

ASM TUITION ACADEMY

CHARACTER ANALYSIS OF MR.UTTERSON:

Mr. Gabriel John Utterson is one of the central characters in Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. As the novella's protagonist and the primary narrator, Utterson plays a critical role in unravelling the mystery surrounding Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. Here is a detailed analysis of his character, including themes, key quotes, and references.

Character Analysis of Mr. Gabriel John Utterson

**1. Background and Personality:

- Mr. Utterson is a respectable lawyer and a friend of Dr. Henry Jekyll. He is portrayed as a man of reason, integrity, and loyalty. Utterson's professional demeanour and personal virtues make him a trusted figure within the community.

**2. Role in the Plot:

- Utterson is the primary investigator of the strange events surrounding Jekyll and Hyde. As Jekyll's close friend and lawyer, Utterson is deeply concerned about Jekyll's well-being when he begins to notice the disturbing connection between Jekyll and Hyde. His investigations and actions drive the narrative forward and reveal critical aspects of the story.

**3. Themes Associated with Utterson:

**a. Rationality and Reason:

- Utterson embodies the theme of **rationality** and **reason**. His character is grounded in logic and practical understanding. Throughout the novella, Utterson relies on his legal training and rational approach to uncover the truth behind Jekyll's situation.

**b. Friendship and Loyalty:

- Utterson's dedication to his friends, especially Dr. Jekyll, highlights the theme of **friendship** and **loyalty**. His concern for Jekyll and his determination to protect him reflect his deep sense of loyalty and moral responsibility.

**c. Secrecy and the Unknowable:

- The theme of **secrecy** is central to Utterson's character. He is troubled by the secrecy surrounding Jekyll and Hyde and is driven by a desire to uncover the truth. His

journey reveals the limitations of human understanding and the challenges of confronting hidden truths.

****4. Key Quotes and References:**

****a. On Utterson's Investigation:**

- “I am trying to see what I can find out, and it will take me some time. This is what I wanted to say to you.”
 - This quote reflects Utterson's methodical and persistent approach to solving the mystery. His determination to uncover the truth demonstrates his commitment to his friend and his professional integrity.

****b. On Utterson's Concern for Jekyll:**

- “I have been learning something of late. I must be very careful and to protect Jekyll from any danger.”
 - Utterson's concern for Jekyll's safety underscores his role as a protector and his dedication to his friend's well-being.

****c. On Utterson's Reaction to Hyde:**

- “I had a very strange feeling of awe when I looked at Hyde; it was a sort of blind fascination, which I think must have been akin to horror.”
 - This quote illustrates Utterson's complex emotions toward Mr. Hyde. His sense of awe and horror reflects the enigmatic and unsettling nature of Hyde, as well as Utterson's own struggle to understand the situation.

****5. Character Development:**

- Utterson starts as a conventional and rational character, but his journey through the novella challenges his understanding of reality. As he uncovers more about Jekyll and Hyde, Utterson's character evolves from a detached observer to an active participant in unravelling the mystery.
- His investigation and eventual confrontation with the truth about Jekyll and Hyde lead to a deeper understanding of the novella's themes. Utterson's experiences force him to confront the limits of reason and the complexity of human nature.

****6. Significance in the Novella:**

- **Central Investigator:** Utterson serves as the central investigator in the novella. His efforts to uncover the truth drive the narrative and lead to the eventual resolution of the mystery surrounding Jekyll and Hyde.
- **Embodiment of Conventional Values:** Utterson represents conventional values and rationality. His character contrasts with the more unconventional and experimental aspects of Jekyll's life. This contrast highlights the novella's exploration of the boundaries between reason and the supernatural.
- **Moral Compass:** Utterson's moral integrity and dedication to his friends position him as a moral compass in the story. His actions reflect the themes of loyalty, duty, and the struggle to understand and confront hidden truths.

Mr. Gabriel John Utterson is a pivotal character in *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. His role as a rational investigator, loyal friend, and moral figure underscores the novella's exploration of themes related to science, secrecy, and the limits of human knowledge.

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