

Essay Title – How is duality presented in Jekyll and Hyde?

- Setting – Jekyll's House
- Appearance and Reality – Interpolated Narratives
- Good and Evil – Jekyll & Hyde
- Obsession with Reputation – Utterson

Paragraph 1 – Setting – Jekyll's House

OVERALL – Setting reflects the duality within Jekyll's character. Hyperbolic descriptions give the impression that he is overcompensating for his immoral actions that could tarnish reputation as a 'well-made... man'

- **'Large low-roofed', 'costly cabinets'**
 - Alliterative phrases
 - Desire to show off reputable persona
- CONTEXT – symbolism of house reflects attitudes of most Victorian gentlemen
 - Expected to have strong morals but there was a rise in number of 'gin palaces' and Opium dens
- **'Air of wealth and comfort'** – Jekyll's desired appearance
- **'Certain sinister block'** – represents the side Victorian men would want to hide
 - Sibilance – evil, secrecy, snakes
 - CONTEXT – Genesis creation story – Jekyll is unable to resist the temptation of his evil
 - Fact that this evil is actually the veneer of the building suggests that he has been unsuccessful in resisting temptation
- Reflective of Jekyll's confession in final chapter
 - **'My imperious desire to carry my head high'** – Alliterative phrase emphasises the importance of reputation and dignity
 - **'desire to...wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public'** – Jekyll would 'wear' a socially respectable persona – associations of costume. He is acting a part as Jekyll, but his true character is Hyde.

READER RESPONSE – Shock at Stevenson's admission of the presence of the duality in society

Paragraph 2 – Appearance and Reality – Interpolated Narratives (FORM AND STRUCTURE)

OVERALL – Multiple points of view accentuate the contrast between appearance and reality.

- Reader initially exposed to the outward appearance of characters by the cold, detached narrator who appears to make no judgments. Simply lays it as it is with no bias
- As the novella develops in epistolary nature the reader is shown the true character of Jekyll
 - Emotionally involved narrative shows a lot about him
 - Chapter name **'Full Statement of the Case'** implies it will be a confession, yet he seems to deflect the blame
 - **'primitive duality of man'** – accepts his duplicitous nature as no fault of his own
 - Narrative contradicts the fact that they are the same person – effort made to show their differences
- End of the final chapter, Jekyll changes to a more detached narrator
 - Switches from referring to Hyde as **'I'** to **'he'** – distinct difference between Jekyll and Hyde
 - First person -> Third person pronouns
 - Shows a realisation of what he has done – an awareness of the difference between his appearance and reality
- CONTEXT – Characteristic of Gothic genre – often use multiple narratives and letters/documents to tell the story
 - Allows author to keep parts of the story hidden

READER RESPONSE – Loss of respect and empathy for Jekyll – Up until this point we have seen him as moral but once we know the reality it is clear that he always had evil intentions

Paragraph 3 – Good and Evil – Characterisation of Jekyll and Hyde

OVERALL – Stevenson uses the same character to reflect the good and evil in a person, giving them different names, appearances and personas, which conform to the id and superego of Freud's model of psyche (CONTEXT)

- JEKYLL **'A large, well-made, smooth-faced man of fifty, with something of a slyish cast perhaps'**
 - Compound adjectives reflect how Jekyll is a composite of two parts – his good ('well' and 'smooth') and his evil side which he has 'made'
 - 'Slyish cast' also implies he is more than just his reputable exterior