



First Rate Tutors

# Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

## Model Answers



- **Four Model Answers**
- **Five Practice Questions**
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## *Model Answer*

**Read the following extract from Chapter 10 and then answer the question that follows. In this extract Dr Jekyll writes a statement to explain what he was like as a younger man.**

I was born in the year 18-- to a large fortune, endowed besides with excellent parts, inclined by nature to industry, fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellowmen, and thus, as might have been supposed, with every guarantee of an honourable and distinguished future. And indeed the worst of my faults was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition, such as has made the happiness of many, but such as I found it hard to reconcile with my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public. Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look round me and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life. Many a man would have even blazoned such irregularities as I was guilty of; but from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame. It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was, and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature. In this case, I was driven to reflect deeply and inveterately on that hard law of life, which lies at the root of religion and is one of the most plentiful springs of distress. Though so profound a double- dealer, I was in no sense a hypocrite; both sides of me were in dead earnest; I was no more myself when I laid aside restraint and plunged in shame, than when I laboured, in the eye of day, at the furtherance of knowledge or the relief of sorrow and suffering. And it chanced that the direction of my scientific studies, which led wholly towards the mystic and the transcendental, reacted and shed a strong light on this consciousness of the perennial war among my members. With every day, and from both sides of my intelligence, the moral and the intellectual, I thus drew steadily nearer to that truth, by whose partial discovery I have been doomed to such a dreadful shipwreck: that man is not truly one, but truly two.

**Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson present Dr Jekyll as a conflicted character?**

**Write about:**

- how Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll as a conflicted character in the extract.
- how Stevenson presents Dr Jekyll as a conflicted character in the novel as a whole.

In the extract as well as the novella as a whole, Stevenson effectively presents Dr Jekyll as a deeply conflicted character who we as readers grow to empathise with as well as feel

theme as we learn that contextually, in the Victorian Era, gentlemen who occupied a high social standing worked extremely hard to hide their true natures in order to maintain a reputation of respectability. Thus the secrecy that shrouds Dr Jekyll's disappearance, as well as his reluctance to be seen by Mr Utterson and Poole, shows that he may be harbouring a horrific double life that is too horrible to articulate. This therefore heightens our fear and horror as we wonder what dreadful act he may have committed.

Moreover, the extract escalates as it draws to a close and both Poole and Utterson "heard him cry out upon the name of God." This hyperbole, coupled with the semantic field of religion including "God" and "Heaven," creates a climactic scene as we panic and wonder whether something terrible has finally occurred to Dr Jekyll. Furthermore the use of the onomatopoeia "cried" conveys the utter pain and suffering Dr Jekyll is experiencing. Therefore we feel a sense of panic and dread as to what has happened to Dr Jekyll and we wonder if he will ever come out of his laboratory alive.

Elsewhere in the novella, Stevenson creates a sense of fear and horror by shrouding aspects of Dr Jekyll's life in secrecy. Stevenson uses closed doors and windows as symbols of secrecy and Dr Jekyll's home itself has two sides to it – with the back door leading to his laboratory as having "neither bell nor knocker." This is powerful as it creates a sense of mystery as well as horror – we as readers are afraid as we wonder what horrible secret Dr Jekyll is hiding. This is important as it links to the theme of the dual nature of man. Sigmund Freud, a famous psychologist, developed the theory of man's nature and mind being like the "tip of an iceberg." Much like the tip of a vast iceberg which is just above the ocean's water, our egos are visible to all in society and our "egos" represent the civilised and kind side to us. However beneath this iceberg is a vast and hidden underbelly – which Freud called our "ID." This is the primitive nature within all of us which is uncivilised and we learn to repress and hide this aspect to us in order to be able to live within society and among other people. Dr Jekyll's home, as well as his own character, is a similar depiction of this. While on the one end of his home there is a beautiful entrance for all in polite society to walk in, at the other end of his home, all are forbidden to enter as it harbours dark and hidden secrets which are too horrific for us to behold. Hence this hidden side of Dr Jekyll, which is symbolised through the backdoor of his house, creates fear and horror within us as readers as we wonder what evil is hidden that is lurking within.

In addition, in Dr Jekyll's letter which finally confesses all he had hidden, his description of his transformation into Mr Hyde creates a sense of fear and horror. He describes the "most racking pangs" which developed and they include "a grinding in the bones, deadly nausea, and a horror of the spirit..." Stevenson's use of the rule of three in this description creates a sense of repulsion within readers. This creates a sense of horror and panic as it shows Dr Jekyll's hidden side which he is willing to unleash upon society – which is Mr Hyde. This is unsettling for us to read as we realise that much like Freud noted that we humans have a dual nature – a civilised and