

Jekyll and Hyde: Key Quotations

Quotation	Comment
Story of the Door	This opening chapter is a literal reference to the incident with Hyde disappearing through a door to retrieve a cheque to placate the girl's family. It is also a metaphorical allusion to the journey on which the reader, led by Utterson, is now about to embark. That is a journey into the heart of darkness, where the truth of the beast that lies within us all will be revealed.
Two doors from one corner, on the left hand going east, the line was broken by the entry of a court... The door...was blistered and distained.	Here Stevenson's use of periodic structure heightens tension as Hyde's residence is explored. "Blistered and distained", this rear door represents the id, the hidden self, Darwin's beast, the private face. Jekyll's front entrance, by contrast, represents the ego, the public face of respectability presented as a doctor of medicine.
I was coming home from some place at the end of the world, about three of a black winter morning. Street after street...and all as empty as a church...	Here Enfield's reference to "end of the world" is a reminder of the duality of man – a Victorian society where hidden from the public lay a world of opium dens and prostitutes, both of which were frequented by middle-class 'gentlemen.' The simile reminds us of the crisis in religious faith following Darwin's Origin of the Species.
The man trampled calmly over the child's body and left her screaming on the ground... It was like some damn juggernaut.	This scene is made all the more horrific by the juxtaposition the brutality of Hyde's actions with complacency of his reactions. The figurative language likening Hyde to a large vehicle, emphasises his strength.
I never saw a circle of such hateful faces; and there was the man in the middle, with a kind of black sneering coolness...carrying it off, sir, really like Satan.	This vivid imagery, with the satanic Hyde surrounded by an intimidating crowd, helps to convey the evil of Hyde. The simile reminds us that Hyde is an embodiment of Freud's id and Darwin's beast –both very popular theories at the time.
It was his custom of a Sunday, when his meal was over, to sit close by the fire, a volume of some dry divinity on his desk, until the clock of the neighbouring church rang our t the hour of twelve, when he would go soberly and gratefully to bed. On this night however...he took up a candle and went into his business room.	This long and complex sentence, laden with adverbial clauses, reminds us with its reference to midnight of the gothic qualities in the book. It also highlights the dry and dull life overly controlled by the ego of Utterson. Perhaps this is the real reason he is so drawn to Hyde and the heart of darkness.
It is more than ten year's since Henry Jekyll's became too fanciful for me. He began to go wrong, wrong in the mind...and I have seen devilish little of the man.	Here Lanyon explains his estrangement from Jekyll. Repetition of the word "wrong" helps to convey his sense of concern and heighten the reader's the sense of anticipation in terms of Jekyll and the truth behind his strange behaviour.
...still he was digging at the problem...his imagination also was engaged, or enslaved.	Here reference to "digging" might remind us of the uncovering of the reader's journey into the heart of darkness. Notice now that Utterson's is "enslaved" by the heart of darkness, just like Jekyll formerly and Lanyon later in the novel.

...in spite of the low growl of London from all around.	London is personified as a satanic hell. It must be remembered that Jack the Ripper was at large at the time the novel was published and believed by many to be a gentleman of high estate.
Mr Hyde shrank back with a hissing intake of breath....snarled aloud into a savage laugh.	Here the demonic imagery and words such as “hissing” and “savage” remind us of Darwin’s beast and help to present Hyde as an evil entity.
Ay, it must be that; the ghost of some old sin, the cancer of some concealed disgrace: punishment coming PEDE CLAUDO.	Utterson concludes that Jekyll is being blackmailed into bequeathing his possessions to Hyde. Very much about repression, we speculate that perhaps Jekyll has a sexual history, possibly homosexual, that he wants to keep a secret. The metaphor also alludes to the fact that Hyde may be the illegitimate son of Jekyll, which in a sense he is in that he created him illegally.
Although a fog rolled over the city in the small hours, the early part of the night was cloudless, and...brilliantly lit by the full moon.	Here references to “fog” and “moon” help remind us of the gothic qualities of the novel.
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 underfoot and hailing down a storm of blows, under which the bones were audibly shattered...	This imagery suggests a release of the power of the beast within. Stevenson’s reference to “clubbed” and “ape-like fury” remind us of Jekyll’s regression into Darwin’s beast. The metaphorical “storm of blows” helps to highlight the terrifying power of Hyde.
A great chocolate-coloured pall lowered over heaven...and there would be a rich lurid brown...like a district of some city in a nightmare.	Here London is presented as a demonic and dystopian hell where evil has free reign and God or the city’s relationship with God is dead.
...whilst he had always been known for charities, he was now no less distinguished for religion.	In an attempt to regain control, Jekyll engages in goodly and Godly acts in order to turn his back on the heart of darkness.
Incident at the window.	Just as the title of the opening chapter The Story of the Door has a metaphorical significance in that it is the beginning of a journey into the heart of darkness, so too this chapter offers a glimpse, to the reader and Utterson and Enfield, into the heart of darkness.
...the smile as struck out of his face and succeeded by an expression of such abject terror and despair, as froze the very blood of the two gentlemen below.	Here Stevenson’s use of imagery highlights the horror of the transformation and reactions of both Utterson and Enfield.
It was a wild, cold seasonable night of march, with a pale moon, lying on her back as though the wind had tilted her.	Pathetic fallacy, namely the adverse weather conditions, highlight the evil of Hyde and create tension for the forthcoming confrontation. References to the inverted “moon” draw on elements of gothic fiction as well as suggesting, perhaps, that the order of the natural world has adversely been affected by man’s actions.
...The fire was built high; and about the hearth the whole of the servants...stood huddled together like a flock of sheep.	This imagery, with all servants huddled around the fire as if for protection, helps to create tension and convey their anxieties to the reader. By likening them to a flock of sheep Stevenson suggests their vulnerability and inability to cope with the danger of Hyde.

