

CHAPTER 2 - SEARCH FOR MR HYDE

Mr Utterson returns home and retrieves Dr Jekyll's will from his safe. It states that "all his possessions were to pass into the hands of his 'friend and benefactor Edward Hyde'". Utterson calls this "a madness". Utterson ventures out to meet his school friend Dr Lanyon, who is described as being "hearty" and "boisterous". Lanyon remarks how he sees little of Jekyll now, as he became "too fanciful", but does not know of Mr Hyde. Utterson returns home but has terrible nightmares about Hyde, which he describes in great detail. Utterson decides to hunt Hyde down, until one night their paths cross. Hyde is confused as to how Utterson knows him, and is reluctant to show his face. However eventually he hands over his address and leaves with a "savage laugh". The lawyer is once again struck that Hyde is "hardly human". Utterson goes to visit Dr Jekyll (who is out). Mr Hyde is said to have a key for Jekyll's house but he has never been seen by the butler, Poole. Utterson heads home, assuming that Jekyll is being blackmailed.

KEY THEMES

- **Science and Religion** - Hyde is described by Utterson as "hardly human" and "troglodytic". These images of an inhumane beast add to the image of Hyde being indescribably evil - the reader already hates him because of how he trampled over the child.
- **Silence and taboo** - Dr Jekyll is unable to talk about his transformation in the novel, nor his violent tendencies, meaning that he has to conceal them. Utterson is also defined by silence - his intellectual nature prevents him from gossiping, leaving many things unsaid.

CONTEXT

- In the Victorian era, Darwin was developing his theory of evolution, which conflicted with many **religious** beliefs over the creation of mankind. Many of Utterson's friends are scientists, putting them directly in the conflict over **science vs religion**. The word "troglodytic" means "cave-dweller", which implies that Hyde is below humans in his development - this makes him sound animalistic and untameable.
- **Taboo** was the unspoken part of Victorian culture that prevented people from talking about how they felt, with sex strictly off limits. **Homosexuality** is also a theme in this novel (with it's MANY bachelors), whilst **silence** is used to build suspense and tension.

WHILE READING...