

# Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde Study Guide Answers

## Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

### Study Guide Questions - Answer Key

#### Chapter 1 "Dr. Jekyll Was Quite At Ease"

1. What significance could the title of the chapter have?  
*Jekyll is doing well and is confident in what he has put in his will.*
2. How long is a fortnight? Two weeks
3. What provides an excuse for Utterson to talk to Jekyll about the will?  
*Utterson is at a dinner that Jekyll is hosting.*
4. How is Dr. Jekyll described?  
*Dr. Jekyll is described as, "a large, well-made, smooth-faced man of 50, with something of a slyish cast perhaps, but every mark of capacity and kindness."*
5. What does Jekyll say about Lanyon?  
*Jekyll says that Lanyon is, "a little bound pedant for all that; an ignorant, blundering pedant," and that he has never been "more disappointed in any man than Lanyon." Lanyon is limited, old-fashioned and conservative. Dr. Lanyon expressed distrust for Jekyll's scientific interests and called Jekyll's interests "scientific heresies."*
6. How does Jekyll react to the mention of Hyde?  
*When Utterson mentions Hyde, Jekyll becomes, "pale to the very lips, and there came a blackness about his eyes." Jekyll does not wish to hear any more about the matter.*
7. Why is it interesting that Jekyll tells Utterson, "I would trust you before any man alive ay, before myself?"  
*It is binding on the fact that there is something about himself that Jekyll doesn't quite trust.*
8. Why does Jekyll tell Utterson to put "his hands at rest"?  
*Jekyll assures Utterson that he can get rid of Hyde when he so chooses.*
9. What promise does Utterson make to Jekyll?  
*Utterson promises to help Hyde when Jekyll is no longer there.*
10. From the description of Jekyll in this chapter and the descriptions of Hyde from the previous two chapters, make a chart listing their character descriptions.  
*Answers will vary.*

Jekyll	Hyde
50 years old	Feeling of deformity
Slyish	Displeasing smile
Smooth-faced	Violence
Kind	Brutishness
Large	Gives off a sense of evil and dread
Well-made	Disreputable
	Pale
	Hoarse, broken voice

**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide Answers** serve as a crucial resource for students and readers seeking to understand the complexities of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novella. This literary work, published in 1886, explores themes of duality, morality, and the human psyche through the mysterious relationship between Dr. Henry Jekyll, a respectable scientist, and his malevolent counterpart, Mr. Edward Hyde. This study guide provides insights into the characters, themes, symbols, and significant plot points, along with answers to common questions about the novella.

## Overview of the Novella

"Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" is a gothic novella that follows the story of a lawyer named Mr. Utterson, who investigates the strange occurrences surrounding his friend Dr. Jekyll and the

sinister Mr. Hyde. The narrative unfolds through a series of letters and journal entries, allowing readers to piece together the mystery of Jekyll's experiments and Hyde's nefarious actions.

## Key Themes

Understanding the key themes of the novella is essential for grasping its deeper meanings. Here are some of the prominent themes:

1. **Duality of Human Nature:** The central theme is the dual nature of humanity, symbolized by the contrast between Jekyll and Hyde. Jekyll represents the socially acceptable and moral side, while Hyde embodies the dark and primal instincts.
2. **Repression and the Unconscious:** The novella explores how societal pressures lead to the repression of one's base instincts, ultimately resulting in a struggle between the conscious self and the unconscious desires.
3. **Identity and Transformation:** The transformation from Jekyll to Hyde raises questions about identity and the nature of the self. It suggests that people may harbor hidden aspects of themselves that can surface under certain circumstances.
4. **Science and Ethics:** Dr. Jekyll's experiments represent the potential consequences of scientific exploration without ethical considerations. The novella warns against the dangers of unchecked ambition and the pursuit of knowledge.

## Main Characters

The characters in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" play crucial roles in conveying the novella's themes. Here are the primary characters:

- **Dr. Henry Jekyll:** A respected scientist and gentleman, Jekyll is torn between his moral responsibilities and his desire to indulge his darker impulses.
- **Mr. Edward Hyde:** Jekyll's alter ego, Hyde represents the darker side of human nature, exhibiting violent and immoral behavior.
- **Mr. Gabriel John Utterson:** A lawyer and friend of Jekyll, Utterson acts as the story's detective, trying to uncover the mystery behind Jekyll and Hyde.
- **Dr. Hastie Lanyon:** A former friend of Jekyll, Lanyon represents the scientific rationalism that conflicts with Jekyll's experiments.
- **Miss Poole:** Jekyll's housekeeper who provides insights into Jekyll's behavior and the changes she observes in him.

