

**Unit Organizer--Seventh-Grade English**  
***The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde***

**Subject Matter and Relationship to Core Knowledge Sequence:**

- ❖ Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
- ❖ Elements of fiction: plot, setting, theme, point of view, conflict (internal/external), climax, character (static/dynamic; flat/round) (*Thinking Framework = Knowledge*)
- ❖ Literary terms (Irony, flashbacks, foreshadowing) (*Thinking Framework = Knowledge*)

**Assessments:**

- ❖ Class discussion (factual, cause-effect, interpretation, themes, literary terms)
- ❖ Bell-work paragraphs during and after the reading of the play, dealing with key themes and questions
- ❖ Reading discussion/debate groups over certain issues in the text
- ❖ Summary paragraphs for any reading portions assigned outside of class
- ❖ Final test

**Standards for Achievement and Performance:**

**AFTER THIS UNIT THE STUDENT SHOULD BE ABLE TO...**

- ❖ Understand the distinctive feel and potential of first person narration in a story.
- ❖ Understand the role of suspense and purposeful confusion in crafting an engaging story.
- ❖ Develop in their skill of summarizing narrative.
- ❖ Grasp the tenets of Victorian writing and culture, with special attention to the importance of propriety and how this affects the characters in the text.
- ❖ Gain respect for the artistic prowess of Stevenson, especially given the fact that he wrote the book in a matter of days.
- ❖ Observe the role of emerging Darwinian thought on Stevenson's language and imagery.
- ❖ Understand the main theme of man's split nature—his ability to be civil and kind, but all the while with an underlying potential and fall-back of evil.
- ❖ Interact with this main theme for their own lives.
- ❖ Understand how the original audience would have interacted with this theme.
- ❖ Put their vocabulary roots practice to the test in sifting through the high level vocabulary in the text.
- ❖ Appreciate the power of a good story for developing and delivering themes.

**Character Traits/Habits of Mind:**

One of the longest-standing and important debates in the history of thought concerns one's view of human nature. Is it purely good? Is it a blank slate at birth? Is it evil? Stevenson works with this character-impacting question in a memorable way—so memorable that the very words “Jekyll and Hyde” have become catchwords in our vernacular. Stevenson does not pretend to answer the conflict in a clear, didactic way, but he does not shy away from showing humans' potential for evil through this story, even as the outside remains proper (a theme that the original Victorian audience would have been rocked by, and one that the present audience does not often hear).

**Previous Unit(s):**

- ❖ Vocabulary
- ❖ *Cyrano de Bergerac*

**Next Unit(s):**

- ❖ *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl*
- ❖ Continue Vocabulary (at this point, students should be done with the twenty lists and should be in the process of continually reviewing them)
- ❖ Continue Foreign Phrases/Spelling