In this extract from Chapter 4, ‘The Carew Murder Case’, we hear the story of a maid who witnessed the murder of Sir Danvers Carew.

NEARLY a year later, in the month of October, 18, London was startled by a crime of singular

ferocity and rendered all the more notable by the high position of the victim. The details were few

and startling. A maid servant living alone in a house not far from the river, had gone upstairs to bed

about eleven. Although a fog rolled over the city in the small hours, the early part of the night was

5 cloudless, and the lane, which the maid’s window overlooked, was brilliantly lit by the full moon.

It seems she was romantically given, for she sat down upon her box, which stood immediately

Under the window, and fell into a dream of musing. Never (she used to say, with streaming tears,

when she narrated that experience), never had she felt more at peace with all men or thought more kindly of the world. And as she so sat she became aware of an aged beautiful gentleman

10 with white hair, drawing near along the lane; and advancing to meet him, another and very small gentleman, to whom at first she paid less attention. When they had come within speech (which was just under the maid’s eyes) the older man bowed and accosted the other with a very pretty manner of politeness. It did not seem as if the subject of his address were of great importance; indeed, from his pointing, it some times appeared as if he were only inquiring his way; but the moon shone

15 on his face as he spoke, and the girl was pleased to watch it, it seemed to breathe such an innocent and old-world kindness of disposition, yet with something high too, as of a well-founded self-content. Presently her eye wandered to the other, and she was surprised to recognise in him a certain Mr. Hyde, who had once visited her master and for whom she had conceived a dislike. He had in his hand a heavy cane, with which he was trifling; but he answered never a word, and

20 seemed to listen with an ill-contained impatience. And then all of a sudden he broke out in a great flame of anger, stamping with his foot, brandishing the cane, and carrying on (as the maid described it) like a madman. The old gentleman took a step back, with the air of one very much surprised and a trifle hurt; and at that Mr. Hyde broke out of all bounds and clubbed him to the earth. And next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing

25 down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway. At the horror of these sights and sounds, the maid fainted.

Questions:

1. Look at lines 1–16.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to create a calm atmosphere

 (4)

2. Look at lines 17-20. (Presently her eye ……impatience)

By referring to at least one example, analyse how the writer creates a sense of foreboding/threat (2)

1. Look at lines 21 – 26.

 By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer’s use of language reveal the violent actions of Mr Hyde. (4)

1. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how Stevenson uses contrast to explore central concerns. (10)

Answers

1. Look at lines 1–16.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to create a calm atmosphere (4)

A calm, idyllic atmosphere is created by the maid’s romantic or innocent perspective, seeing the world as a benign and beautiful creation, as suggested by expressions like

* “cloudless” – a clear sky, nothing to blot the sky
* “brilliantly lit by the full moon” moon has romantic connotations
* “romantically given” – suggests a peaceful/loving atmosphere
* “never... more at peace with all men” - connotations of relaxed/calm
* “thought more kindly of the world...” – a positive image, friendly
* “aged and beautiful gentleman...” – positive image, ‘aged’ suggests wisedon
* “pretty manner...” – connotations of friendly, kind
* “old-world kindness” – suggests peace and no threat of danger
1. Look at lines 17-20. (Presently her eye ……impatience)

By referring to at least one example, analyse how the writer creates a sense of foreboding/threat (2)

* “Dislike” – suggests that there is something about the man which is unpleasant
* “Heavy cane” – suggests that this is a weapon
* “Ill-contained impatience” – suggests a manner that is quick to anger
1. Look at lines 21 – 26.

 By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer’s use of language reveal the violent actions of Mr Hyde. (4)

* “great flame of anger” - connotations of uncontrollable energy, danger
* “ape-like fury” - connotations of uncontrollable anger
* “like a madman” – connotations of not able to control emotion / insanity
* “broke out of all bounds” – connotations of escaping boundaries of normal behaviour
* “storm of blows”- , Imagery of uncontrollable energy, danger or fury
* “brandishing... stamping... trampling... hailing down blows... clubbed, shattered... jumped.” - the repetition of verbs of violence, which help to bring the scene dramatically to life in front of our eyes, via a quick succession of continuous violent actions, plus the
* repetition of “and” between clauses and at the beginning of sentences to suggest a hurried, breathless description
* “hail of blows” – connotations of a heavy shower of attack
* the bones being “shattered” – connotations of broken into small piece highlighting the force of the attack
1. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how Stevenson uses contrast to explore central concerns. (10)

Extract - Firstly the romantic mood is used to form a dramatic contrast to the ugliness and brutality of what follows, theme of good and evil, duality of man.

Elsewhere - We see the city the following morning, from Utterson’s perspective, as a sinister place of darkness and death, of the world as a malign creation, theme of good and evil and moral duality.

* The contrasting descriptions of Dr.Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, theme of good and evil/ the duality of man
* The contrast in setting (Jekyll’s and Hyde’s homes)
* The contrast in people’s opinions of Jekyll and Hyde (respectability)