**Chapter 5: Incident of the Letter**

Write a summary of the chapter in the box above.

IT was late in the afternoon, when Mr. Utterson found his way to Dr. Jekyll's door, where he was at once admitted by Poole, and carried down by the kitchen offices and across a yard which had once been a garden, to the building which was indifferently known as the laboratory or the dissecting-rooms. The doctor had bought the house from the heirs of a celebrated surgeon; and his own tastes being rather chemical than anatomical, had changed the destination of the block at the bottom of the garden. It was the first time that the lawyer had been received in that part of his friend's quarters; and he eyed the dingy, windowless structure with curiosity, and gazed round with a distasteful sense of strangeness as he crossed the theatre, once crowded with eager students and now lying gaunt and silent, the tables laden with chemical apparatus, the floor strewn with crates and littered with packing straw, and the light falling dimly through the foggy cupola. At the further end, a flight of stairs mounted to a door covered with red baize and through this, Mr. Utterson was at last received into the doctor's cabinet. It was a large room, fitted round with glass presses, furnished, among other things, with a cheval-glass and a business table, and looking out upon the court by three dusty windows barred with iron. A fire burned in the grate; a lamp was set lighted on the chimney shelf, for even in the houses the fog began to lie thickly; and there, close up to the warmth, sat Dr. Jekyll, looking deadly sick. He did not rise to meet his visitor, but held out a cold hand and bade him welcome in a changed voice.

***Dr Jekyll’s Home***

How does Stevenson present Jekyll’s home? Support your answer with detailed reference to the text.

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**How does Stevenson use this conversation to present Utterson and Jekyll? Annotate the extract below. Cover all AOs:**

AO1: Read, understand and respond to the text, using textual reference and quotations to support interpretations

AO2: Analysis of language, form and structure using subject terminology

AO3: View informed by knowledge of relevant context – historical, social, religious, political, biographical, literary.

"One word," said the lawyer. "Carew was my client, but so are you, and I want to know what I am doing. You have not been mad enough to hide this fellow?"

"Utterson, I swear to God," cried the doctor, "I swear to God I will never set eyes on him again. I bind my honour to you that I am done with him in this world. It is all at an end. And indeed he does not want my help; you do not know him as I do; he is safe, he is quite safe; mark my words, he will never more be heard of."

The lawyer listened gloomily; he did not like his friend's feverish manner. "You seem pretty sure of him," said he; "and for your sake, I hope you may be right. If it came to a trial, your name might appear."

"I am quite sure of him," replied Jekyll; "I have grounds for certainty that I cannot share with any one. But there is one thing on which you may advise me. I have—I have received a letter; and I am at a loss whether I should show it to the police. I should like to leave it in your hands, Utterson; you would judge wisely, I am sure; I have so great a trust in you."

"You fear, I suppose, that it might lead to his detection?" asked the lawyer.

"No," said the other. "I cannot say that I care what becomes of Hyde; I am quite done with him. I was thinking of my own character, which this hateful business has rather exposed."

Utterson ruminated a while; he was surprised at his friend's selfishness, and yet relieved by it. "Well," said he, at last, "let me see the letter."

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**Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde***

Read the following extract from Chapter 5 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Mr Utterson visits Dr Jekyll after the Carew murder.

"Have you the envelope?" he asked.

"I burned it," replied Jekyll, "before I thought what I was about.
But it bore no postmark. The note was handed in."

"Shall I keep this and sleep upon it?" asked Utterson.

"I wish you to judge for me entirely," was the reply. "I have lost confidence in myself."

"Well, I shall consider," returned the lawyer. "And now one word more: it was Hyde who dictated the terms in your will about that disappearance?"

The doctor seemed seized with a qualm of faintness: he shut his mouth tight and nodded.

"I knew it," said Utterson. "He meant to murder you. You have had a fine escape."

"I have had what is far more to the purpose," returned the doctor solemnly: "I have had a lesson—O God, Utterson, what a lesson I have had!" And he covered his face for a moment with his hands.

What is the purpose of this section of the novel?

How does it add to your understanding of the characters and the plot? Answer in one essay style response.

Q2: Read the following extract where Mr Utterson sits with his head clerk, Mr Guest, following his visit to Dr Jekyll’s. (Chapter 5).

