

Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* And Other Stories Study Guide

Chapter One – Story of the Door

1. Briefly identify the following characters introduced in this chapter.
Mr. Utterson –
Mr. Richard Enfield –
2. Find an example of an allusion in the first paragraph. In what way might this allusion relate to the story line?
3. Find an example of a simile in the description of a London neighborhood.
4. What triggers Enfield's strange story?
5. Define "Juggernaut." Why does Enfield compare Mr. Hyde's actions to a Juggernaut?
6. Why do Enfield and the doctor attending the child decide to extract a punishment from Mr. Hyde, even though the child is not seriously injured? What is the punishment?
7. Define "apocryphal." Why does Enfield accompany the man to the bank to cash the check?
8. Why does Enfield refer to the house as the Black Mail House?
9. What is unusual in Mr. Enfield's description of Mr. Hyde?
10. Why do you suppose Mr. Utterson is concerned about the fact that Mr. Hyde has a key to the residence?
11. What does Mr. Utterson mean when he says "your tale has gone home" (Stevenson 13)?

Chapter Two – Search for Mr. Hyde

1. Define "holograph." Why is this document referred to as "the lawyer's eyesore" (Stevenson 15)?
2. Briefly describe Dr. Lanyon. Why does Mr. Utterson visit him? What does he learn of Lanyon's relationship with Jekyll?
3. Find an example of an allusion in this chapter.
4. Why does Mr. Utterson want to see Mr. Hyde's face? Why do you suppose Utterson goes to so much trouble to investigate Hyde?
5. Define "apropos." Why do you think Mr. Hyde gives Mr. Utterson his address?
6. Describe Mr. Hyde's physical appearance. What does his name suggest?
7. State a theme for this story using the following quotations describing Mr. Hyde:
"...or is it the mere radiance of a foul soul that thus transpires through, and transfigures, its clay continent?" (Stevenson 19).
8. What information does Poole give Mr. Utterson about Mr. Hyde?
9. What does the lawyer think that Mr. Hyde knows about Dr. Jekyll? What is Enfield's plan to stop Hyde?
10. Why do you suppose Utterson has a dream about Hyde?
11. Consider Hyde's actions, the effect his appearance has on how people view him, and the effect he has had on Enfield and the doctor (they feel like murdering him). What can we conclude about Hyde and evil?
12. Since Hyde's presence arouses evil thoughts and feelings in others, what is the author saying about evil and human beings?

Chapter Three – Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease

1. Define “hide-bound pendant” (Stevenson 23). Why does Jekyll call Lanyon hide-bound?
2. What does Dr. Jekyll say to convince Mr. Utterson that he (the doctor) can handle Mr. Hyde?
3. What does Mr. Utterson promise Dr. Jekyll?
4. How is Jekyll’s physical appearance described?
5. Compare and contrast the physical appearances of Jekyll and Hyde.

Chapter Four – The Carew Murder Case

1. The maid looks out at a clear night and a full moon; the scene makes her feel at peace and in a romantic mood. While full moons are associated with romance and peace, with what else are they associated with?
2. Who is Sir Danvers Carew, and how is he described?
3. How is Hyde’s assault on Carew described? Why do you suppose Hyde attacks him?
4. How does Mr. Utterson learn of Danvers Carew’s death?
5. Why do the police think the murderer is Mr. Hyde?
6. How was Hyde’s run-in with Carew similar to, but different from, the run-in with the girl in chapter one?
7. What do you suppose might have incited Hyde?
8. What evidence is there that Mr. Hyde’s rooms are furnished by Dr. Jekyll?
9. How does Inspector Newcomen of Scotland Yard plan to catch Mr. Hyde?
10. Why are Mr. Hyde’s movements difficult to trace? How are the descriptions of Mr. Hyde similar to one another?

Chapter Five – Incident of the Letter

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?
4. How does the letter ease Mr. Utterson’s fears that Hyde will not blackmail Dr. Jekyll into helping him escape?
5. State two reasons Utterson is suspicious about the letter’s origin.
6. Briefly identify Mr. Guest.
7. Mr. Utterson exclaims, “Henry Jekyll forge for a murderer!” (Stevenson 34). Why?

Chapter Six – Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon

1. What change does Mr. Utterson notice in Dr. Jekyll after Mr. Hyde’s disappearance?
2. What do the police discover about Hyde’s life before his disappearance?
3. How might the murder of Carew be more easily understood in light of the information the police gather?
4. How has Lanyon changed? What topic does he refuse to discuss with Utterson?
5. How does Dr. Jekyll explain his seclusion to Mr. Utterson?
6. What does the letter from Lanyon have in common with Dr. Jekyll’s will?
7. Why does Utterson not desire the company of Dr. Jekyll?

Chapter Seven – Incident at the Window

1. What is Dr. Jekyll's mood when Utterson and Enfield talk to him through the window?
2. Find an example of foreshadowing in this chapter.
3. Why do you suppose Dr. Jekyll's smile changes to "an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below" (Stevenson 40)?

