

MODEL ANSWER - 16th April 2018 - 20 minutes

Explain how danger is presented **elsewhere** in the novel.

In your answer, you must consider:

- the types of danger that occurs in the novel
- what causes the danger and who it affects

There are many different types of danger presented in *Jekyll and Hyde*: the danger of death, the danger of violence, the danger of being found out, and the danger to scientific and religious norms. There are also a range of characters who find themselves in danger or witnessing dangerous acts throughout the novel, for example, the maid who witnesses the murder of Sir Danvers Carew, the little girl who is 'trampled' by Hyde and Poole, who is terrified that his master has been 'done in' by a 'monster'.

The most obvious example of danger is that of the danger that Jekyll puts himself under to transform into Hyde - when he first records his experiments he describes his physical reaction to the drug as as agonising as giving birth. He is "wracked with pains" and is physically tormented by the transformation - his bones 'grind' and shake. He is also completely unaware of the dangers that he faces - much like Utterson and Poole who break down the door to his cabinet much later in the narrative and who are completely unaware of the danger that may be lurking behind the door. His desire to make the transformation is so great that he is completely willing to put himself at danger of even death to achieve his scientific ends - which consequently seems so dangerous that Dr Lanyon dies of fear when he sees Hyde transform back into Jekyll.

Perhaps another important danger in the book is best exemplified by Lanyon's response to Jekyll's experiments, as it clearly represents the danger to accepted scientific norms - Lanyon reassures Utterson that he and Jekyll fell out 'over some matter of science' ten years before, however, the shock that he receives when he sees Hyde transform before his eyes - his black eyes and lips, his monstrous face grimacing and contorting - ultimately kills the scientist, who represents the scientific establishment. He goes from describing Jekyll's experiments as 'unscientific balderdash' to falling into a dangerous fever.

This also links to another danger that Jekyll's experiments pose - the danger to religious ideas and ideology. Jekyll seems to directly challenge the power of God - that of deciding the fate of 'man' and that of who may be judged judgement good or evil - Jekyll's plans seem to suggest that God could be 'tricked'. When he says 'man is not truly one, but truly two' he again seems to suggest that he too could take the power of creation from God himself, to create a better version of himself. Stevenson clearly wishes to warn the reader that to follow this false ideology will lead to death and destruction - exactly as happens to Jekyll at the end of the novel - again, a danger he is willing to risk to 'free himself' from the confines of his 'fleshy clothes'.

