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 an expository paper of about three pages 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.
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.
2014 Timeline for Research Project

Reminder:
Due Monday, March 17 – Your final Animal Farm essay.

*Over the weekend of March 1 – Develop an overview of your topic by checking online sources, such as Wikipedia and encyclopedias. Begin to look at formal online sources that you will be able to use in your paper and cite in your bibliography. Look for major subject areas within your topic that you can develop through further research.

*Monday, March 3 – Introduction to the unit in class.
   In class: Develop an overview of your topic by checking online sources, such as Wikipedia and encyclopedias. Begin to look at books sources that you will be able to use in your paper and cite in your bibliography. Look for major subject areas within your topic that you can develop through further research. Begin to take notes. Look for major subject areas within your topic that you will develop through further research. Tip: Try to avoid taking notes that quote your sources directly. If you take notes in your own words, you will be less likely to plagiarize from your sources.
   For homework: Continue to research your project via online sources.

*Tuesday, March 4 –
   In class: Continue research and note-taking in the library. Have individual progress check with Mrs. Simchak.
   For homework: Continue to research your project via online sources. Be ready to show Mrs. Simchak the authors and titles of two books and two online sources that you intend to use to complete your written assignment.

*Wednesday, March 5--
   In class: Continue research in library. Begin to outline your essay, using the form suggested in the project’s introductory materials. Determine if you need to do any further research.
   Tip: Remember that your opening paragraph will create a context (background) for your discussion and should introduce all the main points you plan to develop in the body of your essay.
   For homework: Work on the outline of your essay. Hand it in on Friday.

*Thursday, March 6 –
   In class: Continue to research and outline. Hand in an outline, if you are ready.
For homework: Continue research at home. Begin writing your essay, if you are ready.

*Friday, March 7 – Submit an outline of your essay for review. This outline is required work. It will be handed back on Monday so that you can begin writing your essay.

*Friday, March 14 – Essay is due in final form. Remember to adhere to the standards of proper essay form. Your outline, with my comments on it, research notes, and a formal bibliography must also be submitted with your essay. You may also hand in a revised outline.
1. In London during the 1800s, the life of a thirteen-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 the following:
   a. Who would be the most likely candidate for the job of chimney sweep? Why?
   b. How was a child trained to sweep chimneys? What were often his initial reactions to climbing a chimney?
   c. What were a sweep's working and living conditions?
   d. What were his salary and advancement opportunities?
   e. What were his occupational diseases and other health issues?


2. Crime and poverty flourished during Stevenson’s lifetime. Thousands of people lived on the proceeds from crimes, such as pick pocketing, shoplifting, prostitution and burglary. Discuss why many people were forced to turn to a life of crime during the Victorian period. Then focus on one type of criminal: the pickpocket. Describe the various types of pickpockets and their methods. Also describe what it was like to live the life of a pickpocket. Include a description of what would happen to them if they were caught at their work.

3. After his transformation into Mr. Hyde, Dr. Jekyll would disappear into the slums of London. Here life was dirty, crowded, and noisy, but exciting, for the slums were free from the social strictures that controlled his behavior as the prominent Dr. Jekyll. Describe life in the Victorian slums of London. Why did the slums exist? What sorts of people lived there and why? What were their living conditions? How did they support themselves? What were their activities and amusements? Why would Mr. Hyde have enjoyed his forays into the slums of London?


4. During the Victorian period, a broad middle class developed. Why was this social change possible? Discuss the Victorian middle class in towns and cities by describing the life of a typical middle class woman. What was the primary occupation for a middle class woman? What were the daily routines and responsibilities of the women of this class? What were their pastimes and amusements? Describe any other aspects of their lives that you find interesting, such as their homes, their food, and their clothing.

5. During the Victorian period, a broad middle class developed. Why was this social change possible? Discuss the Victorian middle class in towns and cities by describing the life of middle class boys and girls. What was the Victorian attitude towards children? Did the lives of boys and girls differ in daily routines and responsibilities? How were they educated? What were their pastimes and amusements? Describe any other aspects of their lives that you find interesting, such as their homes, their food, their clothing.


6. Stevenson wrote his novella in 1886 during the Victorian period, a time when Britain was experiencing a period of intense social and economic change. Discuss one of the major reasons for this change: the Industrial Revolution. Include in your discussion the reasons behind the Industrial Revolution. Describe the kinds of industries that were developed and why they were successful. Also discuss the impact – both positive and negative -- of the Industrial Revolution on the lives of many people in Britain. Describe, for example, how it created great differences in the way that factory owners and their workers lived.

7. 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. How did Marx and Engels’ backgrounds influence the development of their communist philosophy? Explain the system of government they supported. Describe why their beliefs would have appealed to working class people in England. Consider, for example, the way workers were treated. What were their working conditions in factories and mines? What political rights did they have?


8. Many readers of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* saw echoes of Charles Darwin’s theories of evolution in the text. They considered the character of Mr. Hyde, who is described as “apelike” and “moving like a monkey,” to suggest that Darwin’s theories may be right: that all living things have their origins in earlier forms of the species. Explain Darwin’s Theory of Evolution, particularly his “survival of the fittest” concept, where his theories originated, and how he developed them as the result of his personal experiences as a scientist.

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 his identification of the id, ego, and superego and how they interact in the human psyche.


10. One of the reasons that *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* was so popular may have been that 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. the basic facts of the case; 2. any evidence against him; 3. the nature of the investigation and 4. its journalistic legacy.


11. Drug use and abuse was increasing during the 1880s. Medicines containing 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 describe why and how they were used and abused. Be sure to include information regarding laudanum and opium.

12. When Dr. Jekyll strode about London everyone automatically took him for a gentleman – a man of education, refined tastes, and civil behavior. Although the concept of “a gentleman” included a man’s moral attributes, it involved the role of education – academic, social and religious -- in molding a boy into a proper gentleman. Describe an ideal English gentleman, including…

a. a gentleman’s upbringing and education, including “the grand tour” to Europe
b. acceptable professions for a gentleman and the training for them,
c. the social customs, the behavior expected of a gentleman
d. moral values expected in a gentleman.