

Mr. Nigara
AS II English
*The Strange Case of
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

The Crime Doesn't Pay (in Victorian Times at Least) Research Project

Rationale:

Authors, as we've explored all year, never write in a vacuum. Literature is always subject to and representative of the history in which it is written. In *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* you are studying one of the earliest, darkest, most fascinating, and fun detective stories ever written in any language. The novella continues to inspire artists worldwide. Influenced by Victorians' pervasive fear of crime and drug use, and fascinated by crime reporting, Stevenson wrote *Jekyll and Hyde* because he thought he could cash in on the "shilling-shocker" market. To date, you have done research in preparation for bioethics debates. For this project you will not only conduct research but also develop and perfect a thesis and synthesize a large body of information. **You will write a research paper on your own, and work with a partner to produce a presentation. You will have to sift through a large body of data and decide what is most important to present.**

Description and Purpose of the Project:

The Victorians were a paranoid lot. Concerned with rising murder rates and escalating drug use, affected by tabloid sensationalism, fascinated with sordid tales of detection, saddled with hypocritical ideas about poverty and class, Victorians took a number of controversial (at the time) measures toward fighting crime and ridding the streets of veritable "Mr. Hydes." **For this project you will focus on advancements in crime investigation, surveillance, and technology during the Victorian Era. You will select a topic, write a paper on your own, and prepare a presentation with a partner. The purpose of the project is to create a broader context in which your classmates can place *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* in its social milieu.**

Research and Methodology:

Except where noted, you should apply these directions equally to the presentation and the paper. Make sure you incorporate quotes from your research and cite sources properly using your MLA style handout. Make sure you streamline and synthesize your presentations and writing. One of the challenges of this research assignment is to narrow your focus. Choose only the most salient details and present them in a clear way. Anecdotal information can enhance presentations, but don't overindulge in it. Using quotes from sources is essential. I will mark down presentations or papers without quotes. I will give you one day in the library to research your topics.

You must include the following with your project or paper:

1. A guiding thesis statement, which you will likely formulate *after* you start your research.
2. A *before*, *during*, and *after*. These can be separate paragraphs.
 - **BEFORE:** What was it like before this technology or idea came around? Don't just say there was nothing. What existed before? What was the impetus for it? **GIVE US CONTEXT.**

- **DURING:** How did the new technology come about? What is the process and what were the circumstances that influenced its creation? If your paper is on an individual, how did this person implement and affect change?
 - **AFTER:** What resulted from it? What happened after the new technology/advancement was implemented? How did it affect the crime rate and people's lives? Did Victorians react favorably or negatively? Is it still with us? Do you consider it an advancement? Why or why not?
3. **At least four (4) sources, two of which can be online but one must come from a scholarly journal and another must come from a BOOK.** It can be a book in PDF format, but I'd like to see you go to an actual library, browse a shelf, pluck a few dusty books, and use one as a source. Check Gale databases for online journals.
 4. A Works Cited list of your sources using the MLA format. (We'll go over this.)
 5. A connection to *Jekyll and Hyde*. Your research has likely put some details from the novella in a new light. Choose a passage from the novella that you now see differently after having done your research. At the end of your presentation, do a short reading of the passage and describe how your research made you think differently about it.

Presentation: Presentations should be between 10-15 minutes. You should prepare your presentation with your classmates in mind. Make sure to set the stage for your audience. Teach us not only what the status quo was before this person or these advancements came along but also what developed as a result of the person or advancements. Your presentation must include visuals or sound in some way. You can use the overhead or the computer for a PowerPoint presentation. You can create posters, show or shoot a video clip, mark up the whiteboards, and give handouts. Get us excited about your subject!

Paper: Your paper should be at least three pages and include a visual of some sort. It can be a chart, graph, photo with a caption, illustration, comic, etc. from the period. Your paper should be at least three (3) pages—double-spaced and in 12-point type—with a fourth Works Cited page.

Topics:

First come first served on the topics! Choose from the following topics:

- **Overview: Crime and Punishment: Types of Crimes Committed in Victorian London or Paris.** What were the types of punishment for a variety of crimes?: hanging, hard labor, imprisonment, etc. Were these ethical and did the majority of the population support them? What was the worst crime? Which punishments seem severe by today's standards? Were trials fair?
- **Overview: Women and Crime:** Which crimes disproportionately affected women? What were the punishments for such crimes? What was the process for arresting someone? Give us the specifics. Which types of arrests were most common? Why?
- **Overview: Children and Crime.** Which crimes disproportionately affected children? What were the punishments for such crimes? What was the process for arresting someone? Give us the specifics. Which types of arrests were most common? Why?
- **Overview: Visualizing Crime and Victorian London.** Give us a glimpse of the character of London's neighborhoods during the Era. Which were the richer areas and which were the seedier ones? Make sure to show us where important scenes in *Jekyll and Hyde* take place. **These four will present FIRST.**

- Overview: Victorian Detective Fiction. Which were the most popular books and characters? Who were the biggest writers? Was there a relation between the rising crime rate and the popularity of books about crime?
- Development of the Modern Police Force. Scotland Yard, otherwise known as the London Metropolitan Police Service. How did Scotland Yard come about? What were the disparate circumstances that brought about the creation of the police force? Make sure to address the infamous “Black Museum.”
- Class: Upper-Class vs. Lower-Class Crimes. What constituted a lower- vs. upper-class crime? Were the arrests and punishments equitable and fair? How did class influence the development of crime-fighting technologies? Make sure to address “Victorian workhouses.”
- “Jack the Ripper” Case. Give us the sordid details of the first and perhaps most famous serial-killer case ever. How did it change murder investigation? How did it change Victorian London?
- France: Eugene Francois Vidocq and the Sûreté Nationale. The Frenchman—a criminal—was really the first modern crime fighter; he founded the first detective agency.
- Early Forensic Science. What developments took off in Victorian London?
- Francis Galton and the development of fingerprinting. How did it develop?
- America: Allen Pinkerton, the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, and the first use of the mug shot.
- Alphonse Bertillon: Pioneered the identification of criminals through body measurement.
- Prison Reform: Jeremy Bentham and the development of the panopticon.
- Henry Goddard and ballistics. Check out his studies on bullet identification.
- Drug Use in Victorian London. What were attitudes toward drug use? Which kinds of drugs were used and why did drug use skyrocket?
- Victorian Crime Reporting. Where did Victorians read about crime? Which papers/newsletters published crime updates? How were they published in the papers?
- Visual Art: Crime and Victorian Painting or Photography. Discuss some notable artists, paintings, and photography related to crime during the era.
- Other. (Clear it with me!)

The Thesis:

Each paper and presentation should have a guiding thesis that explains why and how the person or advancement was new and revolutionary. (Students who choose the “overview” topics should offer a strong argument about the period as a whole resulting from their research.) For example, “Jeremy Bentham’s development of the panopticon revolutionized the purpose of prisons, because it allowed prison officials to spy endlessly on prisoners, thereby making prisoners ‘responsible’ for their own policing.” Or, “Allen Pinkerton brought crime-fighting technology into the modern era through his concept of the mug shot. The photo technique enabled police departments to synthesize their books and catch criminals faster.”

Due Dates:

Fri, April 15: Intro and thesis paragraph due. Include your email address. I will review over break and let you know if you need to rewrite your thesis or if you can go ahead as is. You can also email the thesis to me at mnigara@seq.org.

Wed, April 27: Presentations and papers due.

Fri, April 29: Presentations continue (if necessary).

