

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Introduction

This unit is designed to acquaint with some background material and historical information surrounding the novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson published his novella in 1886 during a time when Great Britain was undergoing a great many societal and technological changes. Your assignment is as follows:

1. Research library print and online resources on your assigned question.
2. Cite at least two print sources and two Internet sources.
3. Use Noodletools.com to produce notecards and a bibliography
4. Complete an outline of the paper and hand it in with your completed paper.
5. Write a 3 page expository paper that includes all of the information requested.

Research Procedures

1. Determine what the topic asks you to research by highlighting or underlining the key words in your topic.
2. Use the list of search terms to books and websites that will give you an overview of your topic. (An overview is an approximate 2 page summary that answers the who, what where, why, and how about your topic.)
3. Refine your topic based on what you find in the overview.
4. Prepare a working bibliography of sources that you use. Remember you may read a Wikipedia article, but it cannot count as one of your sources and you may not refer to it in your paper.
5. Prepare a preliminary outline of your topic. Refer to the "Sample Outline" instructions.
6. Read pages from the various sources that you have found and take notes using NoodleTools.
7. Assemble your notes and organize a final outline. Check the outline to make certain that each subtopic relates to the main topic and is in logical order.
8. Write a first draft of the paper and read it aloud.
9. Write a revised draft with footnotes and a bibliography.
10. Hand in the following: 1. Outline 2. Paper. 3. notecards. 4. Bibliography.
11. If you have a question concerning a specific individual, use Wilson Biographies and Twayne Authors databases.
12. Type in the word <hyde> in Eagle Eyes to retrieve appropriate Internet sites.
13. Log in to Noodletools.com and select MLA Starter.

Syllabus

Day 1 –Introduction to the unit. Research materials in the library. Hand in authors and titles of 2 books that you intend to use to complete your written assignment.

Day 2 – Continue research in library. Have individual progress check with Mrs. Simchak.

Day 3 Hand in outline of the paper. Have individual progress checks with Mrs. Simchak.

Day 4 – Continue writing the paper. Have individual progress checks with Mrs. Simchak

Day 5 - Complete paper and hand in at the end of class together with a outline, notecards, and bibliography.

1. In London during the 1800s, the life of a 13 year-old chimney sweep was grueling because of the nature of the job. Describe the details of the job of chimney sweep, and in your explanation be sure to include: 1. the approximate age when you began sweeping chimneys 2. Initial reactions to climbing a chimney; 3. Working conditions; 4. Salary; advancement opportunities; and 5. occupational diseases.

Sources: Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor Vol.II* pp. 338-464; Gibben, James. *The Chimney Sweep Yesterday and Today* and Hibbert, Christopher. *Daily Life in Victorian England* pp. 67+ Worker chapter on general conditions; *Life in Victorian England* pp. 22-23; Thomson, John. *Victorian London Street Life in Historic Photographs* pp. 43-46.

2. Crime and poverty flourished during Stevenson's time. Thousands of people lived on the proceeds from crimes, such as pick pocketing, shoplifting, prostitution and burglary. Describe the various types of pickpockets, and explain their methods and life in general making a living as a pickpocket.

Sources: Mayhew, Henry. *London Labour and the London Poor Vol. IV* pp. 303+; Hibbert; Christopher. *Daily Life in Victorian England*. pp. 103-111; *The Victorian Underworld* p. 63-70 and 260-275.

3. Two of the characters of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde were in the habit of taking long walks through the streets of London where they could observe people and incidents. At that time, London was a dirty, crowded, noisy, but exciting metropolis. Describe the areas of London that include Cavendish Square and Soho. In your explanation, be sure to include the types of people you might have seen, their activities and amusements, and some of the contemporary architectural landmarks of London such as parks, neighborhoods, and buildings.

Sources: Daiches, David. *Literary Landscapes of the British Isles* pp. 56-68 (maps); Girouard, Mark. *Cities and People* pp. 271-284; Hayes, John. *London from the Earliest Times to the Present Day*. Chapter 6 – pp. 87-110.

4. During the Victorian period, divisions between the working and upper classes became greater than before as a broad middle class developed. Research the topic of class structure in the nineteenth century England. Explain the various social classes by describing: their various activities and pastimes, the kinds of houses they live in, their

household responsibilities, the daily routine of their children, and professions and occupations typical of each class.

Sources: Hibbert, Christopher. *Daily Life in Victorian England*. Chapter 1, 2, 3, and 5. *History of Private Life Vol. 4* pp.47 +, p. 193 +; Harrison, J.F.C. *The Early Victorians, 1832-51*. Chapter 2, pp. 42-79, Chapter 4, pp. 113-149; Houghton, Walter E. *The Victorian Frame of Mind, 1830-1870*. pp. 183-217.

