

Literary Analysis Essay in MLA Format

You will be writing a Literary Analysis Essay on the novella *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.

Your essay should have:

- Five paragraphs
- A minimum of five sentences per paragraph
- 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced
- MLA Formatting

Your paper should contain:

- **Introduction:**
 - Attention-getting opening
 - Title, author, brief summary
 - Thesis statement
- **3 Body Paragraphs**
 - Discuss ONE LITERARY ELEMENT per body paragraph
 - Include at least TWO PIECES OF TEXT EVIDENCE as support for each paragraph's main idea
 - Explain how this literary element effects the reader
- **Conclusion**
 - Restate thesis (briefly)
 - Review the 3 literary elements you discussed and what you concluded about them (briefly)
 - Explanation of the effect of the novella on readers
 - Strong ending sentence with a sense of closure (question, quote from book, call to action, etc.)

Literary Elements you may choose to discuss in your paper:

Theme:

The writer's idea or message about the subject of a story

Analysis of theme asks: "*What is the novel trying to say about...*"

- Duality of human nature (good vs. evil)
- Duality within society (acceptable standards vs. what people actually do)
- Violence to innocents (little girl, Carew)
- Victorian Gentleman (reputation, friendship, silence, loyalty)
- Avoiding scandal (at the cost of the truth or even the law)
- Addiction (Jekyll is a classic addict, always in denial, never able to actually quit)
- Women
- Evolving Science

Setting:

Where and when a story takes place

Author's Writing Style: What characterizes this author's style

- figurative language (metaphor, simile, personification, oxymoron, hyperbole, etc.)
- imagery
- elements of suspense
- irony (verbal, situational, dramatic)
- allusion (to ancient history, to biblical ideas/stories, etc.)

Characterization: The methods by which the author directly and/or indirectly reveals the traits of characters

Symbolism: Doors, Keys, Windows, Envelopes, Cane, Mirror, Weather, London Cityscape, Gallows, etc. (*We have already analyzed Jekyll's residence as a symbol, so it should not be analyzed in your paper.*)