

Mr Hyde

"Pure evil"

"I have observed that when I wore the semblance of Edward Hyde, none could come near to me at first without a visible misgiving of the flesh. This, as I take it, was because all human beings, as we meet them, are commingled out of good and evil: and Edward Hyde, alone in the ranks of mankind, was pure evil."



1. What is interesting about Jekyll's use of pronouns here and the way he refers to Hyde?
2. What does it suggest about Jekyll's view of Hyde?
3. Jekyll identifies Hyde as "pure evil". If Hyde is "pure evil" what does this suggest about Stevenson's view of evil?

Once Jekyll releases his evil side, the evil gradually comes to dominate the good until Jekyll is destroyed and replaced by the "pure evil" that is Hyde.

At first Hyde's evil acts are merely "undignified" pleasures; they soon turn "monstrous."

4. What do the two adjectives suggest about Jekyll's secret life before the creation of Hyde?
5. What do the two adjectives suggest about the power of evil?
6. Who is responsible for this change in Hyde's actions?

Descriptions of Hyde

for the man trampled calmly over the child's body and left her screaming on the ground. It sounds nothing to hear, but it was hellish to see. It wasn't like a man; it was like some damned Juggernaut. [Ch 1]

7. Whose description of Hyde is this?
8. What is the effect of the adverb "calmly" used after the verb "trampled"? What does it suggest about Hyde?

I saw that Sawbones turn sick and white with the desire to kill him. I knew what was in his mind, just as he knew what was in mine; [Ch 1]

9. Whose description of reactions to Hyde is this?
10. What does this line suggest about a normal person's response to seeing pure evil for the first time?
11. Explain the precise effect of the adjectives "sick and white".

an impression of deformity without any nameable malformation [Ch 2]

12. Whose impression of Hyde is this?

13. What impression does this line give of Hyde's appearance?
14. If Hyde doesn't actually look malformed, what is creating this impression of "deformity"?

not all of these together could explain the hitherto unknown disgust, loathing, and fear with which Mr. Utterson regarded him [Ch 2]

15. Find an alternative word for each of the three abstract nouns that describe Utterson's reaction to Hyde.

none could come near to me at first without a visible misgiving of the flesh [Ch 10]

16. Who is describing who here?
17. Put the phrase "visible misgiving of the flesh" into your own words.

"friend and benefactor Edward Hyde,"

18. Who refers to Hyde in this way?
19. Where is this description found?
20. In what way is Hyde a "benefactor" to this character?

The consequences of the murder of Sir Danvers Carew

"fear of the gallows"

21. What does this phrase mean?
22. Which character(s) fear the gallows?
23. Why is this an important aspect of the story?

Reputation

'If you choose to make capital out of this accident,' said he, 'I am naturally helpless. No gentleman but wishes to avoid a scene,'

24. To whom does Hyde address these words and at what point in the story?
25. What does it tell us about Hyde at this point in the story?

The birth of Hyde

The evil side of my nature, to which I had now transferred the stamping efficacy, was less robust and less developed than the good which I had just deposed.

26. What does this suggest about Hyde's development in the story?
27. What does it suggest about Hyde's influence of Jekyll's life?