



The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

by Michael Poteet

For the novel by
Robert Louis
Stevenson

CD Version



Limited permission to reproduce this study guide.

**Purchase of this study guide entitles an individual teacher
to reproduce pages for use in the classroom or home.**

**Multiple teachers may not reproduce pages
from the same study guide.**

Sale of any printed copy from this CD is strictly and specifically prohibited.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide
A Progeny Press Study Guide
by Michael S. Poteet
edited by Michael S. Gilleland

Copyright © 2001 Progeny Press
All rights reserved.

Reproduction or translation of any part of this work
beyond that permitted by Section 107 or 108 of the
1976 United States Copyright Act without the written
permission of the copyright owner is unlawful.
Requests for permission or other information should be
addressed to Reprint Permissions, Progeny Press,
PO Box 100, Fall Creek, WI 54742-0100.
www.progenypress.com

Printed in the United States of America.

ISBN: 978-1-58609-383-9 Book
978-1-58609-266-5 CD
978-1-58609-475-1 Set

Table of Contents

Study Guide Author	3
Peer Review Panel	4
Note to Instructor	6
Synopsis	7
About the Novel’s Author	8
Background Information: Sin in Calvinist Theology	12
Ideas for Pre-reading Activities	14
“Story of the Door” through “Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease”	16
“The Carew Murder Case” through “Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon”	29
“Incident at the Window” and “The Last Night”	35
“Dr. Lanyon’s Narrative”	39
“Henry Jekyll’s Full Statement of the Case”	45
Overview	55
Suggested Final Projects	59
Related Reading	62
Answer Key	64

Synopsis

Mr. Utterson the lawyer is perplexed and disturbed. His close friend of many years, the well-respected Dr. Henry Jekyll, has fallen into the company of one Edward Hyde—a man who, by all accounts, is cruel, unfeeling, and seemingly pure evil. Fearing for his friend's life, Utterson tries to persuade Jekyll to rid himself of his new companion. Although Jekyll swears he can and will, Utterson continues to hear reports of the doctor's closeness to Hyde. When Hyde murders a Member of Parliament, Utterson decides the situation is critical. Jekyll's relationship with Hyde must be stopped. Utterson, however, does not realize the full extent of that relationship, and the desperate lengths to which Jekyll must go to sever it.

Variously described as mystery, science fiction, fantasy, horror, and social critique, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* remains as relevant an examination of the human heart as when it was first published over a century ago.

“Story of the Door” through “Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease”

Vocabulary

From the choices given, circle the best definition for each underlined word. Classify each word according to its part of speech. Rely on context clues for help.

1. He was austere with himself; drank gin when he was alone, to mortify a taste for vintages. . . .

austere:

part of speech: _____

inconsiderate

indulgent

stern

displeased

mortify:

part of speech: _____

subdue

ignore

harden

cultivate

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

vintages:

part of speech: _____

meats

wines

grapes

vegetables

2. . . . inclined to help rather than to reprove.

part of speech: _____

blame

harm

praise

overlook

3. . . . his friendship seemed to be founded in a similar catholicity of good-nature.

part of speech: _____

universality

community

apprehension

attraction

4. The inhabitants were all doing well, it seemed, and all emulously hoping to do better still, and laying out the surplus of their grains in coquetry; so that the shop fronts stood along that thoroughfare with an air of invitation. . . .

emulously:

part of speech: _____

wanting to imitate

wanting to flatter

wanting to mislead

wanting to excel

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

coquetry:

part of speech: _____

boldness

flirtation

elegance

optimism

5. . . . the man trampled calmly over the child's body. . . . It wasn't like a man; it was like some . . . Juggernaut.

part of speech: _____

a force that kills

a force that wounds

a force that crushes

a force that scars

6. I took the liberty of pointing out . . . that the whole business looked apocryphal, and that a man does not, in real life, walk into a cellar door at four in the morning and come out of it with another man's cheque. . . .

part of speech: _____

bizarre

obscene

suspicious

ambitious

7. "If you have been inexact in any point, you had better correct it."
"I think you might have warned me. . . . But I have been pedantically exact. . . ."

part of speech: _____

tediously

appealingly

technically

cautiously

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

8. The will was holograph, for Mr. Utterson, though he took charge of it now that it was made, had refused to lend the least assistance in the making of it. . . .

