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

**In this extract, Dr. Lanyon receives a mysterious visitor.**

He sprang to it, and then paused, and laid his hand upon his heart; I could hear his teeth

grate with the convulsive action of his jaws; and his face was so ghastly to see that I grew

alarmed both for his life and reason.

‘Compose yourself.’ Said I.

5 He turned a dreadful smile to me, and, as if with the decision of despair, plucked away the

sheet. At the sight of the contents, he uttered one loud sob of such immense relief that I

sat petrified. And the next moment, in a voice that was fairly well under control, ‘Have you

a graduated glass?’ he asked.

I rose from my place with something of an effort, and gave him what he asked.

10 He thanked me with a smiling nod, measured out a few minims of the red tincture and

added one of the powders. The mixture, which was at first of a reddish hue, began, in

proportion as the crystals melted, to brighten in colour, to effervesce audibly, and to throw

off small fumes of vapour. Suddenly, and at the same moment, the ebullition ceased, and

the compound changed to a dark purple, which faded again more slowly to a watery green.

15 My visitor, who had watched these metamorphoses with a keen eye, smiled, set down the

glass upon the table, and then turned and looked upon me with an air of scrutiny.

‘And now,’ said he, ‘to settle what remains. Will you be wise? will you be guided? will you

suffer me to take this glass in my hand, and to go forth from your house without further

parley? or has the greed of curiosity too much command of you? Think before you answer,

20 for it shall be done as you decide. As you decide, you shall be left as you were before, and

neither richer nor wiser, unless the sense of service rendered to a man in mortal distress

may be counted as a kind of riches of the soul. Or, if you shall so prefer to choose, a new

province of knowledge and new avenues to fame and power shall be laid open to you,

here, in this room, upon the instant; and your sight shall be blasted by a prodigy to stagger

25 the unbelief of Satan.’

‘Sir,’ said I, affecting a coolness that I was far from truly possessing,’ you speak enigmas,

and you will perhaps not wonder that I hear you with no very strong impression of belief.

But I have gone too far in the way of inexplicable services to pause before I see the end.’

‘It is well,’ replied my visitor. Lanyon, you remember your vows: what follows is under the

30 seal of our profession. And now, you who have so long been bound to the most narrow and

material views, you who have denied the virtue of transcendental medicine, you who have

derided your superiors — behold!’

He put the glass to his lips, and drank at one gulp. A cry followed; he reeled, staggered,

clutched at the table and held on, staring with injected eyes, gasping with open mouth;

35 and as I looked, there came, I thought, a change — he seemed to swell- his face became

suddenly black, and the features seemed to melt and alter- and the next moment I had

sprung to my feet and leaped back against the wall, my arm raised to shield me from that

prodigy, my mind submerged in terror.

‘O God!’ I screamed, and ‘O God!’ again and again; for there before my eyes- pale and

40 shaken, and half fainting, and groping before him with his hands, like a man restored from

death- there stood Henry Jekyll!

What he told me in the next hour I cannot bring my mind to set on paper. I saw what I saw,

I heard what I heard, and my soul sickened at it; and yet, now when that sight has faded

from my eyes, I ask myself if I believe it, and I cannot answer. My life is shaken to its roots;

sleep has left me; the deadliest terror sits by me at all hours of the day and night; I feel

45 that my days are numbered, and that I must die; and yet I shall die incredulous. As for the

moral turpitude that man unveiled to me, even with tears of penitence, I cannot, even in

memory, dwell on it without a start of horror.

Questions

1. Look at lines 1–8.

Analyse how the writer uses language to convey two different emotions experienced by Lanyon’s visitor. 2

2. Look at lines 17–32.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to create a sense of tension. 4

3. Look at lines 33–48.

By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to convey Lanyon’s reactions. 4

