

[Back]

Why do Lennie, Hyde and Gregor have to die?

These books are three stories about rebels and outcasts in restrictive, pleasureless environments. Any given society will naturally have rebels, and ones that are restrictive –as all societies are in some way- will have more. All of the settings for the three books we are examining are environments in which one is expected to deny oneself pleasure for a greater cause; be it the façade of a happy, wealthy, upper class life, the supporting g of one’s family, or just survival.

NICE  
INTRO

To start with, Hyde has to die because is lives in a society where he does not belong. Hyde, almost by the definition of his character, must be an outcast and social freak in the environment he pooped out of. He is literally the physical expression of all that is repressed and hidden in the hearts and minds of the men of Victorian England, <sup>embodied in</sup> (specifically) Jekyll. Thus he is viewed as ugly and evil by all the upper class, crusty old men that meet him. On at least three or four separate occasions by Lanyon, Enfield, and Utterson, they describe Hyde as “evil” and with “some hidden deformity.” There is nothing wrong with Hyde’s appearance, but what these men are seeing is the threat that this man represents to their pristine, classist and self-denying society. But Hyde is not evil. He is merely an animal, <sup>what?</sup> more pure and more real incarnation of Jekyll. <sup>not repressive society?</sup> Jekyll is the true evil in this story. In the book is says that he takes pleasure in Hyde’s doings, like when he tramples the little girl. He has caused all this to happen, fully aware of society’s rules and do’s and don’t’s. (Hyde is in a way just a pedestrian watching this all happen.) When he does his so-called “evil

This needs elaboration. He did do the things deemed evil. Do you mean he was sort of a back-seat driver — not the one making the decisions?

deeds," he is simply acting on instinct. He appears to have no concept or care for the rules society tries to tie him down with. When he tramples the little girl, he doesn't even appear to notice that he does it. But the question has not been fully answered yet.

Hyde <sup>?</sup> does not just die for the purpose fulfilled inside the book. There is also something that the reader must grasp here, and a reason why we would not be able to get that message unless Hyde died. In a way Hyde is a martyr, but not inside of the book. In the book the characters are happy that Hyde is dead, though they are saddened by Jekyll's death. But the reader should view Hyde as a martyr for the cause of emotion and true living. Hyde also dies though, because Stevenson is being realistic here. We, the reader must face some simple truths, if you are an outcast <sup>in</sup> of society, then you will be persecuted. It is not easy to rebel against a society like this one. This is not a fairy tale, and Hyde appropriately will not live happily ever after. If he did then we would be given an untrue view of life, that you can do whatever you want and step on anyone's toes, and you can get away with it. If any of us were to act like Hyde though, we might end up dead as well. However, Hyde is an extreme, and he is an extreme to prove a point. Stevenson is trying to tell us that sometimes even at the risk of being judged or viewed badly, we must follow our animal instincts. We must remember that emotion is as important as any aspect of human life. This was an important point to make for Stevenson, a man who was most likely a homosexual, and he himself was living in the repressive society of Victorian England. His point was most likely lost on many of his readers, even as it is today, because most people view this as a story about a man with an evil side and the monster he creates.

good

This is a theory... and not a widely accepted one... if you include it here, you have to cite the source of the theory (Nabokov)

Stevenson's hints about Hyde's animal –rather than evil- nature, become exceedingly obvious upon further examination of the book. First of all, Hyde is described as taking part in carnal pleasures, specifically sexual. He is out late at night, and indulges in all the pleasures that are denied Jekyll in the daytime. Also when Hyde attacks Carew, he is specifically described as having “ape-like fury.” All of Hyde's actions are characteristic of animals rather than an evil person. Thus Stevenson's point becomes clear that Hyde's example is one to follow, not disdain. Because who among us given the opportunity would rather live like Jekyll than Hyde? So we must find some good in the example of Hyde's death and vow to live our life with responsibility, but also, self-satisfaction and emotion.

As we get into The Metamorphosis, the ideas get a bit more complicated. Gregor seems so undeserving of his cruel fate. This is a man who has worked all his life for his family. He has sacrificed personal pleasure for the good of his family and to put his sister through music school. One day for no apparent reason, he wakes up as a bug, but even then he seems un-phased by the experience, and still the first thing on his mind is how he's going to get to work. Eventually he and his family come to realize that this is probably a permanent transformation and they try to cope with the situation. However, the family has to work now to support themselves and Gregor, and now that the roles are switched they become extremely resentful of their transformed son. They do not stop to realize that what they have to do is only a fraction of what Gregor has been doing since he was able to work, and they still don't appreciate what their son did for them. Instead, they become increasingly mad, though they still live with him. Eventually he is delivered a fatal blow by his father

↑  
This is an excellent overview of the story... it sets up the context for your analysis very elegantly.  
↓

for his first showing of personal need, wanting a picture left in his room so he can hold onto his humanity. This would seem a very understandable need, but not to his family. So while Gregor slowly dies, they bring some roomers into the house for extra money. However this goes awry when Gregor shows himself, and again is shut down when he tries to show some humanity, this time a want for music.

