde, "like a thick cloak", allows a "profound duplicity of life".
<b>duality of human nature</b>	Jekyll sees humans as "commingled out of good and evil", the human psyche like "polar twins" in a "perennial war" with each other. The symbolic mirror shows "the livelier images" of Hyde.
<b>science and medicine</b>	While Jekyll explores "the mystical and the transcendental", Lanyon dismisses such inquiry as "scientific heresies" and "such unscientific balderdash" - attempting to interpret events rationally.
<b>friendship and reputation</b>	Utterson assumes Jekyll is suffering from "the cancer of some assumed disgrace" from his youth; his house is nicknamed "Blackmail House". Enfield avoids issues which look like "Queer Street".
<b>evil and violence</b>	Hyde is seen by Jekyll as "the evil side of my nature" and Utterson sees "Satan's signature upon a face" when he sees him. Hyde gratifies lusts unhampered by conscience: "an unknown but not an innocent freedom of the soul".
<b>animal instincts</b>	Consistent references are made to Hyde's bestial appearance and behaviour: "hardly human", "snarled", "pore like fury", "masked thing like a monkey", "something troglodytic", "long caged".

## Plot

### Chapter 1: The Story of a Door

Utterson and Enfield are on their walk. We hear of the strange door and the even stranger, vicious Mr Hyde.

### Chapter 2: Search for Mr Hyde

Utterson feels that Hyde is blackmailing Jekyll. He meets Hyde and is repelled. He discovers that Hyde is using a rear entrance to Jekyll's laboratory.

### Chapter 3: Dr Jekyll was Quiet at Ease

Utterson meets Jekyll at a party. They discuss Hyde — and Jekyll is clearly uneasy about him.

### Chapter 4: The Carew Murder Case

One year later, a maid witnesses Hyde murder Sir Danvers Carew. Utterson goes with the police to Soho, to arrest Hyde. He has disappeared.

### Chapter 5: Incident of the Letter

Jekyll shows Utterson a letter supposed to be from Hyde, saying that Jekyll should no longer worry about him. However, when Utterson shows the letter to his clerk, he is told that the handwriting is actually Jekyll's—just slanting in the other direction.

### Chapter 6: Remarkable Incident of Dr Lanyon

Jekyll's health seems to be improving—until he suddenly withdraws from society. Utterson visits Lanyon—who has had some terrifying experience with Jekyll. Lanyon dies shortly after.

### Chapter 7: Incident at the Window

Utterson and Enfield, out walking, see Jekyll at his house window. He is talking with them when he suddenly looks terrified and disappears inside.

### Chapter 8: The Last Night

Poole comes to Utterson for help: Jekyll's laboratory door is locked and someone who is not Jekyll is inside. Utterson fears murder and smashes his way in. They find the dead body of Hyde — but not sign of Jekyll.

### Chapter 9: Dr Lanyon's Narrative

A letter from Lanyon, to be opened after the deaths of Jekyll and Lanyon, describes how Lanyon was asked to bring some chemicals to Jekyll's house. Hyde uses them in a potion—and turns into Jekyll. Lanyon is horrified.

### Chapter 10: Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

Jekyll's letter describes the full process: from a desire to enjoy his "concealed" pleasures, to the creation of the potion, to his loss of control.

## Some Context

- Published in 1886. Victorian period.
- The cultural stereotype of the Victorian period is one of serious, religious and socially conservative sobriety.
- However, scandal, crime and illicit behaviour were popular topics in newspapers such as *The News of the World* and *The Illustrated Police News*.
- It was a period of huge social change: move from rural economies to polluted, fog-ridden cities full of crime.
- Moral rule of Church threatened by increase of cities and discoveries in science.
- Charles Darwin: argued that humans had evolved from other animals rather than being a uniquely divine species created by God. Links to emerging psychology.
- Gothic genre: novella as urban Gothic, interested in the foggy recesses of the human psyche?

## Some Narrative Techniques

- Narrative voice:**
  - internal heterodiegetic narration** of Utterson's early chapters: rational, analytical, sensible—but insightfully reliable? Limited third person
  - homodiegetic narration** of Lanyon's letter: scientific, precise, analytic, seeking materialist/rationalistic causes
  - homodiegetic narration** of Jekyll's statement: mystical, emotive, more metaphorical.
- Setting:** symbolically divided house, beautiful front entrance, locked doors, "forehead" of upstairs, hidden subterranean rooms.
- Imagery and symbolism:**
  - doors, windows, locked rooms
  - fog and darkness
  - religious references
- Narrative structure:** ignorant viewpoints *followed* by first-person witness accounts *followed* by letters and wills *followed* by the main protagonist's final "full statement".



