

How is Mr Hyde presented?

- Hyde is a **mysterious** character, linked with **Jekyll** in some way that is not initially clear. Towards the end, Stevenson reveals he is Dr Jekyll's other self.
- He is immediately shown as **cruel** and **unpleasant**, and continues to be **rude** and **aggressive** throughout the novel.
- Hyde **vanishes** and, despite searching, the police can find no reliable information about him.
- He is frequently around Jekyll's house and **laboratory**, where he makes **Poole** and the other staff feel uncomfortable.
- He wears **Jekyll's clothes**, which are **too big** for him, giving him an **uncomfortable**, 'misfit' appearance.
- He **murders Carew**, apparently without reason.
- He becomes a stronger influence, and Jekyll starts to change into him **without taking the potion**.
- Hyde **hates** Jekyll and is afraid of him, because Jekyll could destroy him by killing himself.



Q Three key questions

1. Who is Mr Hyde?
2. What is Hyde's physical appearance like?
3. How does Stevenson present Hyde as evil?

A Answers

- Hyde is Jekyll's alter ego. To start with, he exists only when Jekyll takes his potion, but we do not learn this until the end of the novel.
- Hyde is smaller than Jekyll, but grows larger as Jekyll turns into him more often.
 - Everyone who meets Hyde finds him repulsive, but no one can say what is wrong with how he looks.
 - Hyde commits acts of violence and destroys things.
 - Hyde is associated with the Devil, and Jekyll calls him an embodiment of pure evil.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

- Utterson's first reaction to Hyde: **“God bless me, the man seems hardly human!”** (Chapter 2)
- After Carew's murder: **‘tales came out of the man's cruelty, at once so callous and violent, of his vile life, of his strange associates’** (Chapter 6)
- Jekyll's own account of Hyde: **‘a being inherently malign and villainous; his every act and thought centered on self’** (Chapter 10)

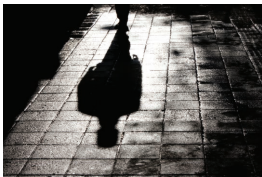
Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Throughout the novel, Hyde is presented as unnatural

How are reputation and secrecy important in the novel?

- Jekyll has a **reputation** as a **respectable man**, and this is very important to him.
- Jekyll says he is **'in no sense a hypocrite'** yet he is **hiding** his bad behaviour.
- Jekyll's concern with reputation continues when he is Hyde. He **pays money** to the bystanders in Chapter 1 to avoid a **'scene'**.
- Hyde is **secretive** by name and by nature. He goes out at **night**, and scurries around in **dark corners** in Jekyll's house.
- Neither Jekyll nor Lanyon will explain to Utterson why they have **fallen out**.
- It is **ironic** that Jekyll creates Hyde to **free himself from secrecy** but ends up with **another secret**.
- Stevenson suggests that some things must **stay hidden**, as knowledge of them is unbearable. Some cannot be revealed because there is **no language** to talk about them.



Q Three key questions

1. Why is Jekyll's concern for his reputation important?
2. How is Hyde's name significant?
3. What is kept secret in the novel?

A Answers

1. Jekyll is concerned with maintaining his reputation as a respectable doctor. He makes his potion so he can enjoy himself secretly, protecting his reputation.
2. Hyde's name is a play on the word 'hide'; he embodies the notion of secrecy and hidden evils.
- 3a. Characters often refuse to discuss or reveal information, including who Hyde is and why Jekyll and Lanyon have fallen out.
- 3b. Stevenson keeps the nature of Jekyll's 'undignified' pleasures hidden, so our own standards of morality don't affect our judgement of Jekyll.

Learn

Now learn these key quotations to enhance your skills.

1. Jekyll's pride: **'my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public'** (Chapter 10)
2. Jekyll on Hyde: **'he resented the dislike with which he was himself regarded'** (Chapter 10)
3. Hyde's concern about trouble: **""No gentleman but wishes to avoid a scene""** (Chapter 1)

Think

How could you use one of the quotations above to complete this paragraph?

Jekyll's wish to be well thought of continues even as Hyde