

Jekyll & Hyde: 9.1

Characterisation		Context	
1. Henry Jekyll	respectable and wealthy doctor; experimental scientist; haunted by dark impulses ; fascinated by idea of human duality ; obsessive ; becomes a frightened and anxious recluse	1. Technological progress	Victorian England , 1886: London was centre of scientific discovery, technological progress and social growth; Industrial Revolution (1760-18-50) brought great wealth but also poverty and overcrowding to London.
2. Edward Hyde	violent and unrepentant criminal; commits atrocious crimes; Jekyll's alter ego ; embodies pure evil and immorality ; 'Hyde' represents hidden aspect of man; smaller and younger than Jekyll.	3. Crime and urban terror	Overcrowded 'slums' in London became rife with crime; press sensationalism spread fear; Social Darwinism -criminals viewed as having an inherited 'behavioural abnormality'; Jack the Ripper murders (1888) = increased fear and significance for later readers
3. Gabriel Utterson	calm and rational lawyer; close friend of Jekyll; narrative voice represents readers' conscience ; a symbol of moral Victorian values; loyal; becomes distressed and concerned for Jekyll.	4. Science and Religion	Darwin's theory of evolution , 1859- idea that humans evolved from apes led to worries about our primitive nature; Victorians saw science as disbelieving ; strict religious values warned against interfering with God's creation.
4. Dr Lanyon	respectable doctor with traditional methods; former friend of Jekyll; disapproves of Jekyll's experimental ideas; horrified by Hyde's provocative metamorphosis ; dies of shock.	5. Victorian Values	1837-1901: British society displayed sexual restraint , religious morality , strict social code of conduct; Utterson represents archetypal Victorian gentleman ; Victorian men conformed to societal ideals in public.
5. Richard Enfield	Distant relative and lifelong friend of Utterson; well-known man about town; moral and well-mannered ; lack of curiosity.		
6. Mr Poole	Jekyll's loyal and reliable servant; knowledgeable ; Stevenson's device for giving information to reader.		
7. Sir Danvers Carew	a distinguished , well-liked gentleman; brutally murdered by Hyde; represents 'innocent' archetype ; courteous and polite.		

Themes/ideas		
1. Duality of humanity		All humans capable of good and evil; Victorian religion condemned 'evil' thoughts; Hyde's evil portrayed as animalistic .
2. Science		Jekyll's death highlights dangers of experimentation ; people were cautious of scientific developments in religious society; Jekyll uses scientific knowledge to 'play God'
3. Crime and Violence		Hyde represents violent nature of humans; Jekyll's transformations presented as painful and violent.
4. Repression		Jekyll's repression of hidden desires causes strengthening of Hyde; Jekyll represents how people were forced to repress 'forbidden' desires in order to maintain public reputation ; Utterson's professionalism led him to repress feelings of curiosity.
5. Supernatural		Stevenson shows the binary opposites of natural and supernatural through Jekyll and Hyde; Jekyll's mystical methods results in supernatural being of Hyde ; Lanyon's horrified reaction represents the natural order .