5. Stevenson wrote his novella in 1886. It was a time when Britain was experiencing a period of intense social, economic and spiritual change. Describe the changes that occurred and be sure to include: 1. riots in London by the unemployed; 2. defeat of Gladstone's liberal government, 3. war with Burma, 4. Irish terrorists' damage to Westminster Abbey and dynamiting of the Tower of London; 5. The passing of the Third Reform Act giving farm workers the right to vote; 6. the founding of the Fabian Society; 7. the introduction of the first electric railway; and 8. the married women's property act.

Sources: Crittenden, Aidan. *Backgrounds to English Literature: The Victorians*, pp. 14-17; Engels, Friedrich, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. Thompson, F.M.L., *The Rise of Respectable Society*. pp. 343-346.

6. During Stevenson's time, the working classes were beginning to flex their political muscles. Many were influenced by the writings of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Write biographical sketches of Marx and Engels. Explain what system of government they supported and why their beliefs would have appealed to working class people.

Sources: Barzun, Jacques. *Darwin, Marx, Wagner*, pp. 129-132, 156-159, p. 169 (quote in beginning)-171; McLellan, David. *Karl Marx*, biographical note, pp. xii-xiv. Meyer, Alfred. *Marxism Since the Communist Manifesto*; Berlin, Isaiah. *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment*. Engels, Friedrich, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*, pp. 9-12. Manuel, Frank E., *A Requiem for Karl Marx*, pp. 57-65; Hunt, R. N. Carew. *The Theory and Practice of Communism*, pp. 9-13; Lenin, V. I. *Marx-Engels-Marxism*, pp. 15-20, 56-66.

7. Many literary critics of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* saw echoes of Charles Darwin, the founder of The Theory of Evolution in the text. They considered the character of Mr. Hyde as "apelike" and "moving like a monkey" to be indicative of Darwin's theory. Explain who Darwin was, with some background, his Theory of Evolution, and his "survival of the fittest" concept, and where his theories originated.

Sources: Moorehead, Allen. *Darwin and the Beagle*, pp. 19-35 and 247-270; Irvine,

William. *Apes, Angels, & Victorians*, pp. 83 and others (look in index); Barzun, Jacques. *Darwin, Marx, Wagner*, pp. 27-28; Helligman, Deborah. *Charles and Emma*. Bradford, Gamalieil. *Darwin*, pp. 44-55.

8. Robert Louis Stevenson had received an extremely strict, religious upbringing which emphasized sin and the punishments of hell. His novella, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is considered a reaction against this upbringing. Explain the basic tenets of the Anglican Church during the mid 1800s (Stevenson's formative years) and why new scientific theories were seen in conflict with his religious beliefs.

Sources: Swisher, Clarice, ed. *Victorian England*, pp. 147-163; Duane, Damon. *Life in Victorian England*. pp. 91-95. Encyclopedia of Religion, v.1, pp. 349-355; Mitchell, Sally. *Daily Life in Victorian England*, pp. 239-258.

9. Literary critics also found *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* to be a reflection of new ideas about the workings of the human mind. Mr. Hyde, for example, may have represented Dr. Jekyll's subconscious desire to be free from the societal restrictions. Mr. Hyde was also suffering from a form of mental illness. During that time, Sigmund Freud's studies changed the way people viewed these illnesses, and he is now known as "The Father of Psychoanalysis". Explain and describe his method of analyzing psychological problems and treating emotional disorders. Be sure to include information regarding the id, ego, and superego.

Sources: Paley, Alan L. Sigmund Freud *Father of Psychoanalysis* pp. 8-20; Freud, Sigmund. *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*. pp. 9-21. What Freud Really Said, pp. 141-167.

10. Queen Victoria's reign was a period of intense change over many areas. The prosperous decades between 1850 and 1870 were characterized by a personal optimism and sense of accomplishment. Describe and highlight these prosperous British decades. Be sure to include the following: 1. Expansion of the British rail and postal systems; 2. Improvements in medical and sanitary systems leading to better health; 3. Political reforms giving more people the right to vote and 4. the growth of various industries.

Sources: Swisher, Clarice, ed. *Victorian England*, pp. 137-146; Mitchell, Sally. *Daily Life in Victorian England*, pp. 71+, 206+, 10-11; Brocklehurst, Ruth. *Victorians*, pp. 8-9, 30, 36-37, 24-25.

