

The Presentation Of Hyde In The First Passage



'I had
never met
a man I so
disliked,
yet I
scarce
know why'

Hyde is introduced to the reader through the account of Dr. Enfield at the beginning of the book, who recounts him trampling a small girl. In the account the weather is immediately described as 'a black winter morning' this use of pathetic fallacy foreshadows events to come. There is also a duality in this passage between the light of the street lamps and the blackness of the night, the motif of duality in constant through out the book - symbolising the dual life of Dr. Henry Jekyll and Dr. Edward Hyde. Hyde is described as 'stumping along', implying that he is a less evolved, more primitive being - contextually this is an intertextual link to Darwin's Origin of Species which was published 27 years earlier. Moreover it links to the Victorian fear of recidivism, this was a fear prompted by Britain's colonial exploration and fascination with other more relaxed, 'primitive' cultures - it was that the so called 'primitive' peoples might swallow up the allegedly 'superior' white race of people who were bringing the 'light' of civilisation to them and turn them 'savage' by proximity.

After trampling the 'screaming child' Hyde was perfectly cool implying his sociopathic nature. It is also very significant that Enfield says 'i had taken a loathing to my gentleman at first sight', the idea of people instantly hating or being repulsed by Hyde is also present through out the book and links to the Victorian interest in the 'science' of physiognomy and belief that a person's nature could be judged from their outer appearance or facial characteristics.

The adjective 'sneering' is repeated when describing Hyde implying that he looks down on the 'more evolved' people in the passage.