

Small Group Discussion Guide

Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Group Roles:

Convener—calls group to order, reads instructions, begins the conversation

Recorder (x2)—depending on the size of group, this job can be shared. Takes notes on the conversation that the group has.

Task Master—keeps group members on task, decides when it is time to move to the next question

Reporter—reports back to the class a summary of the group discussion

Small Group Instructions:

1. Talk through your summaries of the paragraphs in the excerpt. The point of the summary is to make sure that you understand the argument Freud is making. Did you all come up with similar summaries? If not, are the differences superficial or do you have different understandings of the excerpt? Work together and help each other understand what the excerpt means. Help each other answer any of the questions you wrote down.

Work together to write a one-sentence summary of Freud's argument in this excerpt. Write it here:

2. Discuss the following questions in your small group. The recorder(s) should take turns writing down a brief summary of the discussion you have on a separate sheet of paper.
 - How does Freud's theory of repression (and belief that all humans are basically aggressive and self-interested) explain the transformation of Dr. Jekyll into Mr. Hyde?
 - What evidence (incidents and quotations) from the text would support a Freudian interpretation of the novel?
 - Is this interpretation an adequate explanation of the novel? Of human nature? Why or why not?
 - Do you think humans are motivated by selfishness and aggression? Where do you see that evident in our world?
 - How does society deal with humans' tendency towards selfishness and aggression?