

How does Stevenson present Mr Hyde as a frightening outside?

How does Stevenson present Mr Hyde in this extract?

Stevenson presents Mr Hyde as a frightening outside by comparing him to animals in his use of language. An example of this is when the phrase “‘Common Friends’ *echoed Mr Hyde, a little hoarsely*” is used within the text. By showing a repeat of words this put emphasis on the phrase, but with a more of a mocking tone towards Mr Utterson. The word ‘*hoarsely*’ shows an animalistic side of his nature and actions. This could link to the phrase later on in the text ‘*The other snarled aloud*’ as the word ‘*snarled*’ and ‘*Hoarsely*’ both show an intimidating nature behind each phrase, which was uncommon in the Victorian era.

As well as linking with the animalistic traits of Mr Hyde in this extract, the sentence ‘*the other snarled aloud into a savage laugh*’ also represents an unnatural intention towards Mr Utterson. The word ‘*savage*’ could link to something that could be described as unevolved. This is particularly important to the portrayal of Mr Hyde as it shows someone who goes against the society at the time and uses actions that are classed as unpleasant. This could also link to the quote ‘*Murderous mixture of timidity*’ as they both use words that represent murder and criminalistics actions through the language.

Through-out this extract, the language used shows a controversial topic with Mr Hyde. An example of this is when Mr Utterson states ‘*the man seems hardly human!*’. This shows that there is something about Mr Hyde that make him seem unnatural or not an ordinary ‘*human*’. This also links to the next part of the text when Utterson describes Mr Hyde as ‘*something troglodytic*’, which is a reference to devolution. At this time the thought of evolution was divided by society and frowned upon by some people in the Victorian era. By using this, Stevenson shows the distaste that some may have towards Hyde and how people may persevere him differently.

Within this part of the novella, there is a few mentions towards religion of the era. This is shown when Mr Utterson refers to Mr Hyde as ‘*Satan’s Signature upon a face*’. This suggests that Mr Hyde is something almost inhuman. The word ‘*Satan*’ links to the religious culture in the Victorian era. Within this time period, religion was very highly respected and ‘*Satan*’ was thought to be the roots of all evil, so this quote explains that Mr Hyde’s appearance is one that resembles someone who is seen as the root of all evil. The structure of the quote also comes off as powerful and intimidating, with the alliteration of ‘*Satan’s signature*’ making a hissing sound, which refers back to the snake within garden of Eden which is seen in the bible, which is one of the origins of sin. The idea of religion also shows in the quote ‘*radiance of a foul soul*’. By referring to a soul it conveys the idea of the soul going to heaven after death. By using the word foul to describe the soul it links to ‘*Satan*’ in the previous quote. ‘*a foul soul*’ allows the reader to imagine someone who has gone against god and their soul has turned evil.

Stevenson shows Mr Hyde in many different ways by the way he describes his appearance. For example, Stevenson uses the term ‘*Pale and dwarfish*’ as a way to describe Mr Hyde. By using the word ‘*Pale*’ it suggests that Mr Hyde doesn’t see the light very much and works in the dark of night but can also suggest that he is ill to an exterior character and the reader. By also using the word ‘*dwarfish*’ it also insinuates that he is quite small. BY putting these two words together it forms the image of someone who can sneak around in the shadows and not be seen.