<p>“For God sake...find me some of the old.”</p>	<p>This sudden explosion and deviation from the learned standard English of Jekyll suggests that Hyde is becoming dominant. It might also remind us of Kurtz’s entreaty to “exterminate the brutes” in Conrad’s <i>Heart of Darkness</i>.</p>
<p>...when that masked thing like a monkey jumped among the chemicals and whipped into the cabinet, it went down my spine like ice.</p>	<p>Here defamiliarization is used to convey the strangeness of Hyde. The mask he wears is now necessary because the mask of Jekyll and his public face is no longer available. The first simile and succession of verbs remind us of Hyde’s Darwinian origin and convey a sense of the speed of this creature. The final simile helps to convey the effect on Poole.</p>
<p>Weeping like woman or a lost soul.</p>	<p>Sexist attitudes to women are of course evident here and the soul is lost perhaps because all that was Godly has now left the body.</p>
<p>The mixture, which was a 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.</p>	<p>This succession of adverbial phrases imitates the various transformations of the chemicals. Presented as an asyndetic list, this sentence gives a sense of conclusion with the final <i>and</i> signposting that finally the mixture began to “throw off small fumes of vapour.” This passage draws on the conventions of the science fiction genre.</p>
<p>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!</p>	<p>This triadic, anaphoric period sentence builds tension before Hyde’s consumption of the drug.</p>
<p>He reeled, staggered, clutched as the table and held on, staring with injected eyes, gasping with open mouth; and as I looked there came I thought a change – he seemed to swell – his face became suddenly black...</p>	<p>This combination of expressive verbs, together with figurative language helps to convey the early transformation of Hyde. The embedded clause, punctuated with parenthetical dashes, helps to convey the swelling of the body by foregrounding the sentence intrusion: “he seemed to swell.” Here Stevenson uses sentence structure to highlight sentence content.</p>
<p>...for there before my eyes – pale and shaken, and half fainting, and groping before him with his hands, like a man restored from death – there stood Henry Jekyll!</p>	<p>This periodic sentence mimics the transformation of Hyde back into Jekyll, highlighting Lanyon’s disbelief and confusion as onlooker. He is so affected because it is now evident that Jekyll is a serial killer, that his rational perspective on science and medicine is wrong and because he has looked into the heart of darkness.</p>
<p>Man is not truly one but truly two...</p>	<p>Here Jekyll, in his final statement, outlines his motivation for developing the drug, referring here to the duality of man.</p>
<p>I...managed to compound a drug by which these powers should be dethroned from their supremacy, and second countenance substituted...and bore the stamp of lower elements of my soul.</p>	<p>This figurative language refers to the higher being of the ego being supplanted by the lower id or Darwinian beast.</p>
<p>My devil had long been caged, he came out roaring...</p>	<p>Here Jekyll explains his murder of Carew being motivated by the increasing fury of his id at being ignored for so long. We are reminded of Freud when he argued that: the greater the repression, the stronger the aggression.</p>

