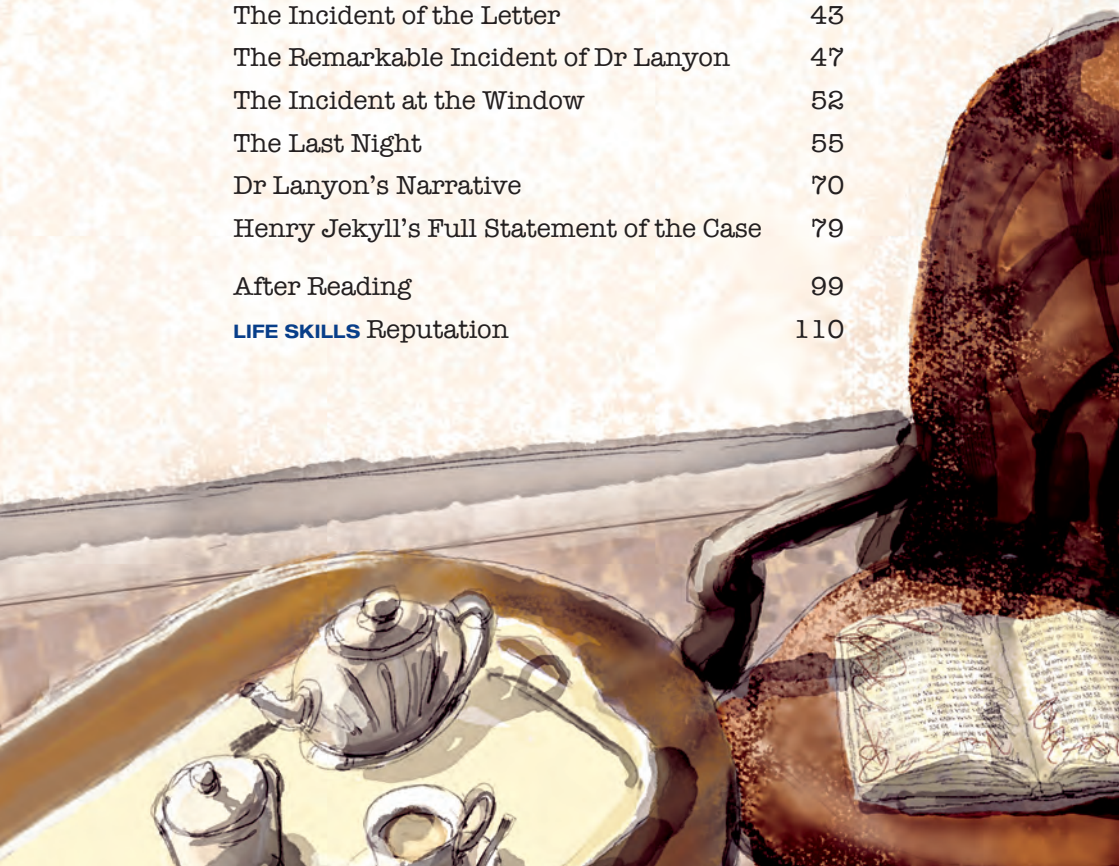


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# THE Strange Case of Mr Stevenson and Ms Shelley



The *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* are often compared. Let's look at what makes them similar and what makes them different.

Although Stevenson's novel was written almost 70 years after Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the two books show a remarkable number of similarities and they are often described as *Gothic Literature*. But since they also feature remarkable differences, we find it more appropriate to consider Stevenson's a good example of *supernatural fiction* rather than a proper Gothic novel.





The word **Gothic** refers to the architectural style prevalent in Europe throughout the Middle Ages.

## What is Gothic literature?

### Over to you



Why are people attracted by horror and mystery? Share ideas with a friend.

- **corpses:** dead bodies
- **dungeons:** underground prisons
- **feature:** include
- **flourished:** was very popular
- **gloomy:** dark
- **moors:** open desolate land
- **remarkable:** notable

The first example of Gothic literature dates back to the publication of *The Castle of Otranto* in 1765, and the genre flourished in Europe in the following century. It took its name mainly from Walpole's medieval, or Gothic, setting, which was emphasized in the title of the book. Similar novels soon followed, featuring ancient and gloomy settings such as ruined castles or isolated moors with dungeons, underground passages, secret rooms, dark labyrinths, and so on. Graveyards, corpses, bloody crimes, extreme weather and landscapes, and a general atmosphere of fear and terror was also common in Gothic novels, along with a general rediscovery of legends and popular traditions of the past. Other important features were the presence of supernatural beings, and the horrifying descriptions of tragic events, such as an attempt to bring a corpse back to life.

### Read these three key Gothic novels:

Horace Walpole's *The Castle Of Otranto* (1765), Ann Radcliff's *A Sicilian Romance* (17890), and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* (1818).