part of speech: _____

written by someone other than the person named as author

written in secret, coded symbols

written solely by the person named as author

written partially by the person named as author

9. Did you ever come across a protégé of his—one Hyde?

part of speech: _____

teacher

someone protected or guided

friend or colleague

rival

10. . . . there sprang up and grew apace in the lawyer's mind a singularly strong, almost an inordinate, curiosity to behold the features of the real Mr. Hyde.

apace:

part of speech: _____

slowly

quickly

unnaturally

teasingly

inordinate:

part of speech: _____

appropriate

irresistible

mild

excessive

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

11. . . . Utterson himself was wont to speak of it as the pleasantest room in London.
part of speech: _____
reluctant
eager
bored
accustomed
12. God bless me, the man seems hardly human! Something troglodytic, shall we say?
part of speech: _____
primitive
supernatural
mythical
exotic

Extra Vocabulary Questions

Understanding Latin:

1. Using a Latin dictionary or other resources, give the sense of the underlined phrase in the following sentence. What image might Stevenson be trying to create with this phrase?

“Ay, it must be that; the ghost of some old sin, the cancer of some concealed disgrace: punishment coming, pede claudo, years after memory has forgotten and self-love condoned the fault.”

Idiom:

Playwright George Bernard Shaw once quipped, “England and America are two countries separated by the same language.” Some of Stevenson’s British, 19th century *idioms* (uses of words) may strike you as strange, but by paying attention to context

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

you should be able to determine their sense. Put the following underlined phrases into your own words.

2. It was a nut to crack for many, what these two could see in each other, or what subject they could find in common.
3. “But the doctor’s case was what struck me. . . . I saw that Sawbones turn sick and white with desire to kill him.”
4. “Well, we screwed him up to a hundred pounds for the child’s family; he would have clearly liked to stick out. . . .”
5. “. . . the person that drew the cheque is the very pink of the proprieties, celebrated too. . . .”

Extra Vocabulary Helps

“I gave a view halloa. . . .”: originally a British fox hunting term; now any cry signalling recognition.

“[T]he more it looks like Queer Street. . . .”: A British figure of speech referring to financial problems or something very puzzling.

Allusion

Another technique on which Stevenson relies is *allusion*—referring to a famous historical or literary figure or event, often to make a comparison or contrast with someone or

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

something else. For example, someone might describe a friend's betrayal of a trust as a "Judas kiss," referring to Judas's kissing Jesus to reveal him to the Pharisees' guards. Such an allusion gives an immediate mental picture of false love concealing evil intent and betrayal. Using what you know, explain each allusion below. If the allusion is new to you, look it up in a good dictionary or encyclopedia.

1. "And all the time . . . we were keeping the women off him as best we could, for they were as wild as harpies."
2. "Such unscientific balderdash . . . would have estranged Damon and Pythias."
3. ". . . or can it be the old story of Dr. Fell?"

Questions

1. What incident first brought Hyde to Enfield's attention?
2. To which clauses in Jekyll's will does Utterson object? Why?
3. What information does Poole give Utterson about Hyde?

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

4. Why does Utterson fear for Jekyll's life?
5. What do Lanyon and Jekyll think of each other?
6. What common reaction do people have to Mr. Hyde?

Thinking About the Story

7. *Point of view* is the vantage point from which a story is narrated. *First-person* point of view is when the narrator is a character in the story. *Second-person* point of view is when the narrator is a person but is not in the story itself. *Third-person* point of view is when the story is told by someone outside the story. Third-person point of view can be *omniscient* (where the narrator reveals the thoughts and emotions of all the characters), *limited omniscient* (where the narrator reveals the thoughts and emotions of a few of the characters), and *objective* (where the narrator doesn't reveal characters' thoughts or emotions). From what point of view is Stevenson telling the story? Why would Stevenson choose this point of view?
8. While Henry Jekyll and Edward Hyde appear only once each in this section of the book, readers already know them by reputation. How would you describe both Jekyll and Hyde based on what other characters—and the narrator—say, think, or feel about them?

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

In your own experience, when have you found reputation to be an accurate indicator of character? When have you found it inaccurate? Do you place more value on a person's reputation, direct experience of a person, or some combination of the two? Why?

Ironically, some people consider their reputation so important that they will commit crimes to protect it. How important is your reputation to you? What would you do to defend it?

9. Enfield says that Jekyll is a man “who [does] *what they call good*” (emphasis added). Why do you think Enfield chooses these words? What difference, if any, is there between what is generally accepted as “doing good” and what actually *is* good? Is there a difference between “doing good” and “being good”?