## Significant Plot Points

The plot of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" is rich with important events that shape the narrative. Key plot points include:

1. **Utterson's Investigation:** The story begins with Utterson's concern for his friend Dr. Jekyll, especially after he learns about Hyde's connection to Jekyll's will.
2. **The Encounter with Hyde:** Utterson meets Hyde, experiencing a sense of dread and evil, which intensifies his desire to protect Jekyll.
3. **The Murder of Sir Danvers Carew:** The brutal murder of a respected gentleman by Hyde serves as a turning point, escalating the tension and urgency of Utterson's investigation.
4. **Jekyll's Transformation:** Jekyll's experiments lead to his transformation into Hyde, showcasing the struggle between his two identities.
5. **The Revelation:** The climax occurs when Utterson reads Jekyll's confession, revealing the truth about his experiments and the duality of his nature.
6. **Hyde's Final Actions:** The novella concludes with Hyde's suicide, leaving Jekyll trapped in his own mind and ultimately leading to his demise.

## Common Study Questions and Answers

Here are some frequently asked questions about the novella, along with comprehensive answers:

### 1. What is the significance of the title "Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde"?

The title highlights the duality and conflict within the protagonist, Dr. Jekyll. The word "strange" suggests the unnatural transformation and the bizarre nature of his experiments. It also reflects the mystery surrounding Hyde, whose actions are shocking and morally reprehensible.

### 2. How does Stevenson use symbolism in the novella?

Stevenson employs various symbols to convey deeper meanings. For example:

- **The Potion:** Represents the duality of human nature and the potential for transformation, both good and evil.
- **Hyde's House:** Symbolizes the dark and hidden aspects of Jekyll's personality, contrasting with Jekyll's respectable home.
- **The Door:** The door to Hyde's residence symbolizes the barrier between Jekyll's public persona and his hidden desires.

### 3. What role does setting play in the novella?

The setting of Victorian London contributes significantly to the novella's atmosphere. The contrast between the respectable neighborhoods and the seedy, fog-laden streets reflects the duality of Jekyll and Hyde. The environment serves as a backdrop for the moral struggles faced by the characters and enhances the gothic elements of the story.

### 4. What is the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde?

Jekyll and Hyde represent the two sides of the same person: the civilized and the uncivilized. Jekyll initially creates Hyde as a means of expressing his repressed desires without tarnishing his social reputation. However, as Hyde becomes more dominant, Jekyll loses control over his transformation, illustrating the struggle between good and evil within every individual.

### 5. How does the novella reflect the societal attitudes of the time?

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" reflects Victorian society's emphasis on respectability, morality, and the repression of base instincts. The novella critiques the rigid social norms and the consequences of denying one's true nature. It also raises questions about the ethics of scientific exploration during a time of rapid advancements in medicine and psychology.

## Conclusion

The "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide Answers" provide a foundational understanding of Robert Louis Stevenson's complex novella. By examining the key themes, characters, and significant plot points, students and readers can appreciate the depth of the story and its exploration of the human condition. Through its rich symbolism and thought-provoking questions, the novella remains a timeless exploration of the dual nature of humanity and the moral dilemmas that accompany it. Whether for classroom discussion or personal reflection, this study guide serves as an essential tool for unlocking the mysteries of Jekyll and Hyde.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the central theme of 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'?

The central theme is the duality of human nature, exploring the conflict between good and evil within individuals.

## How does Dr. Jekyll's experiment lead to his transformation into Mr. Hyde?

Dr. Jekyll creates a potion that separates his good side from his darker impulses, resulting in the emergence of Mr. Hyde, who embodies his repressed desires.

## What role does Victorian society play in the story?

Victorian society's strict moral codes and repression of desires create a backdrop for Jekyll's struggle, highlighting the tension between societal expectations and personal freedom.

## Who is Mr. Utterson and what is his significance in the novella?

Mr. Utterson is Dr. Jekyll's lawyer and friend, serving as the primary investigator of the mystery surrounding Jekyll and Hyde, representing rationality and the moral compass.

## What does the character of Mr. Hyde symbolize?

Mr. Hyde symbolizes the darker side of humanity, representing unchecked desires, violence, and the consequences of living a double life.

## How does the setting contribute to the story's atmosphere?

The foggy, dark streets of London reflect the themes of secrecy and duality, creating an atmosphere of suspense and moral ambiguity.

## What is the significance of the relationship between Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde?

Their relationship illustrates the struggle between the civilized self and the primitive instincts, emphasizing the complexity of identity and morality.

## What happens to Dr. Jekyll at the end of the novella?

At the end, Dr. Jekyll loses control over his transformations into Mr. Hyde, ultimately leading to his demise as he chooses to end his own life to stop Hyde's reign of terror.

## How does Stevenson use foreshadowing in the novella?

Stevenson employs foreshadowing through the descriptions of Hyde's violent actions and the mysterious connections between Jekyll and Hyde, hinting at the eventual revelation of their true

identities.

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