4. By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how the writer uses contrast

to explore central concerns of the text. 10

***Marking Scheme***

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| **Question** | **Expected Answer** | **Max Marks** | **Additional Guidance** |
| **1** | Look at lines 1-8. Analyse how the writer uses language to convey two different emotions experienced by Lanyon’s visitor.  Award 1 mark for comment plus quotation/reference. Award 0 marks for quotation/reference alone. Award marks 2, 1+1 | **2** | Possible answers include:  • “He sprang to it” suggests eagerness/desperation  • “laid his hand upon his heart” suggests trying to calm down/anxiety because he can feel the effects of his panic on his heart • “teeth grate” suggests he is in the grip of violent tension  • “compulsive action of his jaws” suggests he cannot control his instinctive reaction  • “his face was so ghastly” suggests he is filled with horror/overwhelming feelings (at the thought that it might be the wrong drawer  • “dreadful smile” suggests Hyde’s grim humour at the thought it might all go wrong  • “decision of despair” suggests he has no hope but carries on grimly  • “one loud sob” suggests he can’t control his feelings any more  • “such immense relief” suggests that he is swept along by realisation that everything will be ok  • “fairly well under control” suggests he is no longer in the grip of such powerful feelings |
| **2** | Look at lines 17-32 By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to create a sense of tension.  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+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1 | **4** | Possible answers include:  • “‘And now,’ said he, ‘to settle what remains.’” theatrical statement suggests that a significant event is about to happen  • “Will you be wise/will you…parley?’ use of question/repetition of questions highlights the dramatic nature of the choice facing Lanyon  • “greed of curiosity” suggests that Lanyon might be so much in the grip of an insatiable desire for knowledge that he makes risky decisions  • “too much command of you” suggests that Lanyon might be swept along by his eagerness to such an extent that he makes a dangerous decision  • “Think before you answer” command emphasises the significance of this moment of decision  • “it shall be done as you decide” melodramatic pronouncement emphasises the importance of Lanyon’s decision  • “neither richer nor wiser…new province of knowledge and new avenues to fame and power” contrast emphasises the stark choice facing Lanyon  • repetition of “new” emphasises the exciting possibilities if he chooses to remain  • “Knowledge…fame…power” suggests the sensational nature of the rewards if he stays to watch  • “in this room upon the instant” suggests the thrilling immediacy of the decision  • “your sight shall be blasted” suggests the brutal impact that seeing him drink the potion will have on Lanyon  • “prodigy” suggests the astonishing/full of wonder/horrifying sight he is about to see  • “stagger” suggests the sudden jolt his assumptions are about to receive  • “unbelief of Satan” reference to the Devil, ultimate rejector of faith, suggests that, even Lanyon, so definite in his views, will be swayed by what he is about to see • “you who…you who…you who…” repetition builds up the suspense towards the moment when Lanyon will be shocked out of his former assumptions  • “- behold!” climactic final word ends Hyde’s speech on a dramatic flourish |
| **3** | Look at lines 33-48. By referring to at least two examples, analyse how the writer uses language to convey Lanyon’s reactions.  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:  • “I had sprung to my feet” suggests Lanyon’s sudden shocked reaction/echoing the visitor’s action earlier suggests his emotion is just as intense  • “leaped back against the wall” suggests his alarm and feeling of danger  • “my arm raised to shield me” suggests his desperate desire to protect himself  • “my mind submerged in terror” suggests he is overwhelmed by fear  • “ ‘Oh God!... O God!’/again and again” repetition emphasises intensity of his emotions  • “screamed” suggests extreme feelings of fear/shock/horror  • “for there before my eyes…there stood” repetition emphasises his need to convince his reader (and himself) that it was real  • “I cannot bring my mind to set on paper” emphatic statement suggests that the revelations were so awful that he cannot bear to write them down  • “I saw what I saw/I heard what I heard” repetition he is reassuring himself that it was real  • “my soul sickened at it” suggests that he was disgusted to the very core of his being  • “I ask myself…cannot answer” question and (no) answer format suggests he still cannot quite believe it was real  • “My life is shaken to its roots” suggests that his horror is so deep that he will never recover  • “deadliest terror” suggests he is experiencing extreme fear  • “all the hours of the day and night” suggests he can never escape these horrible feelings  • “I feel… that I must die” bald statement suggests he realises the fatal impact this experience has had on him  • “start of horror” suggests he is still experiencing sudden moments of shock after the event, as if it was still happening |
| **4** | By referring to this extract and to elsewhere in the novel, discuss how the writer uses contrast to explore central concerns of the text.  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.  Elsewhere:  • Contrast between the pleasant buildings in the street and the stained, evil-looking building/door into the laboratory in Ch. 1 reflects the contrast between evil Hyde and the rest of humanity  • Contrast between the front of Jekyll’s house, associated with Jekyll- grand, respectable and orderly- and the laboratory at the back of the house, associated with Hyde- chaotic, messy and shabby- reflects the contrast between Jekyll and Hyde  • Contrast between Hyde’s mocking, confident feelings about the murder of Carew (for example toasting his victim with the potion) and Jekyll’s horror and guilt when he realises what he/Hyde has done emphasises the evil and good sides of humanity  • Contrast between the setting of Jekyll’s cabinet, with its respectable tea table set for tea and fire burning cheerfully and the twitching body of the vile Hyde lying in the middle reveals the ‘darkness’ at the heart of Victorian society  • Contrast the benevolence and courtesy of Sir Danvers Carew when he meets Hyde and the malicious, bestial violence of Hyde when he kills him emphasises the savagery of human violence  • Contrast between Jekyll when he is free from Hyde- sociable and charitable- and the fearful recluse he becomes when he realises he cannot escape Hyde emphasises the negative effect contact with evil can have  Other references are possible. |