



Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde

English 12 Essay

After reading *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, there are a number of themes and issues that can be explored. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote the novel with the intent to explore the duality of humanity. Whether literal or metaphorical, the concept of the struggle between 19th century Jekyll and Hyde can be mirrored in many aspects of our current society.

In order to analyze the themes present in *Jekyll and Hyde*, you will choose a song that you believe can portray a theme in the novel. Music is used to express human conditions and situations and is a fitting way to analyze this piece of literature. The song you chose does not necessarily have to be literal connection to the novel (i.e. you probably won't find a song about a man drinking a potion to turn into a monster). However, you can probably find a song about "Change" (by Carrie Underwood). You probably won't find a song about the horrible pain of transforming into Mr. Hyde. However, you can probably find a song about someone being "Addicted" (by Simple Plan).

You may have to play around and listen to several different songs before you find one song that works. In order for you to be able to write this paper easily enough, you will need to pick a song that offers more than just one line of useable text. Read through the lyrics of several songs before making your final selection. Think not only about major themes that we have discussed in class, but also consider some minor themes that are present throughout the book. Listed below are a few examples of major and minor themes. You will need to analyze 3 different themes from the book using the lyrics of a song to introduce the theme.

This paper is intended to stretch your creative capacity. Try to think outside the box. The more unique your approach, the more information analysis you will be able to do.

Major Themes:

Identity Crisis – finding yourself
Good vs. Evil
Boundaries of Science (Ethics)
Loyalty
Professional Ethics
Duality of Human Nature
Drug Use

Other Themes:

Forgiveness
Shame & Regret
Suicide/reasons why
Loss of Control
Discovering Truth
Isolation
Addiction

Requirements:

1. Paper must have an introduction with an attention-getter, general statement, and thesis about your chosen topic.
2. Paper must have clear topic sentences with support from the novel in the form of both direct and indirect quotes, with page numbers. e.g. "Help" (34). Use quotes to support and not detract from your paper.
3. Paper must include a copy of the song lyrics that you have chosen.
4. A one letter grade deduction will occur for any use of personal pronouns (you, we, us, our, your, I).
5. 3 pages, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font.
6. Rough draft must show extensive revision with careful reading and meaningful change—not just spell check and sentence clarity, but also content. At least two people must read and make revisions and sign your rough draft.
7. Special formatting is needed for this paper in order to incorporate song lyrics. The teacher will explain this concept to you.

Lifeline

By: Papa Roach

When I was a boy I didn't care 'bout a thing
It was me and this world and a broken dream
I was blaming myself for all that was going wrong

I was way out there on the wrong side of town
And the ones that I loved I started pushing 'em out
Then I realized that it was all my fault

Possibly use this section of the lyrics to discuss the guilt that Jekyll feels and how he deals with the guilt. Even though he blames Hyde, Jekyll still feels that it is really his fault.

I've been looking for a lifeline
For what seems like a lifetime
I'm drowning in the pain, breaking down again
Looking for a lifeline

So I put out my hand and I asked for some help
We tore down the walls I built around myself
I was struck by the light and I fell to the ground

I've been looking for a lifeline
For what seems like a lifetime
I'm drowning in the pain, breaking down again
Looking for a lifeline

This could be used for a several possible themes. On one hand, this could be used to say that Jekyll's lifeline was Hyde. His pain was a life without pleasure. You could possibly look at physical pain and mental pain experienced by Jekyll in different places of the novel.

Is there anybody out there?
Can you pull me from this ocean of despair?
I'm drowning in the pain, breaking down again
Looking for a lifeline

You know a heart of gold won't take you all the way
And in a world so cold it's hard to keep the faith
I'm never gonna fade away, yeah

Perhaps a suitable lyric to analyze the idea of good vs. evil? What was Stevenson trying to say about humanity in the novel? Perhaps that you can't have good without the evil? The last line of the song might be used to describe Hyde or Jekyll. How might the meaning change if you apply this line to Jekyll and then to Hyde.

I've been looking for a lifeline
For what seems like a lifetime
I'm drowning in the pain, breaking down again
Looking for a lifeline

Is there anybody out there?
Can you pull me from this ocean of despair?
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