



Year 9 English - Jekyll and Hyde



Essential Knowledge

Conventions of a detective story:

- Made popular by Sherlock Holmes stories in 19th century, some elements are borrowed by Stevenson. They usually start with a crime, which is solved during the course of the novella. It also includes a trail of false and true leads/clues.
- In the novella, we know who committed the crime but what we don't know is the connection between the two main characters is. This is the central 'mystery' of the novella. Stevenson leads the reader down false lines of enquiry and leaves us with a series of mysterious clues— we are in the dark and need to try to solve the mystery!

Context:

- **Victorian London** - A dirty, smoggy, dark and dangerous city at the time of writing. Sometimes covered in a brown fog from the factories of the Industrial Revolution. The city was riddled with crime which went largely unsolved by a relatively new and ineffective police force.
- **Duality and the Victorian Gentleman** - Social conventions were so strict in Victorian times that the criminal underworld developed. Victorian gentleman had to behave and act in a certain way in public in order to keep their reputation.
- **Religion Vs. Science** - There was a growing conflict between religion and science. Scientific developments were rapid at this time and we knew more about anatomy than ever before. Darwin gave the world his Theory of Evolution which suggested that perhaps we did not come from God, but evolved from apes.

Sophisticated vocabulary	Definition
Atavism/atavistic	Reverting to something primitive
Austere	Severe or strict in manner or attitude
Degenerate	Having lost the physical, mental or moral qualities considered normal and desirable
Doppelganger	The double of someone already living
Façade	A deceptive outward appearance
Hedonistic	Engaging in the pursuit of pleasure
Juggernaut	A huge, powerful and overwhelming force
Morality	Principles concerning the distinction between right and wrong or good and bad behaviour
Repression	The restraint of a feeling or desire
Troglodytic	A repulsive person who is solitary and acts eccentrically within a society
Unorthodox	The opposite of what is traditionally acceptable

Grammar Focus - Killer openings

- Provide a summary of your argument and use three adjectives to describe the person/thing/event that is the topic of the question. These three adjectives will then set out the plan for your main points in your essay.
- Example: *'In Jekyll and Hyde, Stevenson presents Hyde as immoral, ugly and repulsive. To a Victorian reader, Hyde is everything that is feared and loathed in society and his character is used by Stevenson to highlight...'*

Writing structure & sentence starters

What – What impression does the writer create?

- [Writer's name] *has created the impression that...*

How 1 – How do you know this?

- *This is clear when the writer states...*
[quotation]

How 2 – How can you explore this quotation?

- *This suggests...*[explain what the quotation means/implies]
- *The use of the* [word/ word class/ technique] *conveys that...*

Why – Why does the writer give us this impression?

- [Writer's name] *has presented* [the topic] *in this way in order to...*

WAGOLL

Stevenson has created the impression that Mr Hyde is a satanic figure who is beyond redemption. This is clear when the narrator recalls Hyde's attack on a gentleman. We are told his 'bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway.' This suggests not only his unpredictability but his excessively violent nature. The use of onomatopoeia in the phrase 'audibly shattered' creates an intense sensory image of the severe damage caused to his victim. Stevenson has presented Hyde in this way to draw upon the concerns of his Victorian readers who were horrified by Darwin's suggestion that man could revert to the state of their ancestors and behave in such an unorthodox manner.