



MR EDWARD HYDE

HYDE'S ROLE IN THE NOVELLA

Mr Edward Hyde is the **alter ego** of Jekyll. He does not exist until freed from within Jekyll's psyche by the transformative potion Jekyll takes and drinks. The fullest account of Hyde comes in Jekyll's final statement. We need to put this together with his appearances earlier in the **novella** to see what he does in sequence. In the novella he:

- first emerges when Jekyll first takes his potion.
- is used by Jekyll as a way of enjoying unspecified guilty pleasures in secret.
- tramples a young girl underfoot, which is witnessed by Enfield.
- is forced to pay £100 compensation to the girl's family, and has to draw a cheque on Jekyll's account.
- grows stronger as Jekyll changes into him more frequently.
- murders Carew and is seen doing so.
- begins to emerge without Jekyll taking the potion, which happens increasingly frequently.
- destroys things valued by Jekyll.
- takes cyanide to kill himself (and Jekyll).

TOP TIP

A02

Draw up a timeline of the appearances of Hyde in the first nine chapters of the novella. Using another colour, add in events described by Jekyll in his final statement.

HYDE'S IMPORTANCE TO THE NOVELLA AS A WHOLE

Hyde is the evil aspect of Jekyll manifested in a separate identity, and as such forms a part of the main **protagonist**. It is his character and actions that drive Jekyll to his destruction. He is also responsible for all the main events of the novella – the trampling of a young girl recalled by Enfield, the murder of Carew, the death of Lanyon and the destruction of Jekyll.



EXAM FOCUS: WRITING ABOUT HYDE

A01



Key point	Evidence/Further meaning
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone finds Hyde immediately repulsive but can't say exactly what is wrong about the way he looks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lanyon says 'there was something abnormal and misbegotten in the very essence of the creature' (p. 53). • His evil and unnaturalness make him look repulsive.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Jekyll does not find Hyde instantly repellent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On seeing Hyde in the mirror the first time, Jekyll says, 'I was conscious of no repugnance, rather of a leap of welcome' (p. 61). • Because Hyde is a familiar part of himself, he does not find him repellent.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hyde is a distillation of the evil and selfishness in Jekyll. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jekyll says he 'was a being inherently malign and villainous; his every act and thought centered on self' (p. 63). • It is his lack of concern for anyone else that makes Hyde especially evil.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jekyll often uses imagery relating to the Devil and to animals to talk about Hyde. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'My devil had been long caged, he came out roaring' (p. 67). • Devils and animals are clearly distinct from humans, so these images stress how inhuman Hyde is. But animals are part of nature, so at the same time the images acknowledge that the passions Hyde acts on are a natural, if lower, part of us.

AIMING HIGH: HYDE'S APPEARANCE



Hyde looks different from Jekyll. He is shorter, so that Jekyll's clothes hang off his body, looking ridiculous. His hands are darker, smaller and hairier than Jekyll's, with knotted tendons making them look lumpy. In a passage that is difficult to understand, Jekyll explains why his physical appearance changes. He says that the natural body is 'the mere aura and effulgence of certain of the powers that made up my spirit' (p. 59). By this he means that something leaks out of the spirit to shape the physical body, so that a bad person looks ugly and a good person looks pleasant. This was a common idea in the nineteenth century.



RESPONDING TO WRITERS' EFFECTS

The two most important assessment objectives are **AO1** and **AO2**. They are about *what* writers do (the choices they make, and the effects these create), *what* your ideas are (your analysis and interpretation), and *how* you write about them (how well you explain your ideas).

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 1

What does it say?	What does it mean?	Dos and don'ts
<p>Read, understand and respond to texts.</p> <p>Students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response ● Use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations 	<p>You must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use some of the literary terms you have learned (correctly!) ● Write in a professional way (not a sloppy, chatty way) ● Show you have thought for yourself ● Back up your ideas with examples, including quotations 	<p>Don't write:</p> <p><i>Lanyon gets cross and stroppy when Utterson asks him about Jekyll as he doesn't want to talk about him and gets pretty agitated, saying if he can't talk about anything else, 'then, in God's name, go, for I cannot bear it'.</i></p> <p>Do write:</p> <p><i>Lanyon is distressed and agitated when Utterson asks him about Jekyll. He refuses to talk about him, the extent of his anxiety clear in his plea to talk of something else or, 'in God's name, go, for I cannot bear it'.</i></p>

IMPROVING YOUR CRITICAL STYLE

Use a variety of words to show effects:

Stevenson suggests ..., conveys ..., implies ..., presents how ..., explores ..., demonstrates ..., describes how ..., shows how ...

I/we (as readers) infer ..., recognise ..., understand ..., question ..., see ..., are given ..., reflect ...

For example, look at these two paragraphs. Note the difference in the quality of expression.

Student A:

Better to say how Stevenson 'depicts Hyde as' or 'shows Hyde as'

It is not Stevenson speaking to us

Too informal

Stevenson makes Hyde horrible and violent. He smashes into a small child and isn't even sorry - he just keeps going. This is the first time we see Hyde, and it makes us think he's going to be a bad character in the novella. Stevenson says Hyde 'trampled calmly' over the child, which is really nasty and makes us cringe. Everyone thinks Hyde is really horrid.

Style too informal and chatty

Better to say 'leads us to expect that' or 'suggests that'

Repetitive and vague

Student B:

States the impression created by the passage

Makes it clear that it is Enfield who says this

Precise language that points out the effect of the writing

In this passage, Hyde is shown as violent and unpleasant. He careers into a small child and keeps going, without paying any attention to her. As this is the first time we see Hyde, it sets our expectations for his character and role in the novella. Enfield says that Hyde 'trampled calmly' over the child, an act of such brutality that it unnerves and repels us as readers. The crowd that collect around the child take an instant dislike to Hyde.

Measured account of what happens

Clear interpretation of the effect on the reader

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 2

What does it say?	What does it mean?	Dos and don'ts
<p>Analyse the language, form and structure used by the writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.</p>	<p>'Analyse' – comment in detail on particular aspects of the text or language.</p> <p>'Language' – vocabulary, imagery, variety of sentences, dialogue/speech, etc.</p> <p>'Form' – how the story is told (e.g. first-person narrative, letters, diaries, chapter by chapter).</p> <p>'Structure' – the order in which events are revealed, or in which characters appear, or descriptions are presented.</p> <p>'Create meaning' – what can we, as readers, infer from what the writer tells us? What is implied by particular descriptions, or events?</p> <p>'Subject terminology' – words you should use when writing about novels, such as character, protagonist, imagery, setting, etc.</p>	<p>Don't write:</p> <p><i>Stevenson uses lots of images here so I get a good sense of how Jekyll feels.</i></p> <p>Do write:</p> <p><i>Jekyll uses vivid imagery in his account of how he feels, to try to communicate the nature of feelings that are alien to everyone but him. He says Hyde is 'closer than an eye', and uses the metaphor 'caged in his flesh', both of which convey the sense the Hyde is a part of him that cannot be removed.</i></p>

THE THREE 'I'S

- The best analysis focuses on specific ideas, events or uses of language and thinks about what is **implied**.
- This means looking beyond the obvious and drawing **inferences**. Jekyll says that the faults he kept hidden were no more than a '**gaiety of disposition**' (p. 57) and '**undignified**' (p. 63), but that Hyde committed far worse crimes. These are not named, but from what we witness of Hyde – his trampling of the girl and murder of Carew – we assume they are terrible.
- From the inferences you make across the text as a whole, you can arrive at your own **interpretation** – a sense of the bigger picture, or a wider evaluation of a person, relationship or idea.