11. During Stevenson's life, the British Empire stretched around the globe and was the most important economic power in the world. Trading by the British East India Company was a major source of this economic success. In the 1800's the company devised a profitable

trading triangle, importing opium from British India to China and exporting Chinese goods to the West. Explain the pros and cons of this trade for Great Britain and China. Be sure to include information regarding the Opium Wars that Great Britain fought with China.

Sources: Miller, Russell. *East Indiamen* p. 120+ Mason, Philip. *The Men Who Ruled India*. Pp. 135-171; *Nations and Empires*, pp. 32-38; Schurmann, Franz and Schell, Orville, eds. *Imperial China*, p. 131-164; Roberson, John. *China from Manchu to Mao*, pp. 19-34 and *History of China* (Horizon books) pp. 341-355; Booth, Martin. *Opium: A History*; Hodgson, Barbara. *Opium: Portrait of the Heavenly Demon*; Courtwright, David T. *Forces of Habit: Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*, pp. 4, 34-35, 38, 138, 154-155, 171, 177, 199.

12. By the 1880s, pessimism and worry had begun to cloud the thoughts of many Victorians. It was as if society as a whole reflected the dual nature of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Describe the major events of these years. Be sure to include: 1. Rising unemployment and poverty; 2. Great Britain's involvement in several foreign wars and 3. Women entering the workforce.

Sources: Hibbert, Christopher. *London the Biography of a City*, pp. 201-229; Porter, Roy. *London: A Social History*, pp. 239-325

13. One of the reasons that *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was so popular may have been because its publication coincided with a series of actual murders by a serial killer called "Jack the Ripper". Describe the mystery surrounding "Jack the Ripper" without going into the gory details. Be sure to include: 1. Basic facts of the case; 2. Evidence; 3. nature of the investigation and 4. Its legacy.

Sources: Thomas, Donald. *The Victorian Underworld*, pp. 8, 108, 113;

14. Drug use and abuse was increasing during the 1880s. Opium, for example, was frequently prescribed even to children to help them sleep! Stevenson's character develops an addiction to the potion he has created. Explain what addictive drugs were available during Stevenson's lifetime and described how they were used and abused. Be sure to include information regarding: 1. Laudanum and 2. Opium.

Sources: DeQuincey, Thomas. *Confessions of an English Opium Eater*, pp. 2, 155, 157-161, 190, 208-211; Hodgson, Barbara. *In the Arms of Morpheus...* Courtwright, David T. *Forces of Habit Drugs and the Making of the Modern World*. pp. 33-34, 35-39, 93-94.

15. Robert Louis Stevenson is considered one of England's finest writers. Give a brief biographical sketch of his life emphasizing the circumstances surrounding the inspiration for his writing, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Sources: *Great Writers of the English Language* Vol. 11, pp. 53-76; Harman, Claire. *Myself and the Other Fellow: A Life of Robert Louis Stevenson*, pp. 18-20, 25-26, 295-304.

16. Other important writers of the late 1800s were Thomas Hardy, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Sir H. Rider Haggard. Research each author and provide some biographical information, explain each author's writing and be sure to include information about what each person has written, how their writing was characteristic of "the Victorian Age", and how it was received by the public.

Sources: *Great Writers of the English Language* Vol. 12, pp. 76-100; *Great Writers of the English Language* Vol. 3, pp. 50-96; *Encyclopedia of British Writers 19th Century* pp. 113-115, 151.-152, 152-156,

17. Many literary critics envision Romantic literature as emphasizing only love, happiness, and valor, but its darker side might stress isolation, moodiness, and death, as well as the mysterious supernatural events of gothic literature. Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* is considered a romantic work. Research and explain the characteristics of Romantic literature and give examples of it from other famous writers' books, short stories and or plays.

Sources: King, Neil. *Backgrounds to English Literature: The Romantics* pp. 4-10; *The Reader's Adviser* Vol. 1. P. 269; Halsted, John B. *Romanticism: Definition, Explanation and Evaluation*, pp. 30-36.

18. When Dr. Jekyll strode about London everyone automatically took him for a gentleman. Although the concept of "gentleman" included moral attributes, it increasingly involved education. Describe the "requirements" of an English gentleman including: 1. education; 2. "the grand tour" (being well-traveled) 3. acceptable professions, and 4. social customs and morals.

Sources: Clark, G. Kitson. *The Making of Victorian England*. pp. 254 +; Houghton, Walter E. *The Victorian Frame of Mind*. Pp. 119+, 267+ and Hibbert, Christopher. *Daily Life in Victorian England*, pp. 46-52. Mason, Philip. *The English Gentleman*, pp. 12-13, 162, 173, 200-203. Thompson, F.M.L. *Rise of Respectable Society*, pp. 259-267.