

**ang070 S/Ü "Introduction to the Critical and Scholarly Discussion of Literature"  
Assignment 3: "Analysing Fiction"**

**This assignment is a mandatory part of your portfolio and needs to be handed in on time. It is ungraded but a sample solution will be published on the Institutswiki. Additionally, you can receive feedback in the office hours of your respective instructors. Every assignment must include a cover sheet and the statement on plagiarism. Present your results in complete sentences. You may write up to three pages of text, according to the formatting specifications of our style sheet. Any text beyond the first three pages will be ignored.**

Analyse the following passage from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. 1886. New York: Norton, 2003. 47-8.

I was born in the year 18— to a large fortune, endowed besides with excellent parts, inclined by nature to industry, fond of the respect of the wise and good among my fellowmen, and thus, as might have been supposed, with every guarantee of an honourable and distinguished future. And indeed the worst of my faults was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition, such as had made the happiness of many, but such as I found it hard to reconcile with my imperious desire to carry my head high, and wear a more than commonly grave countenance before the public. Hence it came about that I concealed my pleasures; and that when I reached years of reflection, and began to look round me and take stock of my progress and position in the world, I stood already committed to a profound duplicity of life. Many a man would have even blazoned such irregularities as I was guilty of; but from the high views that I had set before me, I regarded and hid them with an almost morbid sense of shame. It was thus rather the exacting nature of my aspirations than any particular degradation in my faults, that made me what I was, and, with even a deeper trench than in the majority of men, severed in me those provinces of good and ill which divide and compound man's dual nature. In this case, I was driven to reflect deeply and inveterately on that hard law of life, which lies at the root of religion and is one of the most plentiful springs of distress. Through so profound a double-dealer, I was in no sense a hypocrite; both sides of me were in dead earnest; I was no more myself when I laid aside restraint and plunged in shame, than when I laboured, in the eye of day, at the furtherance of knowledge or the relief of sorrow and suffering.

**Formal and Media-specific Analysis: Narratology, focalization, and characterization**

- (1) (a) Preliminary Contextualisation:  
On the basis of your knowledge of **the entire text**, please identify the three main narrators in Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and categorise each narrator according to narrative level and extent of participation.  
(b) Identify and categorize the narrator of **this passage** according to the typology of narrators and comment on the function of the narrative level.
- (2) Focalization: Identify and comment on the use of focalization in the given passage.
- (3) Characterization: Who is characterized by whom and with what techniques?

**Functional Analysis: Toward a Problem-oriented Sample Analysis**

Build your functional analysis on the data generated through your formal analysis and suggest a possible problem orientation:

- (4) Formulate a research problem on the basis of your formal analysis and
- (5) Produce a close reading of the passage that is sensitive to relevant contexts and references suitable secondary material.

**Comparison: Correspondence and/or Contrast**

- (6) Suggest one other passage from the novel that corresponds and/or contrasts with the given passage in an aspect relevant to the research problem you have specified.
- (7) Briefly discuss how both passages relate to this problem. Address potential differences in representation and their possible functions.