

role as a Doctor, we do not learn much of his patients or of any work he has to partake in directly related to his employment as a physician; perhaps a deliberate move by Stevenson to make us aware that his dedication lays with creating this life altering concoction.

Commented [LF8]: Interesting argument

The reader never learns, for example, of Dr. Jekyll's academic or professional credentials, nor does the reader ever observe Dr. Jekyll with patients. Dr. Jekyll is never observed conducting experiments, however misdirected they may be. Instead, all of the descriptions of Dr. Jekyll in his laboratory are devoted to his obsession with mixing the drug that gives him a release from his psychological torture. (Smith, 2011).

Jekyll is successful at least in changing his appearance to allow for the creation of an alter ego which he names, "Edward Hyde". Perhaps with allowing himself to explore the inner darkness of his soul as Hyde, this will enable Jekyll to become more at ease with his psychological confliction as he will have finally been able to experience these immoral desires he has so long suppressed. Hyde was only ever a visual representation of Jekyll's 'shadow' self and was never a functioning, thinking individual independent of Jekyll. Wright explains that to assume that Jekyll represents human "good" while Hyde embodies that which is "evil" is to forget that Hyde is but the consequence of Jekyll's experiments in forbidden science, he exists only by the will of Jekyll; he has no independent being. Hyde is not other than Jekyll, he is Jekyll. (Wright, 1994, pp. 255). Despite Jekyll's enthusiastic efforts to suppress his dark side of his nature, he fails in the end at freeing himself of these dark desires and instead finds he is wholly consumed by them, ending with his demise. Observing this behaviour in Jekyll, we can see that firstly he was very uneasy with the duplicity of his nature; something however we all possess. All humans are inevitably born with the capacity of good and evil and by accepting our nature with all its flaws we are capable of then deciding the path we wish to take. Jekyll could not accept his darker side and became so obsessed by it he devoted all of his time in attempting to use science to eradicate it. This duality of good versus evil, until questioned, appears to be straight forward in concept. However, Stevenson blurs the lines between the two by embodying both principles within the one character. . A possible reason for why Stevenson may have chosen to cause controversy with his titular character could be explained by examining another duality within the novel; religion versus science.

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