

GCSE Study - 'Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde' - Parental Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and Content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is an intriguing interpretation of 19th-century life, culture, and society. Despite the evolution of social and cultural norms since its publication in 1886, students can identify with many of the themes, specifically the influence of societal expectations on a person's individuality.

Key terminology taught:

- analytical paragraph
- antithesis
- allegory
- symbolism
- motif
- metaphor
- simile
- themes
- juxtaposition

Key vocabulary taught:

- Darwinism and evolution
- duality
- fin-de-siècle
- friendship
- hypocritical
- physiognomy
- place
- religion
- reputation
- suppression

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Re-read the novella
- Storyboard Hyde's actions that lead to Jekyll's destruction - where does he appear and who does he do?
- There is a breadth of knowledge online about the Victorian age - research the context and how it influenced Stevenson's work
- Randomly turn to a page in your core texts to analyse. Try to identify the themes shown on this page and explain how they are shown. Your answer could be written up in full paragraphs. Remember you must include terminology (devices), the effect on the reader and text, as well as context and cross-references to other parts of the novel.
- Create a factfile for each character including key scenes, key quotations and their relationship to Jekyll. How is friendship presented through each character?
- Define the key vocabulary and explain how each word relates to 'Jekyll and Hyde'. Explain how this vocabulary may also be relevant to 'An Inspector Calls'
- Encourage your child to access the resources on Google Classroom

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- How have the scientific developments shaped Jekyll's personality and does this warrant our sympathy?
- Explain how the biblical references add to your understanding of the situation in the novella in which the reference occurs

Challenge activities to complete:

- Dualism is an important theme throughout the novella. Research dualism: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2738358/> and mind map where Stevenson employs the theme within his novella
- Create a modern day 'Jekyll full of secret and hidden corrupt qualities - how might the character of Jekyll need to be adapted for the 21st century?

Suggested further reading:

- 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' by Oscar Wilde - a tale where the protagonist can exist as himself as well as his alter ego
- 'The Best of Sherlock Holmes' by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - a tale of suspicion and intrigue where the detective makes his mission to uncover the truth
- 'The Turn of the Screw' by Henry James - a story where the truth exists outside of logical reason