

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Summer Reading Dialectical Journal

Due: First Day of Class (The assignment must be typed and ready to submit to TurnItIn the first day of class.)

Notes on the Text:

Any edition of the novel is acceptable. You will need to annotate and take notes throughout your reading, so choose a copy with sufficient margin space if possible. Audiobooks are also acceptable supplements to your reading. Richard Armitage's narration on Audible is excellent, but many free versions are available online.

Purpose:

This journal is designed to help you engage actively with the novel rather than simply summarize the plot. Strong responses will demonstrate close reading, thoughtful analysis, and connections between the novel and larger ideas about human nature, society, and morality.

Please include page numbers whenever possible. **Do not use AI. If AI is used, you will receive a 0 for this assignment.**

As you read, pay special attention to the following themes:

- Duality of human nature
- Good versus evil
- Reputation and respectability
- Secrecy and hidden desires
- Science and morality
- Self-control and temptation
- Friendship and loyalty
- Appearance versus reality

Assignment:

Part 1: Literary Devices (20 points)

Requirement

Find **ONE significant literary device from each chapter** (10 total).

Possible literary devices include:

- Simile
- Metaphor
- Symbolism
- Irony
- Foreshadowing
- Allusion
- Alliteration
- Repetition
- Imagery
- Personification
- Contrast

Format: Page Number: Quotation: Literary Device: Commentary:

Your commentary should:

- Identify the device.
- Explain how it works.
- Discuss why Stevenson uses it.
- Connect it to a theme, character, mood, or conflict in the novel.

Example:

Page 23

Quotation: "The fog rolled over the city like a dirty blanket."

Literary Device: Simile

Commentary: Stevenson compares the fog to a dirty blanket using a simile. The image creates an atmosphere of mystery and concealment. The fog symbolizes the secrets surrounding Hyde and suggests that the truth is hidden from both the characters and the reader.

Part 2: Emotional Impact (10 points)

Requirement

Choose **TWO moments** that produced a strong emotional reaction.

Possible reactions include:

- Fear
- Shock
- Suspense
- Sympathy
- Anger
- Disgust
- Sadness
- Curiosity

Format- Page Number: Reaction: Explanation:

Your explanation should discuss:

- What emotion you felt.
- Why you felt it.
- What techniques Stevenson used to create that feeling (imagery, suspense, pacing, characterization, etc.).

Example

Page 21

Reaction: Shock and Disgust

Explanation: I was shocked when Hyde trampled the young girl without hesitation. Stevenson creates this reaction by describing the event in a blunt and disturbing manner. The lack of remorse shown by Hyde makes him seem unnatural and frightening.

Part 3: Evaluating the Novel's Ideas (20 points)

Requirement

Choose **TWO important ideas or values** presented in the novel and evaluate

them. Possible ideas include:

- Duality of human nature

- Temptation and sin
- Pride and hubris
- Limits of science
- Reputation versus character
- Self-control
- Hypocrisy in society
- Secrecy
- Friendship and loyalty

Format- Page Number: Idea: Do You Agree or Disagree? Reasoning:

Your response should:

- Explain what the novel seems to suggest.
- State your own position.
- Support your reasoning with evidence from the novel and your own observations about human behavior or society.

Example

Page 68

Idea: Humans cannot completely separate their good and evil sides.

Do You Agree or Disagree? Agree.

Reasoning: Jekyll believes he can isolate his evil impulses and enjoy them without consequences. Instead, Hyde becomes increasingly powerful. The novel suggests that every person contains both good and evil tendencies and that denying part of oneself can lead to greater problems.

Part 4: Character Development (10 points)

Requirement

Choose **ONE character** and discuss how your opinion of them changed throughout the novel.

Format- Character: Beginning Impression: Ending Impression: What Changed Your Mind?

Your response should explain:

- How the character is initially presented.
- How later events altered your perception.
- Which actions, revelations, or decisions caused the change.

Example

Character: Dr. Jekyll

Beginning Impression: At first, Jekyll seemed kind, intelligent, and trustworthy.

Ending Impression: By the end of the novel, I viewed him as tragic but also irresponsible.

What Changed My Mind? Although Jekyll's intentions may have been good, his pride led him to conduct dangerous experiments and hide the consequences from his friends. His secrecy contributed to his downfall.

Part 5: Inferencing and Deeper Meaning (10 points)

Requirement

Choose **TWO passages, incidents, symbols, or relationships** that have a deeper meaning beyond the literal events of the story.

Format- Page Number: Passage/Incident: Deeper Meaning: Explanation:

Your explanation should answer:

- What is Stevenson trying to say beneath the surface?
- What larger truth about humanity, society, morality, or identity is being explored?
- How does the example contribute to the novel's themes?

Additional Guidance

As you analyze deeper meanings, consider questions such as:

- Why is Hyde repeatedly described as physically disturbing even when characters cannot

explain exactly why?

- How do Jekyll's and Hyde's appearances reflect their inner character?
- What might doors, windows, fog, darkness, laboratories, and locked rooms symbolize?
- How does Stevenson use physical appearance to reveal or conceal moral character?
- What might the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde represent about human nature?

Remember: **Inferencing means moving beyond what the text explicitly says and exploring what it suggests.**

Example #1

Page 13

Passage/Incident: The mysterious door connected to Hyde's residence.

Deeper Meaning: The door symbolizes hidden aspects of human nature.

Explanation: The entrance appears neglected and separate from respectable society, much like Hyde himself. Stevenson may be suggesting that every person has hidden parts of their identity that they try to keep out of public view.

Example #2

Page 61

Passage/Incident: Hyde's smaller physical stature.

Deeper Meaning: Hyde's appearance reflects the undeveloped and suppressed nature of Jekyll's evil impulses.

Explanation: Hyde is physically smaller because Jekyll has spent most of his life cultivating his respectable side. Stevenson may be suggesting that evil grows stronger when it is secretly indulged, which explains why Hyde becomes increasingly powerful throughout the novel.

Advanced Example

Page 66

Passage/Incident: Jekyll's transformation into Hyde.

Deeper Meaning: The transformation represents the conflict between public identity and private desire.

Explanation: Stevenson is not simply telling a horror story about a scientist and a monster. He is exploring how people divide themselves between what society expects and what they truly want. Jekyll's tragedy suggests that denying part of one's humanity rather than confronting it honestly can lead to self-destruction.

Final Reflection

The strongest journals will move beyond plot summary and demonstrate thoughtful engagement with the novel's themes, symbols, characters, and moral questions.

Whenever possible, ask yourself:

- What is Stevenson saying about human nature?
- Why did he choose to tell the story this way?
- What lesson, warning, or insight might readers take away from the novel?

Remember: Great literary analysis focuses not only on **what happens**, but also on **why it matters**.

If you have any questions about the assignment please email me at benjaminlarson2004@gmail.com

I hope that you find this assignment enjoyable and I look forward to discussing this amazing novel with you soon!