Dig Deeper

10. As the book begins, Utterson remarks that he tends towards “Cain’s heresy.” Read Genesis 4:1–16. What do you think Utterson meant by “Cain’s heresy?”

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

What is heresy? Consult a dictionary and your teacher, pastor, priest, or other religious educator for definitions. What are some beliefs that your church or denomination has decided, throughout its history, are heretical?

Do heresies exist in areas of life other than religion? Why or why not?

11. Friendship is an important theme in the book. What references to friendship have you noticed so far? Do you think Utterson and Lanyon are good friends to Jekyll, and vice versa? Why or why not?

12. What do the following biblical passages tell us about friendship?

1 Samuel 20

Job 2:11–13; 42:7–9

Proverbs 17:9, 17; 18:24; 27:6

Luke 15:3–10 (especially vv. 6 and 9)

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

John 15:12–15

How do these biblical lessons in friendship apply to the characters in the novel?
How do your own friendships measure up to these biblical standards?

13. Enfield prefers not to ask too many questions of others because such behavior “partakes too much of the style of the day of judgment.” Read Matthew 12:36, 37; Revelation 20:12–15. What do you think Enfield means by his statement?

14. The two friends, Utterson and Enfield, have expressed similar sentiments about involving themselves in the lives of others. Of Utterson, Stevenson writes:

But he had an approved tolerance for other; . . . and in any extremity inclined to help rather than to reprove. “I incline to Cain’s heresy,” he used to say quaintly: “I let my brother go to the devil in his own way.”

Enfield puts it this way:

“I had a delicacy. . . . I feel very strongly about putting questions; it partakes too much of the style of the day of judgment. You start a question, and it’s like starting a stone. . . . No, sir, I make it a rule of mine: the more it looks like Queer Street, the less I ask.”

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

Both men seem to adhere strongly to an adage similar to “Don’t ask, don’t judge.” Read Matthew 7:1, 2; Romans 14:4, 10, 13. How do the attitudes expressed by Utterson and Enfield relate to these verses?

Read Matthew 18:15–18; 1 Corinthians 5:9–13; Galatians 6:1–4; James 5:19, 20. How do you reconcile these verses with the ones above?

15. Enfield remarks that he is “ashamed of [his] long tongue.” What does he mean? Why do you think he feels this way? Read James 3:1–10. What warnings and advice does James give Christians concerning the tongue? Which of his images particularly “hit home” for you?

16. Utterson thinks that “in the law of God, there is no statute of limitations.” What might you infer about Utterson’s view of God from this sentiment? Do you agree with his view? Why or why not?

Read the following: Exodus 34:4–7; Psalm 99; Psalm 103:8–18; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:27–30, 33, 34; Romans 3:9–26; Colossians 2:13–15. What tensions,

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

if any, do you find in these texts between God's justice (or "the law") and God's mercy (or "grace")? In what other scriptural texts do you find this tension?

How do you think about this tension in your own life of faith?

17. Spurred by the thought that Hyde is a punishment sent to Jekyll for "some old sin," Utterson examines his own conscience. What does he conclude about his past? What message might Ephesians 2:1–10 and Philippians 3:12–14 have for someone like Utterson, worried about past sins?

Optional Exercises

Musical Option:

When composers set the text of the Requiem Mass to music, they often include the Dies Irae (Latin, "day of wrath"), a medieval poem about the day of judgment. Compare and contrast at least two composers' settings of the Dies Irae. How does the music interpret the text?

Monetary Conversions:

According to critic Leonard Wolf, in 1886 the British pound was worth five American dollars. In 1886 American dollars, Hyde would have paid the family of the girl he trampled \$50 in gold and \$450 by check, for a total of \$500.

In the year 2000, an American dollar was worth 2,000 percent more than it was in 1886. Therefore, in the year 2000 Hyde would have paid \$10,000!

