

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 theme of duality in Jekyll's character. How does he describe the contrast between his public persona and the hidden identity of Hyde?
2. Analyze the metaphor of Jekyll "stripping off these lendings and springing headlong into the sea of liberty." How does this metaphor encapsulate the character's inner conflict?
3. Discuss the significance of Jekyll's laboratory as a safe haven. How does it symbolize his ability to escape the consequences of Hyde's actions?
4. Examine Jekyll's statement, "I did not even exist!" How does this reflect an existential crisis, and what does it reveal about his perception of self?
5. Consider the importance of time in Jekyll's escape plan. How does the element of time contribute to the narrative tension and the characters' struggles?
6. Discuss the role of conscience in Jekyll's internal struggle. How does the situation "apart from ordinary laws" affect the traditional notions of guilt and responsibility?
7. Discuss the ambiguity in Jekyll's statement that "Hyde alone, that was guilty." How does this contribute to the overall narrative ambiguity and the exploration of good and evil?

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