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## Plot Questions

Chapter 1	<input type="radio"/> Who does Hyde run over? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who, despite being “about as emotional as a bagpipe”, is utterly disgusted by Hyde?
Chapter 2	<input type="radio"/> Where does Utterson see “Satan’s signature”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which altered document troubles Utterson in this chapter?
Chapter 3	<input type="radio"/> Whose party does Utterson attend? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who is described by Jekyll as “a hide-bound pedant”?
Chapter 4	<input type="radio"/> In which part of London does Hyde have his apartment rooms? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who has “an evil face, smoothed by hypocrisy” in this chapter?
Chapter 5	<input type="radio"/> Who is Mr Guest? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is the only significant (and symbolic) difference between the handwriting of Jekyll and of Hyde?
Chapter 6	<input type="radio"/> What has happened to Lanyon’s appearance? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What does Utterson find within the letter from the dead Lanyon?
Chapter 7	<input type="radio"/> With whom is Utterson walking when he sees Jekyll? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is the expression upon Jekyll’s face when he pulls back from the window?
Chapter 8	<input type="radio"/> Who comes to Utterson’s home for help? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is strange about the clothes in which Hyde’s corpse is found?
Chapter 9	<input type="radio"/> What is Lanyon asked to take to Jekyll? <input checked="" type="radio"/> What is Lanyon describing here: “I cannot bring my mind to set [it] on paper”?
Chapter 10	<input type="radio"/> What are the names of the “polar twins”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Why does Jekyll believe that Hyde is smaller than Jekyll?

## Character and Setting Questions

<input type="radio"/> Who drinks gin so that he can control his taste for fine wines? <input type="radio"/> Who thinks that Jekyll is wasting his time on “unscientific balderdash”? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of the old man killed by Hyde? <input type="radio"/> Who likes going to the theatre but hasn’t done so for twenty years? <input type="radio"/> Who is this: “a large, well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps”? <input type="radio"/> Who likes reading religious books in his evenings? <input type="radio"/> What is the name of Jekyll’s butler?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Where in London does Utterson find a place “like a district of some city in a nightmare”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> “He was wild when he was young.” Who? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Where is this: “a large, low-roofed, comfortable hall, paved with flags, warmed... by a bright, open fire... the pleasantest room in London”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who offers Hyde “a very pretty manner of politeness”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Which friend of Jekyll’s suffers a “deep seated terror of the mind”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Where is there a “blind forehead of discoloured wall”? <input checked="" type="radio"/> Who listens to the door of Jekyll’s laboratory and hears “a thing that cries to Heaven, Mr Utterson!” <input checked="" type="radio"/> Where does Utterson find “a few dark closets and a spacious cellar”?
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## Ideas Questions

<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes the idea that humans developed from apes? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Dental</span> <span>Conceptualism</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Creationist</span> <span>Darwinian</span> </div>	<input type="radio"/> What is the name used for the aggressive, animal part of the human mind, buried deep inside us? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>it</span> <span>ib</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>id</span> <span>ie</span> </div>
<input type="radio"/> Which word best describes Hyde’s behaviour? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>bestial</span> <span>beset</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>bequeathed</span> <span>benevolent</span> </div>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best describes Hyde’s animal impulses? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>regulated</span> <span>regressive</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>remedial</span> <span>reniform</span> </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best helps us understand the references to Hyde’s “ape-like” behaviours? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>atavism</span> <span>orthodoxy</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>subordinate</span> <span>decorum</span> </div>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which word best describes the way Jekyll sought his pleasures prior to Hyde? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>flagrantly</span> <span>clandestine</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>blatant</span> <span>unabashed</span> </div>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Which does Utterson most value? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>propriety</span> <span>profit</span> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>dissolution</span> <span>spontaneity</span> </div>	



**GETTING IT WRONG IS ABSOLUTELY OKAY.**

**NOT EVEN HAVING A GO IS JUST A BIT PATHETIC.**