you could combine this some, fit it into your one paragraph of summary / retell

Gregor too is a rebel in this story but not until his emotional transformation, which begins when he shows his first sign of humanity and is then consummated in the violin scene. All his life Gregor had been totally compliant to the unrealistic and repressive needs and expectations of his family, which in this story is Gregor's society, for it is the only outside influence apparent in the book. Gregor's family and Gregor himself, until his emotional metamorphosis, is almost exactly the same as the society in Jekyll and Hyde. They are both focused on denial of self-pleasure, though the reasons are slightly different. Because Jekyll is in such a rich environment, money matters don't enter the story, but there is still that feel of putting on a show for others that both stories have. Also at the heart of the matter is just the fact that both of these groups want to deny animal pleasure and instinct. It is not natural to destroy your tastebuds even though you love wine, and to work your entire life for a family that doesn't appreciate you.

good point (

The reason that this story loses it's meaning without Gregor's death, is again one of realism, that his family would no longer accept him once he no longer supported them and abandoned their expectations of him. But again, we the reader must take from this some good as well as sadness. We must understand that Gregor, in death, found some true joy in his life and found his love for music. And through

this is again an extremity to prove a point, we must know that natural instincts are sometimes hard, but necessary to follow.

Of Mice and Men seems to be the most depressing tale of the three. Lennie is a man who only wants simple things in life, and he works hard to get them. However because he is different, the most kind-hearted man in the story ends up dying. Much like Hyde, and Gregor after his true transformation, Lennie our main character and hero, is a simple man who has no apparent care or knowledge of society's rules or expectations of him. He is the epitome of natural instincts and wants, because as a man who is mentally ill, he is closer mentally to animals than men. His connection with animals is also quite clear. He loves bunnies and mice and all soft things. He always wants to be around the puppy and seems to have a distinct bond with it. But like our other characters, Lennie too is a rebel in his own way. Lennie represents something extremely different from the norm of society. While other men of this era are loners and gruff and hard-hearted, Lennie is just the opposite, and this aspect of the story is emphasized for the reader several times. The way that Lennie loves to hear George talk about how the men of their time are and how they're different from all that is not just for Lennie but also for the reader. It is explained time and again how they are different because they look out for each other and they are gonna buy a farm one day, etc., etc.

In the same way that none of the other characters in this story can be accepted by their respective societies though, neither can Lennie. There is simply no room on the California ranches for a man of this nature, so different and so innocent. It is because, like the other two stories, California in the 1930's was so pleasureless and

thankless that Lennie had to die, because he was a man of pleasure and different needs than everyone else. Lennie had to die for the exact same reasons as Gregor and Hyde, to be realistic and to show the benefits and pitfalls of being a rebel in a society of self-sacrifice.

Lennie, Hyde and Gregor after his emotional transformation are all exactly the same. None of them have any care about society's expectations and they live almost in spite of them. They are just like animals following their instincts. All they want is pleasure and satisfaction, but their alter egos are struggling to try and conform them to the norm. These animals were born out of societies that squeezed until these three popped out. A human can only be pushed so far and squeezed so much until this type of transformation takes place. And the more restrictive the society, the more violent the explosion. Thus we get a result like Hyde, who is in such a restrictive society that he is even willing to kill he is so animal. What we must take from these books is not a depressing view on life that no matter how hard we struggle against the norm we will fail and die. Because these stories are not meant to be taken at face value, they are extremes, and because they are extremes we must use them as lessons rather than examples, and the lesson is that we must not deny ourselves what it is to be emotional beings.

(A)

Zack,

This is very confident, even passionate. You send a point that you cared enough about to really argue it with conviction and force. Though these books and characters are very different, you prove that, in the way you articulated, they are "exactly the same." You also pushed through to a mature and valuable conclusion... finding the "life lessons" which, despite the tragic endings of these tales, give us a positive message to take away from these books.

Very nice job.

Eteresa ]

Why Must Hyde, Gregor, and Lennie Die?

An apple, silky hair, and a letter ~~all~~ create the situation<sup>s</sup> that condemns <sup>Gregor, Lennie</sup> ~~(each of~~ <sup>and Hyde</sup> ~~these characters)~~ to death. Yet it is for more than this that they must die; it has to do with how each of them does not follow the rules that society has made standard. Most of all, though, they die for us to teach us a lesson. <sup>T</sup> The author does not want the point to be lost or for the characters to die in vain.

In Metamorphosis by Kafka, Gregor's father threw apples at his son causing Gregor's eventual death: "It was an apple;... Gregor stopped dead with fear; further running was useless, for his father was determined to bombard him... But the very next one that came flying after it literally forced it's way into Gregor's back..." Although it was the apple that brought on death, it is the reason the father threw it, that made it necessary for Gregor to die.

To find out the reason we must look at why Gregor transformed into a vermin. Perhaps it was because Gregor was a bug before the transformation. His whole life he was stepped on and lived to serve his parents. He abandoned his own dreams to fulfill the role his family required of him: a life without reason to live, without passion. He was not happy with the life assigned to him, "If I didn't hold back for my parents sake, I would have quit long ago..."

