The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

**In this extract, Mr Utterson has confronted Hyde in the street and a tense exchange ensues. Hyde speaks first.**

“And now,” said the other, “how did you know me?”

“By description,” was the reply.

“Whose description?”

“We have common friends,” said Mr Utterson.

5 “Common friends!” echoed Mr Hyde, a little hoarsely. “Who are they?”

“Jekyll, for instance,” said the lawyer.

“He never told you,” cried Mr Hyde, with a flush of anger. “I did not think you would have lied.”

“Come,” said Mr Utterson, “that is not fitting language.”

10 The other snarled aloud into a savage laugh; and the next moment, with extraordinary

quickness, he had unlocked the door and disappeared into the house.

The lawyer stood a while when Mr Hyde had left him, the picture of disquietude. Then he

began slowly to mount the street, pausing every step or two, and putting his

hand to his brow like a man in mental perplexity. The problem he was thus debating as he walked was

15 one of a class that is rarely solved.

Mr Hyde was pale and dwarfish; he gave an impression of deformity without any nameable

malformation, he had a displeasing smile, he had borne himself to the lawyer with a sort

of murderous mixture of timidity and boldness, and he spoke with a husky, whispering and

somewhat broken voice,— all these were points against him; but not all of these together

20 could explain the hitherto unknown disgust, loathing and fear with which Mr Utterson

regarded him. “There must be something else,” said the perplexed gentleman. “There is

something more, if I could find a name for it. God bless me, the man seems hardly human!

Something troglodytic, shall we say? or can it be the old story of Dr Fell? Or is it the mere

radiance of a foul soul that thus transpires through, and transfigures, its clay continent?

25 The last, I think; for, O my poor old Harry Jekyll, if ever I read Satan’s signature upon a face,

it is on that of your new friend!”

Questions

1. Look at lines 1–11. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to create a negative impression of Hyde. 4
2. Look at lines 12–15. Analyse how the writer uses language to convey Utterson’s troubled state of mind. 2
3. Look at lines 16–26. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to convey Utterson’s feelings about Hyde. 4
4. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how Stevenson presents the character of Edward Hyde. 10

***Marking Scheme***

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| **Question** | **Expected Answer** | **Max Marks** | **Additional Guidance** |
| **1** | Candidates should analyse how the writer uses language to create a negative impression of Hyde.  Award 1 mark for comment plus quotation/reference. Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone.  Award marks 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1 | **4** | Possible answers include:   * the persistent questioning (“How . . . whose . . . who . . .”) suggests he is demanding, wants to be in charge * the very short sentences he speaks make him sound impatient, rude, peremptory * “a little hoarsely” suggests a roughness, unpleasantness in his voice * “flush of anger” suggests short-tempered, irritable * “. . . you would have lied” is a serious, very blunt accusation to level at a new acquaintance * “snarled aloud” suggests animal-like growling * “savage laugh” suggests unrestrained outburst of vicious mirth * “extraordinary quickness” suggests almost supernatural ability * twice referred to as “the other” — perhaps suggests unworldly, unhuman |
| **2** | Candidates should analyse how the writer uses language to convey Utterson’s troubled state of mind.  Award 2 marks for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2, 1+1 | **2** | Possible answers include:   * “picture of disquietude” suggests he was everything one could expect from someone who is uneasy or troubled * “slowly to mount” suggests he is pensive, taking his time * “pausing every step or two” suggests uncertainty, a need to reflect * “mental perplexity” suggests confusion, bafflement * “problem” suggests he is in a difficult situation * “rarely solved” suggests he knows he is unlikely to find a solution |
| **3** | Candidates should analyse how the writer uses language to convey Utterson’s feelings about Hyde.  Award 2 marks awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference. Award 1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.  Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1 | **4** | Possible answers include:   * “dwarfish” suggests small to the point of being barely human * “impression of deformity without any nameable malformation” suggests an uncanniness of appearance, he projects an unnatural appearance despite having no physical defect * “displeasing smile” suggests a distortion of something usually pleasant * “murderous mixture” suggests he is a combination of more than one vile element * “husky, whispering and somewhat broken voice” suggests a rough, unclear, fractured way of speaking * “hitherto unknown” emphasises the singularity of the feelings Utterson has * “disgust, loathing, and fear” list of three very similar adjectives emphasises just how repugnant Utterson finds him * “hardly human” suggests Utterson can see no normal qualities in him * “Something troglodytic” suggests he thinks of Hyde as a primitive being, a cavedweller * “the story of Dr Fell” references the nursery rhyme about irrational dislike * “foul soul” suggests he thinks of Hyde a rotten, evil to the core * “Satan’s signature” suggests he thinks Hyde is a creature of the devil himself |
| **4** | Candidates should discuss how Stevenson presents the character of Edward Hyde.  Candidates can answer in bullet points in this final question, or write a number of linked statements.  0 marks for reference/quotation alone. | **10** | Up to 2 marks can be achieved for identifying elements of commonality as identified in  the question  A further 2 marks can be achieved for reference to the extract given.  6 additional marks can be awarded for discussion of similar references to at least one other poem by the poet.  In practice this means:  Identification of commonality (2) (e.g.: theme, characterisation, use of imagery, setting,  or any other key element…)  from the extract:  1 x relevant reference to technique/idea/feature (1)  1 x appropriate comment (1)  (maximum of 2 marks only for discussion of extract) from at least one other text/part of the text:  as above (x3) for up to 6 marks  OR  more detailed comment x2 for up to 6 marks  Thus, the final 6 marks can be gained by a combination of 3, 2 and 1 marks depending on  the level of depth/detail/insight.  The aim would be to encourage quality of comment, rather than quantity of references.   * violent, with no sense of guilt about his crimes * commits apparently motiveless crimes (the girl, Sir Danvers Carew) * induces horror, fear and loathing from those who see him (Lanyon, Utterson, servants . . .) * his mere physical appearance causes other people to want to attack him * all his appearances are brief, often disappearing mysteriously, as if he is a spectral presence * the name connotes both secretiveness and the idea of animal flesh * described as “ape-like”, as resembling a “troglodyte”, i.e. primitive * represents at first a dormant force within Jekyll, then a tyrannical external force subverting him * comes to represent the embodiment of pure evil, amoral behaviour * his ascendancy at the end of the novel sends a pessimistic message about ideas of progress and civilisation held by respectable Victorian society   Other references are possible. |