Chapter Eight – The Last Night

1. Why are Poole and other servants frightened?
2. Where does the imposter send Poole? How does he communicate with the butler?
3. What does Poole say to convince Utterson that it is necessary to break into Dr. Jekyll's cabinet?
4. How is Mr. Hyde behaving in the doctor's laboratory?
5. After finding Hyde's body, Utterson still believes Hyde killed Jekyll, but he is confused about a number of points. What are they?
6. Why do they surmise that Jekyll could not have left by the back door? What may we conclude from what they find in this instance?
7. What two things surprise Mr. Utterson about the will found on Dr. Jekyll's desk?
8. Describe the other two documents discovered on the desk.

Chapter Nine – Dr. Lanyon's Narrative

1. What favor does Dr. Jekyll request from Dr. Lanyon?
2. List the contents of the drawer.
3. What is strange about the man who comes to pick up the drawer?
4. What choice does Mr. Hyde offer Dr. Lanyon? What is Lanyon's decision?
5. Why does Dr. Lanyon say "...I shall die incredulous. As for the moral turpitude that man unveiled to me, even with tears of penitence, I cannot, even in memory, dwell on it without a start of horror" (Stevenson 56-57)?
6. What piece of knowledge, which we already suspected, does the last sentence in Lanyon's narrative confirm?
7. Characterize Jekyll's following statement to Lanyon:
"And now, you who have so long been bound to the most narrow and material views, you who denied the virtue of transcendental medicine, you who have derided your superiors – behold!" (Stevenson 56).
8. Since Dr. Lanyon narrated this chapter, who do you think will narrate the last chapter?

Chapter Ten – Henry Jekyll's Full Statement of the Case

1. As a young man, what did Jekyll find was the worst of his faults? How did that lead him to practice "a profound duplicity" (Stevenson 59)?
2. What aspects of Dr. Jekyll's own character inspires his research?
3. Dr. Jekyll gives two reasons for not revealing the scientific branch of his investigations in his confession. How would you interpret this statement?
"First, because I have been made to learn that the doom and burthen of our life is bound forever on man's shoulders, and when the attempt is made to cast it off, it but returns upon us with more unfamiliar and more awful pressure" (Stevenson 60-61).
4. How does Dr. Jekyll feel after drinking the potion for the first time? How has he changed physically?
5. What explanation does Dr. Jekyll give for this change in size and age? Why are other people repelled by his appearance?

6. If other people are repulsed by Hyde's appearance, why is Jekyll not repulsed when he sees Hyde's image in the mirror?
7. Since the drug changes his personality, why is he not changed into a completely good man instead of an evil one?
8. How did the pleasures Dr. Jekyll sought in the disguise of Mr. Hyde change over time? How does Dr. Jekyll justify continuing to become Mr. Hyde?
9. In what way did Dr. Jekyll begin to lose control?
10. State a theme for this novel, using the following passage:
 "That part of me which I had the power of projecting, had lately been much exercised and nourished; it had seemed to me of late as though the body of Edward Hyde had grown in stature...and I began to spy a danger that, if this were much prolonged, the balance of my nature might be permanently overthrown..." (Stevenson 65).
11. How does Dr. Jekyll justify Mr. Hyde's brutal attack on Danvers Carew? What generalization may Jekyll draw from this?
12. At this point, why is it not possible for Dr. Jekyll to prevent the re-emergence of Mr. Hyde?
13. How does Mr. Hyde trap Dr. Jekyll in his laboratory?
14. How does Mr. Hyde show his hatred of Dr. Jekyll?
15. What finally dooms Dr. Jekyll to either living out his life as Mr. Hyde or committing suicide?
16. When does Henry Jekyll die? Mr. Hyde?
17. React to the following statement: Dr. Jekyll is both the protagonist and the antagonist in this story.
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.

Essay Topics

For each of these, remember to go beyond mere plot summary and argue a point.

1. Using specific events from the story, discuss how evil becomes stronger as it is exercised.
2. Discuss the theme of people who succumb to the temptations of evil risk losing their capacity for good.
3. Discuss the theme of people who suppress their natural desires risk having them surface out of control.
4. Discuss the description of Mr. Hyde and relate it to the idea that human ugliness originates in the soul.
5. Discuss how the author appears to view the nature of good and evil in the human soul, point out why we know he is simply not thinking of a duality in which the soul is fifty percent good and fifty percent evil.

Other Stories

Read and annotate each of the following stories, averaging twenty notes per story.

“A Lodging for the Night”

http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/stevenson/robert_louis/s848na/part17.html

“The Suicide Club”

http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/stevenson/robert_louis/s848na/part1.html

“Thrawn Janet”

http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/stevenson/robert_louis/s848mm/part10.html

“The Body-Snatcher”

http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/stevenson/robert_louis/s848bs/

“Markheim”

http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/s/stevenson/robert_louis/s848mm/part9.html