

Key Quotations Describing Jekyll and Hyde (In-Class Exercise)

HYDE

"It wasn't like a man it was like some damned Juggernaut" (33)

- Describes Hyde as beast-like

"He's not easy to describe. There is something wrong with his appearance; something displeasing, something downright detestable. I never saw a man I so disliked and yet I scarce know why" (35)

- Demonstrates gothic tones in which there is something off about Mr. Hyde, but he can't quite put his finger on it – making readers uneasy. Something uncanny about his monstrosity.

"He was small and very plainly dressed" (40)

- Describes how Hyde provokes a feeling of aversion in those that meet him (he goes "strongly against the watcher's inclination")

"Mr. Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity" (41)

- Expands on the feeling of disgust felt when one encounters Hyde (loathing and fear)

"He had in his hand a heavy cane..." (20)

- Description of the murder

"Is this Mr. Hyde a person of small stature?..." (20)

"An ivory faced and silvery haired old woman opened the door..." (22)

- We learn of Hyde's behaviour and habits

"He don't seem a very popular character..." (23)

- Reaction to the woman learning Hyde's in trouble

"Mr. Hyde had only used a couple of rooms...only seen him twice" (23)

- Description of his living space

"The letter was written in an odd, upright hand and signed Edward Hyde" (51)

- Signifies that something is not right and that Hyde/Jekyll wasn't acting normal

"Much of his past was unearthened, indeed, and all disreputable: tales came out the man's cruelty, at once so callous and violent but of his present whereabouts not a whisper" (54)

- Proves the eerie tone of the story
- Think you know everything about someone, but you don't

"Then you must know as well as the rest of us that there was something queer about that gentleman – something that gave a man a turn....that you felt it in your marrow kind of cold and thin" (65)

- Jekyll's butler Poole highlights the uncanniness of Hyde – the strange feeling of deformity that creeps over the people in Hyde's presence

"The steps fell lightly and oddly, with a certain swing, for all they went so slowly it was different indeed from the heavy creaking heard of Henry Jekyll" (66)

- The sound of Hyde's footsteps are indicative of his character. Instead of Jekyll's steady, firm footsteps, Hyde's are odd, light and swinging, suggesting a man bent on pleasure and immorality

"He was small...I was struck with the shocking expression of his face, with his remarkable combination of great muscular activity and great apparent debility of constitution..." (74)

- Another iteration of the wrongness of Hyde via the physical, while still lacking in any real physical description of it

"There was something abnormal and misbegotten in the very essence of the creature that faced me..." (74-5)

- Recognizes the animality of Hyde; something alien or Other to society

"He sprang to it...I could hear his teeth grate with the convulsive action of his jaws..."(75)

- Passage juxtaposes Hyde's animal-like, automatic response with the figure of reason, revealing his distance from the human

"I began to be aware of a change in the temper of my thoughts, a greater boldness...the hand that lay on my knee was corded and hairy. I was once more Edward Hyde" (89)

- Jekyll, while he is Hyde physically, he is thinking intellectually as Jekyll. Instead of a separation of personalities, there is a combination of J+H

"the guilt of Hyde was patient to the world...let but Hyde peep out in an instant and the hands of men would be raised to take to slay him" (88)

- J knows of the ways society views abnormalities, and now the combination of abnormal being committing a crime will be dealt with. Jekyll is his refuge.

"I was conscious of a heady recklessness, a current of disordered...to my original evil" (80)

- Shows the need/desire for evil in Hyde

"This too was myself. It seemed natural and human...hitherto accustomed to call mine" (81)

- Shows importance of the duality and similarity of H&J

"complete moral and insensibility and insensate readiness to evil, which were the leading characters of Edward Hyde" (86)

- Emphasis on the senselessness of Hyde's cruelty, his complete lack of thought or motivation

"But the hand...was lean, corded, knuckly, of a dusky pallor and thickly shaded with a swart growth of hair. It was the hand of Edward Hyde" (84)

- Hyde's hand seems unrefined or ape-like, and it portrayed as malformed to signal his invisible deformity

JEKYLL

"He began to go wrong, wrong in mind..." (38)

- Dr. Lanyon describes the change in Jekyll's behaviour and his concern with Jekyll's unscientific practices

"To this Rule Dr. Jekyll was no exception..." (18)

- Description of features and his presence, personality

"a close observer might have gathered that the topic was distasteful; but the doctor carried it off gaily" (18)

- Describing an uncomfortable topic in a cheerful way

"the large handsome face of Dr. Jekyll grew pale" (18)

- Becomes fearful and very serious

"The doctor had bought the house from the heirs of a celebrated surgeon; and his own tastes being rather chemical than anatomical" (50)

- Proves the interest and fascination that Jekyll has with potions and science

"Dr. Jekyll presents his compliments to Messrs Maw. He assures them that their test sample is impure and quite useless for his present purpose...For God, sake...find me some of the old" (63)

- This passage demonstrates Jekyll's customary respectability and politeness, but highlights his increasing desperation

"My instinct and all the circumstances of my nameless situation tell me that the end is sure and must be early" (69)

- Jekyll's letter to Utterson reveals a man struck down by horror and despair. He feels the ascendance of Hyde, and knows that in one way or another he will soon cease to exist

"He seemed to swell – his face became suddenly black and the features seemed to meld and alter" (76-7)

- Ambiguous treatment of the transformation. J becomes darker like H; his features meld with H's; this raises the question of which self is the evil one

"pale and shaken...like a man restored from death" (77)

- Transformation as form of self-death

"I had lost my identity beyond redemption...stature and the face of Henry Jekyll" (81)

- Shows Jekyll's duality yet loss of self within Hyde

"fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellow-men..." (78)

- Shows the importance of how Jekyll started as a good man

"About a week has passed and I am now finishing this statement under the influence of the old powders...in the glass" (92)

- As Jekyll diminishes Hyde is empowered. Hyde has physically overpowered Jekyll and is now feeding off of Jekyll's intellectual weakness. Emphasizes parasitic relationship

"Jekyll was no worse, he woke again to his good qualities seemingly unimpaired, he would make haste, where it was possible, to undo the evil done by Hyde" (83)

- Deferring guilty and seeming unaffected. Sign of J's ambiguous morality

"The pangs of transformation had not done tearing him, before Henry Jekyll, with streaming tears of gratitude and remorse, has fallen upon his knees and lifted his hands to God" (87)

- J's high aspirations and the misery of not meeting them. Genuine empathy and recognition of guilt