

Essay Title - Hyde

- Antithesis of Jekyll (Theme: Setting/Reputation)
- Physicality (Theme: Appearance vs Reality)
- Evil effect on other people
- Temptation (Theme: Repression & Desire)

Paragraph 1 – Setting/Reputation – Dishonourable antithesis of Jekyll

OVERALL – Reader given an impression of Hyde as dishonourable, seemingly the opposite of Jekyll's character of a reputable member of society. This is shown in the contrasting descriptions of their houses.

- HYDE (House) '**certain sinister block...thrust forward its gable on the street**'
 - Sibilance – allusions to snake/secret
 - Personification of building suggests inhabitant is dangerous/unpredictable
 - Contrast to: JEKYLL (House) '**a square of ancient handsome houses**'
- HYDE (House) '**showed no window**' '**neither bell nor knocker**'
 - Symbolism of the window
 - You can't look in – ideas of secrecy and hidden truths
 - You can't look out – Hyde is detached from society, lacking human empathy
 - No visitors wanted or expected – hostile nature of Hyde
 - Secrecy – dual frontage of house shows Hyde and crimes are distanced from Jekyll
 - Contrast to: JEKYLL (House) '**a great air of wealth and comfort**'
- 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
 - Jekyll's double frontage on his house allows him to keep his reputable exterior while Hyde still thrives.

Paragraph 2 – Appearance vs Reality

OVERALL – Only character where his appearance matches his persona

- HYDE '**pale and dwarfish**' and has '**an impression of deformity**'
 - Colour imagery - 'pale' - connotes illness – maybe of the mind?
 - 'impression' - polysemy. Is he impersonating deformity to match his deformed morality? Do people subconsciously form an opinion on his physicality due to his violent nature – assumption that he is like an animal/the devil?
 - CONTEXT – Victorian ideas of physiognomy
- Compared to 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
 - Jekyll's unblemished reputation is symbolised by his face being unmarked, showing him as the good, respectable side to his character
- HYDE '**troglodytic**' '**ape-like fury**'
 - Animalistic imagery – violent
 - CONTEXT – Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution' – Hyde seen as devolved

READER RESPONSE: – Is he seen as more moral in some respects as he is honest with himself and society? Subverts the idea that Jekyll is the good/moral counterpart.

Paragraph 3 – Evil effect on other people

OVERALL – Hyde appears to corrupt the inner good of all those he meets. They are unable to explain why or how he makes them feel such hatred towards him.

- '**I saw that Sawbones turn sick and white with desire to kill him**'
 - Hyde brings out the worst in people, no matter their status
 - Irony that a doctor turns 'sick' – Hyde corrupts everything
 - 'desire' – Does Hyde symbolise Jekyll's unrepressed desire, and therefore influence others to do the same?
 - CONTEXT –
- '**I can't describe him. And it's not want of memory; for I declare I can see him this moment**'
 - We can sense evil but not define it – invites reader to conjure up an evil image for themselves