

How is Hyde presented in Chapter Two- The Search For My Hyde?

Based on the above point, Stevenson leaves the readers asking multiple questions regarding Hyde's actions: what was he doing out at that time? Why didn't he acknowledge the girl's injury? What was the cause of his "stumping along eastward"? The word "stumping" suggests that he himself has been crippled or injured, but how? What? If appropriate, who? Later in Chapter Two, Hyde is described as "dwarfish", so maybe there is a link between his height (as it is mentioned frequently) and his movement? Stumping also seems slightly hasty, as if he had somewhere to be. Whilst being hasty, he looked determined to reach somewhere and almost complete a deed. In Victorian London, the streets would've been desolate at night due to the fear of the criminal figures mentioned before, noted by Stevenson in his description around pages 17-20. Hyde being out at this time could mean two things: firstly, he was moving so quickly because he wanted to reach the sanctuary of his home; or secondly, he was doing something dubious whilst nobody was around. This just adds to his image as a detestable fiend, or potential criminal.

Finally, Stevenson uses the other characters in the chapter to voice multiple opinions of Hyde, yet most of them overlap. Utterson has the most important view in this chapter due to how the readers have grown to trust his opinion (especially as his occupation is as a lawyer.) "If I ever read Satan's signature on a face," is Utterson implying that Hyde is reminiscent of Satan, the Devil. Stevenson has used "Satan's signature" as a metaphor for the Devil, the vilest figure (arguably) in the world to humanity. This means that Utterson, as a religious man and a lawyer, is ultimately condemning Hyde as an untrustworthy character because Utterson would've seen a countless number of criminals himself: he's a lawyer and the "last good influence" in their lives. For him to rank Hyde as the most malicious is very notable because he's only met him once at this point in the novel.

Also, the close friends of Dr Jekyll, Lanyon and Poole, express no recognition of Hyde. "No. Never heard of him," and "He never *dines* here," suggest that Hyde is never around Jekyll, adding to the air of mystery surrounding why Jekyll entrusts him in his will. One would think that this is very suspicious because Jekyll is a reputable man himself, so why would he place all of his possessions (and wealth) into a man who "seems deformed in some sense" and who leaves children in tears? Enfield also embraces his disgust in the character in Chapter One when recalling the story, saying "I've never met a man I've so disliked." This is a huge suggestion that everyone except Jekyll sees Hyde for something nasty, selfish and unworthy whilst Jekyll himself directly contradicts this: he sees Hyde as an honest man who deserves (and needs!) this entitlement.

The use of the word "never" means that Lanyon, who considers himself one of "Jekyll's oldest friends", is in the dark. If both Utterson and Lanyon have never heard of or seen Hyde, it does make the readers yet again try to consider all the information we've been given to try and make some sense of the situation. Again, Poole (the elderly servant of Jekyll) says he sees "very little of him" (Hyde) around the house, mostly just in the laboratory. This could suggest that Hyde is involved with Jekyll's science that Lanyon looks down on, explaining more why Lanyon knows so little of Hyde. From a religious standpoint, science and experimenting was still viewed as blasphemy against God because it was 'doubting His creation' and challenging many religious views. Stevenson himself had religious parents, but he felt detached from the beliefs and decided to follow nothing. This is parallel to the conflict between science and religion in the novel (Jekyll and Lanyon) and also in the time period.

In conclusion, Hyde is presented through his behavior, physical description and interactions with other characters in an animalistic, selfish and mysterious way. Through using historical context to link the novel to Victorian London, Stevenson has included ideas from religion and murders around the time. Additionally, Hyde seems like the 'ideal villain' in a gothic horror novel (as such is J&H) and this is deliberate by Stevenson because we ask many questions about him, leading to more in depth analysis overall. He is an antagonist whom we shouldn't bond with (which is backed up by his "savage" laugh and defensive behavior.) Finally, we must use the examples of foregrounding (hinting at the future of the book) to piece together vital clues about Hyde, in example the use of the term "murderous mixture" in Chapter Two: it is an alliteration and suggests that Hyde *will* murder someone. Suddenly we can make links to him hovering around the laboratory and not the house, his late-night activities and defensive outlook on life. Stevenson has been very strategic in keeping us engaged with the text through Hyde, the very mysterious character who gradually gives a little bit more away every chapter.