Keep these conversion figures in mind as other monetary amounts come up in the story and use them to adjust the amounts to current figures.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde Study Guide

“Dr. Lanyon’s Narrative”

Vocabulary

1. **routes**, enigmas; 2. **emitted**, whetted; 3. **bulwark**, impediment; 4. **mythical**, incredulous; 5. **dictations**, metamorphoses; 6. **orthodoxy**, turpitude; 7. **convention**, parley; 8. **predicted**, constrained; 9. **obscure**, idiosyncratic; 10. **obliviousness**, debility

Questions

1. Jekyll asks Lanyon to bring a drawer with its contents from Jekyll’s home to Lanyon’s, where an anonymous man will, with Jekyll’s authority, take it from Lanyon.
2. Lanyon is sure Jekyll is insane.
3. The drawer contains various medicinal and chemical ingredients, a phial [vial], and a book filled with dates and cryptic remarks. Lanyon concludes these items are evidence of experiments “that had led to no end of practical usefulness”—i.e., the experiments were worthless.
4. Lanyon reacts in horror and disbelief. Even four days after the fact, he writes that his “life is shaken to its roots.” Lanyon’s reaction is the “shock” of which he tells Utterson in “Remarkable Incident of Dr. Lanyon.” The experiences of this night shock Lanyon so badly he loses his life.
5. In this chapter Stevenson shifts to a first-person point of view. The story is told entirely by the words and perspective of Lanyon. Opinions will vary about why Stevenson changes to this point of view. It may be because he wants to build suspense by delaying the resolution of the story’s central mystery while keeping readers’ interest.
6. Answers will vary. From various hints and events through the novel, even students unaware of the general outcome of the book probably began to suspect something of the relationship between Jekyll and Hyde. Lanyon’s letter may be Stevenson’s way of giving a “rational,” scientific revelation and explanation.
7. Before he drinks the mixture, Lanyon’s visitor—at this point, Hyde—views the secret positively. It is, to him, “a new province of knowledge” and a way to “fame and power.” Hyde even derides Lanyon in language that, for now obvious reasons, reminds readers of how Jekyll derided him in “Dr. Jekyll Was Quite at Ease.” After he drinks the mixture, however, Lanyon’s visitor—at this point, Jekyll—cries “tears of penitence” over his secret. He now views the secret negatively. Readers might reasonably infer, even though Lanyon does not say so, that Hyde is the embodiment of Jekyll’s baser instincts—an inference the next portion of the book confirms.
8. While evaluations of Lanyon’s friendship with Jekyll may vary, “Dr. Lanyon’s Narrative” seems to suggest that, despite his misgivings about Jekyll’s experiments throughout the novel, Lanyon ultimately proves himself a true friend. Even though he thinks Jekyll is insane, Lanyon concludes that the doctor’s “appeal . . . could not be set aside without a grave responsibility.” While Lanyon does not understand either the motives behind or the specifics of Jekyll’s request, he still grants it to save his friend. This action seems to stand in contrast to Utterson’s glib invocation of “Cain’s heresy,” as well as the lawyer’s silent leaving when Jekyll clearly showed distress and terror at the window. Students may or may not feel that Jekyll’s request is dishonorable. On the one hand, Jekyll is involving Lanyon in a dangerous experiment. On the other hand, Jekyll’s letter—written *as* Jekyll—suggests that the doctor truly is crying out for help (e.g., “Lanyon, my life, my honour, my reason, are all at your mercy”)—albeit in language that might put undue pressure on Lanyon (e.g., “a blackness of distress that no fancy can exaggerate”).
9. Answers may vary. Lanyon concludes that more accounts for his reaction than mere “personal distaste.” He does not specify the root cause of his negative reaction to Hyde, but he does state that the revulsion springs from a nobler part of human nature; the goodness in a person recognizes something totally evil and is revolted. Personal answers will vary.
10. Both Hyde and the serpent appeal to the lure of new knowledge and the lure of power (“. . . you will be like God, knowing good and evil,” Gen. 3:5). In both cases, sight is a sense through which this knowledge comes (the woman sees, in Gen. 3:6, that the fruit is “pleasing to the eye”). These connections suggest and, in fact, further support Hyde’s satanic or evil nature; recall Utterson’s remark about reading Satan’s signature on Hyde’s face in “Search for Mr. Hyde.” The questions about pursuing new knowledge lend themselves to debate. Some areas that might be mentioned are gene research, cloning, fetal tissue research, nuclear power, and others.
11. Lanyon says that Jekyll/Hyde revealed to him a “moral turpitude,” or depravity, in human nature. Apparently, the knowledge that Jekyll has the capacity within him for the baseness and evil that is Hyde is more than Lanyon can bear. Perhaps his horror comes from realizing that such evil resides in a “good” man. Accept other reasonable answers. Answers to personal reactions will vary.
12. Answers will vary.