

Comparing Kurtz & Mr Hyde

What? To compare Kurtz and Mr Hyde, linking both to the idea of 'savagery'.

How?

- 1) Think back to when you studied Jekyll & Hyde. Create a mind-map using the information on slide 2 of everything you can remember about the character of Hyde.
- 2) Look at the specific quotes from the novel about Mr Hyde on slide 3 write some notes in your book (like the example given) as to what these quotes might reveal about Mr Hyde's character.
- 3) Read the information on slide 5 explaining how the novel was also influenced by the British Empire, now think about Kurtz from the last lesson and write a few notes about your initial ideas.
- 4) Using your notes from this lesson so far and last lesson to write a summary of the two characters. Use the sentence starters provided on slide 6 to support you.
- 5) Answer the questions on slide 7 in your book to add more detail to your analysis of the two characters.
- 6) On slide 8 is a model of the table you need to complete. Starting it this lesson, and completing it next lesson, you need to come up with three, specific comparative points from your notes. You are comparing Kurtz to Mr Hyde.

Why? Bridging the gap between GCSE and A Level, it is important to see how different factors in the historical period can influence more than one novel at the time. By comparing these two characters, pupils are able to make links between the two novels and the context within which they were written.

What? To compare Kurtz and Mr Hyde, linking both to the idea of 'savagery'.

Task: Think back to when you studied 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde'.

What can you remember about the character of Mr Hyde?

What key quotations can you recall?

Create a mind map of everything you remember about this character.



For help remembering the plot, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USY7YSVDNVY>

Analysing Mr Hyde – A re-cap

Task: Look at the quotations below from the novel that describe Mr Hyde.

Make some notes in your book about what these quotations reveal about his character.



"There is something wrong with his appearance; something displeasing, something downright detestable. I never saw a man so disliked."

"with ape-like fury, he was trampling his victim under foot and hailing down a storm of blows"

"Mr Hyde was pale and dwarfish, he gave an impression of deformity without any nameable malformation, he had a displeasing smile..."

"I learned to recognise the thorough and primitive duality of man" (Jekyll before he releases Hyde).

Here is an example of one:

"the other **snarled** aloud into a **savage** laugh"

The word 'snarled' suggests an evil sound that an animal might make. Usually they make this sound when they are threatened or trying to make themselves intimidating.

The word 'savage' suggests something prehistoric or unevolved. It suggests something violent and aggressive, something or someone who might do things without thinking.

Additional Challenge:

Are there any more quotes or examples from when you studied Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde that you could add to this list?

Do any help to support the argument that Mr Hyde is savage and uncivilised? Explain your ideas.

Linking Hyde to the British Empire



Dr Jekyll is a well-respected, intelligent doctor and experimental scientist. We know that he is wealthy and respectable but also that he was a bit wild in his youth. In truth he struggles to reconcile his serious public side with his "concealed pleasures" and it is this struggle that leads to his famous experiment.

Jekyll seeks to separate the "evil" side of his nature permanently which he hopes will lead to "the furtherance of knowledge and the relief of sorrow and suffering".



As we discussed in the first lesson, the Victorians had a clear idea of what it meant to be 'civilised' in society. When they visited other countries that did not show the same behaviours, they were considered 'uncivilised' and 'less evolved'.

Dr Jekyll suggests that he has always had these uncivilised behaviours 'concealed' within him, when he releases Mr Hyde into the world he brings these behaviours to life.

Task: How might you link the character of Kurtz to the ideas of the British Empire? What are the similarities between the two characters? Make some notes.

Comparing Kurtz & Mr Hyde

Task:

Using all the information we have gathered so far, write a quick summary of each character.

Consider their personality, what makes them tick, how they react around others, what behaviours they show.



Hyde is a violent character who is a manifestation of Dr Jekyll's most intimate desires. He is part of Dr Jekyll's personality....

Kurtz is a mysterious character who we only meet at the end of the novel. Until then, we learn about his personality through a character called Marlow. Kurtz has been living in the African jungle...



Comparing Kurtz & Mr Hyde



Develop your analysis of these two characters further.

Try to answer these questions in your books.

Can you identify any similarities between the two men?

Why do both men become
'savage'?

Who controls the two
men?

Both men start out as respectable, what
does this suggest about them?

Has their environment got anything to
do with their savagery?



Additional Challenge – Answer these questions as part of your analysis too.

How does the writer use language to describe their behaviour?

What does the author's choice of language reveal about both characters' personalities?

Could you reference any specific subject terminology that the writers have used?

Task: Now you have some initial ideas as to how you can compare the two characters.

Create a table like the one below of your three main points of comparison for the two characters.

Add your point and evidence for each comparison. The first one has been done for you.

We will add the analysis during the next lesson so leave this blank.

	Comparison 1 – Both men start off civilised		Comparison 2 –		Comparison 3 -	
	Point & Evidence	Analysis	Point & Evidence	Analysis	Point & Evidence	Analysis
Mr Hyde	Hyde begins as just an idea of Dr Jekyll who is a respected man in society. "I had been safe of all men's respect'.					
Kurtz	Kurtz was respected by his colleagues in Victorian London who respected him. "First-class agent" "in charge of a trading point"					