However it was only when Gregor had his metamorphosis that you can see his family's true feelings towards their son. His only worth was how well he served them, and once he became what he always was, a bug, he could no longer do what was expected of him. It is because he breaks away from the cycle of a life-less being <sup>whose</sup> ~~who's~~ entire destiny has been chosen by society (in this case his family), that he is able to feel the passions of humanity: "Was he an animal, that music could move him so?" Finally it was because of his new found freedom that he had to die. He could not go back to being a human and living a life without passion, but he was not accepted as a bug. <sup>E</sup> Even his family could not find the decency to love him, because he did not serve his part. It was the apple that killed him, but Kafka was trying to show us how our

good  
nice +  
clear

WC  
function

society kills passions and does not allow for humanity, and this is why Gregor truly had to die.

In Of Mice and Men by Steinbeck, ~~it is~~ Lennie, a child-like man, <sup>is the outcast, the character who</sup> ~~whom~~ does not fit normal society. The death of this character came because he accidentally murders a girl, who freaks out because he was touching her silky hair to <sup>o</sup> hard: "She took Lennie's hand and put it on her head... And then she was still, for Lennie had broken <sup>→ you cut too much hair! Give us one of those middle steps, her screaming</sup> her neck." It was because Lennie was different that he killed Curly's wife, and it was also for this reason that he had to die.

Lennie, like a child, did not know how to restrain himself, <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ rather followed his instincts. One of these was touching nice soft things, "What you want of a dead mouse, anyways' 'I could pet it with my thumb while we walked along,' said Lennie." This is the reason why he was touching Curly's wife's hair, and because his child mind does not realize his adult strength, this friendly action became a deadly mistake.

↪ ~~Although his differences~~ did cause problems like that one, Lennie was also more human than any other character, <sup>and it was because of</sup> ~~and it was because of~~ <sup>(Although</sup> his child-like behavior.) "Guys like us, that work on ranches, are the loneliest guys in the world. They got no family. They don't belong no place... They ain't got nothing to look ahead to." This was the normal human life, solitary, homeless, hopeless, and loveless. However Lennie did not follow this pattern he, because of his differences needed and loved George, he also truly believed in their plans for the future, "Go on George! Tell about what we're gonna have in the garden and about the rabbits in the cages and about the..."

Lennie was saved from the rotten existence every other "normal" person was doomed to live. He did not follow the set rules of the society, both in killing a human, but even more so in having a companion to share his dreams with. For this he was punished and the punishment was death. His innocence and naivete just did not belong in a cold world that held no hope.

In Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, ~~the novel~~ by Stevenson, what on first glance seems to be the evil character, on closer examination actual becomes someone you



with: Mr. Hyde.  
 sympathize ~~for~~ Hyde also murders somebody, but <sup>in</sup> ~~on~~ like Lennie it is no accident.

*unclear* Hyde is rather a slave to his emotions and instincts. It is because of this that Hyde murders Carew and this is also the reason that Hyde would never be able to live in the society he was borne into.

The world that Hyde is part of is <sup>run</sup> owned by rich, old men. Hyde immediately contrasts this image, for he is much younger than his one in the same Jekyll, and if <sup>is</sup> it was not for Jekyll's wealth Hyde would not <sup>have access to</sup> be endowed with money. Then there is also a difference in personality, this society was about repression <sup>of</sup> pleasure and living a very strict, controlled life: "He was austere with himself; drank gin to when he was alone, to mortify a taste for vintages; and though he enjoyed the theatre, had not crossed the doors for twenty years."

Hyde was all about indulging in pleasure, whatever it might be. Jekyll wanted to create Hyde to separate his desire for pleasure from his work aspirations, "And indeed the worst of my faults was a certain impatient gaiety of disposition, such as has 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." So Hyde was borne, and every time Jekyll expressed happiness he was released: "I was stepping leisurely across the court after breakfast, drinking the chill of the air with pleasure, when I was seized again with those indescribable sensations that heralded the change..."

Hyde's actions might have been wrong but it was because he was different that made him dangerous. In a world where everything that feels good is wrong, you cannot help but feel for the character that follows his heart and does what he desires. Hyde killed a man, and indulged himself in all of the human emotions, unlike his fellow characters. Because of this he never fit into the society and would never have been able to fully live life.

Every one of these books is an exploration into what makes someone human. All three <sup>show</sup> ~~show~~ <sup>that</sup> ~~how~~ what society <sup>expects</sup> ~~expects~~ <sup>from</sup> ~~from~~ people actual confined and suffocates <sup>people, keeping</sup> ~~them~~ from living. Those that are different from what is defined as "normal", whatever the reasons may be, are often the ones that are actually living. We should be angered

that these characters die the way they do, that because they are the ones who really lived they must die. <sup>Through these sacrificial deaths, remind</sup> The authors are teaching us that humanity is about indulging in our hopes, pleasures, and passions.

(B+) (because of structure & surface problems... otherwise, would have been an A-)

Excellent points.

But your writing is sometimes muddled.

I think it's mostly cosmetic muddle (sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, word choice), but it erodes the impact of your essay.

How do you proof your work? Have you tried reading it out loud to yourself? A lot of the glitches become apparent if you try that.

Otherwise, a sound, heart-felt paper.