Presently after, he sat on one side of his own hearth, with Mr. Guest, his head clerk, upon the other, and midway between, at a nicely calculated distance from the fire, a bottle of a particular old wine that had long dwelt unsunned in the foundations of his house. The fog still slept on the wing above the drowned city, where the lamps glimmered like carbuncles; and through the muffle and smother of these fallen clouds, the procession of the town's life was still rolling in through the great arteries with a sound as of a mighty wind. But the room was gay with firelight. In the bottle the acids were long ago resolved; the imperial dye had softened with time, As the colour grows richer in stained windows; and the glow of hot autumn afternoons on hillside vineyards was ready to be set free and to disperse the fogs of London. Insensibly the lawyer melted. There was no man from whom he kept fewer secrets than Mr. Guest; and he was not always sure that he kept as many as he meant. Guest had often been on business to the doctor's; he knew Poole; he could scarce have failed to hear of Mr. Hyde's familiarity about the house; he might draw conclusions: was it not as well, then, that he should see a letter which put that mystery to rights? and above all since Guest, being a great student and critic of handwriting, would consider the step natural and obliging? The clerk, besides, was a man of counsel; he would scarce read so strange a document without dropping a remark; and by that remark Mr. Utterson might shape his future course.

Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson present Mr Utterson?

Write about:

* How Stevenson presents Mr Utterson in this extract
* How Stevenson presents Mr Utterson in the novel as a whole.

**[30 marks]**

(You should consider what the description of the setting adds to your understanding of the character.)

In order to answer the second part of the question, you will need to make notes on the presentation of Mr Utterson elsewhere. Use the space below for notes/your plan.

***Don’t forget that you need to deal with language AND form AND structure for AO2 and your answer MUST include AO3 context.***

**Robert Louis Stevenson: *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde***

Read the following extract from Chapter 5 and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Mr Utterson and his clerk Mr Guest discuss the Carew murder.

"This is a sad business about Sir Danvers," he said.

"Yes, sir, indeed. It has elicited a great deal of public feeling," returned Guest. "The man, of course, was mad."

"I should like to hear your views on that," replied Utterson. "I have a document here in his handwriting; it is between ourselves, for I scarce know what to do about it; it is an ugly business at the best. But there it is; quite in your way a murderer's autograph."

Guest's eyes brightened, and he sat down at once and studied it with passion. "No, sir," he said: "not mad; but it is an odd hand."

"And by all accounts a very odd writer," added the lawyer.

Just then the servant entered with a note.

"Is that from Dr. Jekyll, sir?" inquired the clerk. "I thought I knew the writing. Anything private, Mr. Utterson?"

"Only an invitation to dinner. Why? Do you want to see it?"

"One moment. I thank you, sir"; and the clerk laid the two sheets of paper alongside and sedulously compared their contents. "Thank you, sir," he said at last, returning both; "it's a very interesting autograph."

There was a pause, during which Mr. Utterson struggled with himself. "Why did you compare them, Guest?" he inquired suddenly.

"Well, sir," returned the clerk, "there's a rather singular resemblance; the two hands are in many points identical: only differently sloped."

"Rather quaint," said Utterson.

"It is, as you say, rather quaint," returned Guest.

"I wouldn't speak of this note, you know," said the master.

"No, sir," said the clerk. "I understand."

But no sooner was Mr. Utterson alone that night than he locked the note into his safe, where it reposed from that time forward. "What!" he thought. "Henry Jekyll forge for a murderer!" And his blood ran cold in his veins.

***How does Stevenson use this conversation to further the novella’s plot and themes?***

**Chapter 2: Mr Utterson**

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| **Quotation (and page number)**  | **Reveals:**  |
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**Mr Guest**

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| **Quotation (and page number)**  | **Reveals:**  |
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**Setting**

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**The relationship between Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**

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**How many of the themes have been introduced or further developed in this Chapter? Where and how?**

The duality of man

Good v evil

Science v religion

Imprisonment

Addiction/weakness

Conflict (violence and psychological)

Failure or inadequacy of language

Instinct (Conjecture? Assumption?)

Secrets

Temptation

The Gothic

Reputation

Friendship

Poison/corruption/decay/erosion

**Symbols and motifs**

* London
* The fog
* Mirrors and windows
* Documents
* Locked doors
* Clothing
* The cane

**References to learn**

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| **Quotation and page ref** | **Source** | **Why used?** |
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