

## **The Character of Mr Hyde - Transcript**

**Narrator:** 'Mr Hyde broke out of all bounds and clubbed him to the earth.

And the next moment, with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows.'

**Presenter:** The narrator's description of Mr Hyde's unprovoked attack on Sir Carew part way through the book shows his fully unleashed form - the evil, murderous alter-ego of Dr Jekyll, brought about through his dark experiments and a character who gives us a window into the duality of human nature.

At the start of the novella, Hyde is introduced as a mysterious, ghastly figure - first heard of when Mr Enfield recounts Hyde's attack on a young girl.

**Mr Enfield:** 'There is something wrong with his appearance; something displeasing, something downright detestable'

**Presenter:** The use of alliteration reinforces the sense of unease around the man - something... unnatural.

As the story progresses, Hyde's true nature is revealed – Dr Jekyll would take a potion developed through his scientific experiments...

**Dr Lanyon:** '...staring with injected eyes, gasping with open mouth'

**Presenter:** ...and would transform into Hyde.

Hyde grows in strength and dominance over Jekyll...

And his evil, murderous characteristics show, with strong, animalistic verbs describing his actions...

**Dr Lanyon:** 'I could hear his teeth grate with the convulsive action of his jaws'...

**Presenter:** Ultimately leading to the brutal murder of the respectable Sir Carew and to Hyde becoming a wanted man, before seemingly vanishing into the black depths of London.

Yet Hyde finds himself trapped in a fight for dominance with his counterpart, Jekyll - Hyde is increasingly...

**Dr Jekyll:** 'shaken with inordinate anger, strung to the pitch of murder, lusting to inflict pain'

**Presenter:** ...until a tragic conclusion comes – Dr Jekyll drinking a poison that would kill both of them.

In Jekyll's confession letter, he describes how 'the spirit of hell awoke' in him and through Hyde he had found his 'lust of evil gratified'.

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was written in the Victorian era; a time of strict moral standards, where any hints of sin or evil were expected to be repressed.

What do you think author Robert Louis Stevenson uses the character of Hyde to say about repression, and Victorian beliefs about good and evil?