

## Jekyll and Hyde Chapter 2 Extract Question Model Answer

Cleverly, Stevenson suggests how worried Mr Utterson is through his description of his nightmare. Utterson metaphorically “digs” at the problem to which he has found himself “enslaved”. By personifying the problem, Utterson shows how much he is at Mr Hyde’s mercy already - he cannot get the man out of his head. He has become a “slave” to his worries and fears for what Mr Hyde may or may not be planning regarding his good friend, Dr Jekyll. The concept of slavery also suggests that Mr Utterson feels helpless, physically and mentally unable to move or take control, and in the power of someone else (Hyde), which, as a well-respected lawyer, he would be very unused to and feel very uncomfortable about. At this point, the reader is able to sense already the power that Mr Hyde has over others, and this foreshadows the power he ultimately has over Dr Jekyll.

Another way in which Stevenson subtly presents Mr Utterson’s worries in the extract is through sudden and unexpected burst of imagination - the extract focusses on a vivid and effecting nightmare. Up to this point, Utterson has been shown to be a man of sense and seriousness - not someone given to flights of imagination. The worries he has about Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are clearly demonstrated through the vivid, metaphorical descriptions of the dream sequence: “a scroll of lighted pictures” that repeatedly run through his mind. The repetition of phrases such as “more swiftly”, Hyde as a “Juggernaut”, and the violence of the story of Hyde’s trampling of the little girl, Stevenson connotes the stress and worry that Mr Utterson is suffering. Again, Stevenson develops the idea of Mr Utterson’s worry through his metaphorical “haunting” by these images. Not only is he unable to rid himself of these violent and disturbing “lighted pictures” but he is helpless to do anything about the situation: he is unable to “see” Hyde’s face, he is unable to prevent the “crushing” of the child, and he is unable to catch the figure who moves “more swiftly and still the more swiftly” away from him - this figure, which the reader presumes to be Mr Hyde, personifies the very problem he is wrestling with.

Finally, Stevenson portrays Mr Utterson’s worries through his repeated reference to seeing, sight, and light and darkness. Mr Utterson repeatedly imagines a “face” that he cannot see, a “face” which once seen, he imagines will “lighten” the mystery in which he finds himself. The metaphor of “light” implies that Mr Utterson feels himself to be metaphorically in the dark. He tosses and turns in the “gross darkness”, both literally and metaphorically, trying to work his way out of the puzzle. He seeks to shed “light” on the problem, solving the mystery for himself and for his friend, Dr Jekyll, but is unable to do so. The theme of “light” is important at this point in the novel, as it also helps to present to the reader the idea that Mr Hyde is a creature of darkness and the nighttime and shadows, whereas Dr Jekyll and Mr Utterson are linked to brightness, knowledge and illumination. Whether Dr Jekyll deserves this reputation from Mr Utterson isn’t resolved until later in the novel, when we hear from his own mouth.