**Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | Summary**

**Chapter 1**

While taking a walk one Sunday, Mr. [Utterson](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Utterson) and his friend, Mr. [Enfield](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Enfield), pass through a quiet London neighborhood. Enfield points out a door and tells Utterson a story involving that door. One evening, Enfield says, he was walking home at 3 a.m. and saw two people in the otherwise deserted neighborhood. One was a small man walking quickly, and the other was a young girl running down a cross street. They ran into each other at the corner, and the man trampled the little girl and left her lying there screaming. Enfield, the girl's family, and a doctor confronted the man and blackmailed him into paying 100 pounds to the girl and her family as compensation for what he'd done.

The man led them to a doorway, entered, and returned with 10 pounds in gold and a check for the other 90. The group doubted the check was good, but the man stayed with them until the bank opened the next morning. To everyone's surprise, the check was good. Utterson asks some follow-up questions, but Enfield hadn't investigated further. Enfield has, however, studied the door and says it is strange. It isn't clear where it leads or how many rooms are associated with it. There's some confusion about where one building stops and the next one starts. Utterson asks the name of the man who trampled the child. It was Hyde. Utterson doesn't ask whose name was on the check because, he says, he already knows it.

CHAPTER – 2

Once he is home Mr. [Utterson](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Utterson) reviews Jekyll's will. It leaves everything to Edward Hyde and says that if Jekyll disappears for three months or more, Hyde gets all Jekyll's possessions. Utterson worries the will might indicate madness or a personal disgrace on Jekyll's part. He visits Dr. [Lanyon](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Lanyon), a friend to both Utterson and Jekyll. He finds that Lanyon and Jekyll have fallen out of contact because of a clash over one of Jekyll's theories that Lanyon finds "unscientific balderdash." Utterson is relieved: he can dismiss it as a scientific disagreement rather than a more serious ethical or medical concern. After the two men part, Utterson dreams of Hyde trampling the child and wishes he could see Hyde's face. He commits himself to finding [Mr. Hyde](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Mr._Hyde) so he can see him for himself.  
  
Whenever he finds time, Utterson plants himself near the door where Hyde went to retrieve money to pay the blackmail. When he finally sees Hyde approaching the door, Utterson taps him on the shoulder. Hyde is momentarily frightened but talks to him. During this conversation, Utterson learns some facts about Hyde, like his address in Soho. This conversation also signals to readers that Hyde is closer to Jekyll than his old friend Utterson is. He knows what Jekyll would and wouldn't have said, and he calls Utterson on a lie.

Once Utterson sees Hyde's face, he speculates on what makes it so distasteful. He concludes that it bears "Satan's signature" and is marked by "something troglodytic." Utterson then goes to visit his friend Henry Jekyll who lives close by, but Jekyll's servant, [Poole](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Poole), tells him Jekyll isn't home. Utterson tells Poole he saw Hyde enter through the "dissecting room door" and asks if it is okay. Poole tells Utterson it is common: Hyde has a key. This troubles Utterson and makes him more certain than ever that something is wrong in Jekyll's life, and he wonders whether "the ghost of some old sin" has returned to haunt Jekyll. For that to happen, Jekyll would have to have committed some serious sin in the past. This foreshadows the final chapter when Jekyll admits his history of immoral acts.

CHAPTER – 3

Two weeks later Jekyll has a dinner. When the other guests leave, [Utterson](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Utterson) remains in order to talk to Jekyll about his will. Jekyll doesn't want to talk about it, but he does say [Lanyon](https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Dr-Jekyll-and-Mr-Hyde/character-analysis/#Lanyon) is as upset by his will as Utterson is. When Utterson explains that he has learned things about Hyde, Jekyll asks him to drop the subject. "I am painfully situated," Jekyll explains. And when Utterson pressures Jekyll to tell him the whole story, Jekyll responds that he'd tell Utterson if he could tell anyone, but he can't—and as soon as he can get rid of Hyde, he will. Utterson agrees to drop the subject, and Jekyll asks one more thing of Utterson. If he disappears, he wants Utterson to take care of Hyde and make sure he gets "his rights." Utterson doesn't like the request, or Hyde, but he agrees.