

Name - _____

Start time - __ : __

End time - __ : __

Read the following passage from a 19th-century novel and answer the questions that follow.

I was the first that could thus plod in the public eye with a load of genial respectability, and in a moment, like a schoolboy, strip off these lendings and spring headlong into the sea of liberty. But for me, in my impenetrable mantle, the safety was complete. Think of it - I did not even exist! Let me but escape into my laboratory door, give me but a second or two to mi and swallow the draught that I had always standing ready; and whatever he had done, Edward Hyde would pass away like the stain of breath upon a mirror; and there in his stead, quietly at home, trimming the midnight lamp in his study, a man who could afford to laugh at suspicion_ would be Henry Jekyll.

The pleasures which I made haste to seek in my disguise were, as I have said, undignified I would scarce use a harder term. But in the hands of Edward Hyde, they soon began to turn towards the monstrous. When I would come back from these excursions, I was often plunged into a kind of wonder at my vicarious depravity. This familiar that I called out of my own soul and sent forth alone to do his good pleasure, was a being inherently malign and villainous; his every act and thought centred on self; drinking pleasure with bestial avidity from any degree o torture to another; relentless like a man of stone. Henry Jekyll stood at times aghast before the acts of Edward Hyde; but the situation was apart from ordinary laws, and insidiously relaxed the grasp of conscience. It was Hyde, after all, and Hyde alone, that was guilty. Jekyll was no worse; he woke again to his good qualities seemingly unimpaired; he would even make haste, where it was possible, to undo the evil done by Hyde. And thus his conscience slumbered.

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Questions:

1. Explore the protagonist's motivations as expressed in the passage. How does the despair of losing loved ones fuel his determination for revenge?
2. Analyze the use of nature imagery in the scene at the cemetery. How does the natural setting reflect the emotional turmoil of the character?
3. Explore the role of night and darkness in the scene. How does the setting contribute to the overall atmosphere and the character's state of mind?
4. Analyze the protagonist's invocation of spirits and the sacred earth. How does this act contribute to the Gothic and supernatural elements of the narrative?
5. Identify any literary allusions present in the passage. How might the protagonist's oath and invocation echo themes found in classical literature or mythology?
6. Discuss the moral dilemma faced by the protagonist. How does the desire for revenge conflict with the moral implications of seeking retribution?
7. Examine the transformation of the protagonist's emotions from grief to rage and despair. How does this emotional journey contribute to the complexity of his character?

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