

In his dark gothic novella, Stevenson presents Hyde as an inhuman and disturbing member of society through use of language and imagery that links Hyde to evil and makes him appear animalistic.

In this extract, Stevenson presents Hyde an inhuman member of society by linking him to an animal, for example with the simile "like a rat," This comparison serves to dehumanise Hyde, making him seem frightening and inhuman, and the use of the word "rat" in particular is often meant to connote dirtiness and evil. In the eyes of a Victorian audience, these commonly used themes of certain animals such as snakes and rats would have linked to the devil, leading them to be fearful of Hyde and see him as a disrespected member of society. Furthermore, Stevenson describes Hyde as "digging among the crates" and giving a "kind of cry", both traits which are associated with animals, presenting Hyde as an inhuman entity, and giving Victorian audiences more reason to despise him. However, the use of the word "cry" may also suggest that Hyde is a caged or suffering animal, evoking pity in more modern audiences as they may understand that Hyde is being mistreated by Jekyll rather than being a purely evil being. Here, Stevenson seems to be critical of Victorian society, often suggesting in other parts of the text that Jekyll is responsible for Hyde's actions as he is the "father". Also, use of the simile "stood up on my head like quills" presents Poole as the prey of another predatory animal trying to protect himself, which suggests that Hyde is very dangerous and is capable of harming others in similar ways to that of an animal hunting its prey. This can also be seen to represent how Jekyll has not treated Hyde properly, and as a result, he has become violent to survive.

In the extract as a whole, Hyde is often linked to satanic animals, for example through the use of sibilance, "Snarled aloud into a savage laugh", which connotes the hissing of a snake, an animal associated with the devil and original sin or temptation. For mostly Victorian audiences, these comparisons would have made Hyde seem horrible and inhuman, enforced by the use of a diabolic lexis including words such as "devilish" and "really like Satan" throughout the text.

In this extract, Stevenson presents Hyde as disturbing by linking him to deformity and regression. Stevenson links Hyde to a "dwarf", contrasting to Jekyll's "tall, fine build". During the Victorian time period, the new theory of evolution was not well understood, and many people believed that it was possible to regress, or 'de-evolve'. Words such as "dwarf" imply someone shorter in stature, a trait which was often seen to represent regression and a return to a more primal or animalistic nature, in opposition to Jekyll's desirable traits which portray him as a respected and upstanding member of society. Furthermore, in this extract, Stevenson refers to Hyde using a noun, "that thing", suggesting that he is something like a monster or devil and is far more disturbing than a man. This can be seen in the text as a whole when Hyde is mentioned as "the other", or "it", implying to the reader that he is a lower form of human, possibly less evolved and more animalistic than the other characters in the story. However, unlike Victorian audiences who strongly believed in Satan and would have been disturbed by Hyde, modern readers may empathise with Hyde, as he is outcast from society and othered by his peers.

To enhance this idea, in the extract, Stevenson suggests to the reader through Utterson that Jekyll may be suffering with an illness which can "deform the sufferer". Deformity was heavily

associated with the Devil in Victorian society, meaning that mostly Christian audiences would have seen Hyde as a physical manifestation of evil, resulting in him being presented as a devilish being, and the villain of the story. In the whole text, themes of deformity are often linked to Hyde, for example when he is described as giving “a strong impression of deformity”, further presenting him as something less than human. Through his use of these themes, Stevenson may have wanted to comment on the blind faith of Victorian society and heavily religious ideas that often resulted in a fear or rejection of scientific principles, ideas which he wished to present through Jekyll’s experiment in his own novella.