

“what we are given (one year before Sherlock Holmes solves his first crime in A Study in Scarlet) is an extraordinarily interesting and sophisticated detective story.” (Sandison 1996, p.218)

*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* leaves the reader constantly facing questions as to what is happening in the plot-line, and in the case of this novella, even after the story has finished. The duality of man, the realisation that there are not clearly defined good men or bad men in society, leaves the reader asking questions such as ‘what is evil?’ and ‘what does it mean to be evil?’ This is portrayed by Utterson and Enfield’s inability to place why Edward Hyde makes them uncomfortable, they just are. Stevenson uses his study of the subconscious to create new philosophy on the doubles within the human conscious and the questioning to the differences between good and evil, thanks to the characterisation of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

Using a more extrinsic reading of the text it would be possible to suggest that Robert Louis Stevenson adds other binary oppositions to the storyline of *The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, for example the difference in class, and the opposition of Rich and Poor. This inequality is best seen through the comparison of the characters Jekyll and Hyde. Jekyll is a doctor, and as stated in his final confession, born into a ‘large fortune’ (Stevenson 1886, p.58). This character is the representation of the rich and privileged side to Victorian society. On the other hand, Mr Hyde could be considered the representation of poverty in London. This is shown through his possession of an apartment in Soho, an area of London with a bad reputation for prostitutes. When Hyde’s body is discovered dead in Dr Jekyll’s study, it is commented on that ‘he was dressed in clothes far too large for him’ (Stevenson 1886, p.46). The reader may immediately assume this is due to him dressed in Jekyll’s clothing, and the doctor was a man of a very different build to him. But to close read this scenario with an extrinsic view, it could be suggested that Hyde’s clothes did not fit him because he himself could not fit into the society that Dr Jekyll was a part of, even if he dressed