# *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*



Dr Jekyll



Mr Hyde







Mr Enfield



Dr Lanyon



Mr Utterson

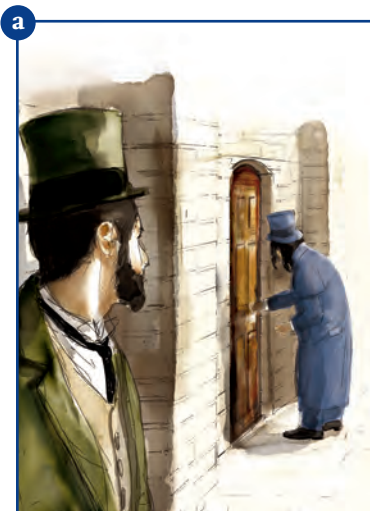



Poole




# BEFORE READING

- 1  Look at these scenes from the book. Discuss with a partner.



- a What is happening in each scene?
  - b What happens next in each scene?
  - c Think of a title for each picture.
- 2  Look at the pictures again. Write five questions about each one. Ask and answer the questions with a partner then compare your answers with the rest of the class.
- 3 Look through the illustrations in the story. Do you recognise any of the characters from the scenes above? How are the illustrations similar to the two scenes above? What atmosphere do the illustrations suggest? What elements of the illustrations add to the atmosphere (colours, light, style, subject)?

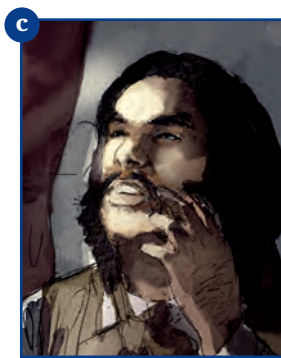
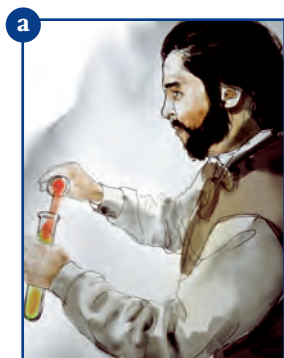


- 4  What do you know about the story of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde? Brainstorm in class.

- 5  Listen to Dr Jekyll speaking. Then tick (✓) T (true) or F (false) below.

	T	F
a Mr Hyde is more evil than Dr Jekyll.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b Dr Jekyll is taller than Mr Hyde.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c Mr Hyde is younger than Dr Jekyll.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d Dr Jekyll is uglier than Mr Hyde.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e Mr Hyde is a mixture of good and evil.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f Mr Hyde has got a kindly face.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 6 Look at the three pictures below. Which one is Mr Hyde? Give reasons for your choice.



- 7  The story is set in Victorian London. In groups find out as much as you can about life at that time. Write a description of your daily life in Victorian London.

## THE STORY OF THE DOOR



Mr Utterson was a lawyer•, and a man of some contradictions•. He hardly ever smiled, so he looked rather unfriendly and unwelcoming. But, in company with friends, and at parties, he was quite social and companionable•. He did not allow himself many luxuries, and did not spend much money on himself at all. Although he enjoyed fine• wines, he did not drink them when alone. He enjoyed the theatre, but had not gone to see a play for twenty years. However, he was happy to see others enjoy themselves, and did not complain or criticize• them for allowing an excess of pleasure in their lives. Because of this he was often one of the last respectable friends of men who were losing their good reputation• and going downwards in society.

He could be called modest, for he was good-natured to his friends and did not expect them to follow his example. He accepted them as they were, faults• and all. His companions were usually distant relations from his own family, or friends that he had known for a long time. You could say that he did not choose his friends, but they gradually collected around him in time, like ivy• grows on a tree.

One friend in particular was Mr Richard Enfield, a distant relative, and a well-known man in the city of London. The two men were very different, but they always went for a long Sunday walk together.

- **companionable:** happy to be with people
- **contradictions:** opposite ideas or tendencies
- **criticize:** tell someone they have done wrong
- **faults:** weaknesses; bad points
- **fine:** good quality
- **ivy:** climbing plant
- **lawyer:** person who looks after other people's legal problems
- **reputation:** what people say and think of you



People who saw them out on their walk reported that they rarely spoke, often looked unhappy, and always seemed to welcome the sight of other friends. However, it is a fact that the two men looked forward to these weekly walks. They would even cancel other appointments in order to go and enjoy their walks without interruption.

## FRIENDS

Who are your closest friends?

What do you like to do with them?

Do you enjoy doing different things with different friends?

One day, while they were out on their walk together, they were strolling along a small quiet street in an otherwise busy area of London. It was now quiet because it was Sunday and most of the shops were closed. But during the week the shops and businesses in that street were busy, and most were successful. It was a pleasant, colourful street, which was kept clean and attractive by the people who lived and worked there. Or rather it was all clean and attractive except for one building, two storeys high, next to an open passage that led away from the street. This building had no windows facing the street, and its bare, unfriendly wall was broken only by a door at ground level. The wall was discoloured and crumbling and the door was scratched and dirty, with peeling paint. It had no bell or doorknocker. It looked uncared for, and the scratches and writing that had been left by children had not been cleaned or repaired.

- **crumbling:** with small pieces breaking off
- **looked forward to:** waited with pleasure for
- **otherwise busy:** that was usually busy

- **peeling:** separating from the wood
- **scratched:** with long narrow marks
- **storeys:** floors or levels of a building
- **strolling:** walking slowly, in a relaxed way

As they passed, Mr Enfield asked Mr Utterson if he had ever noticed the door, because it reminded him of a very strange story.

‘No,’ said Mr Utterson. ‘What story was that?’

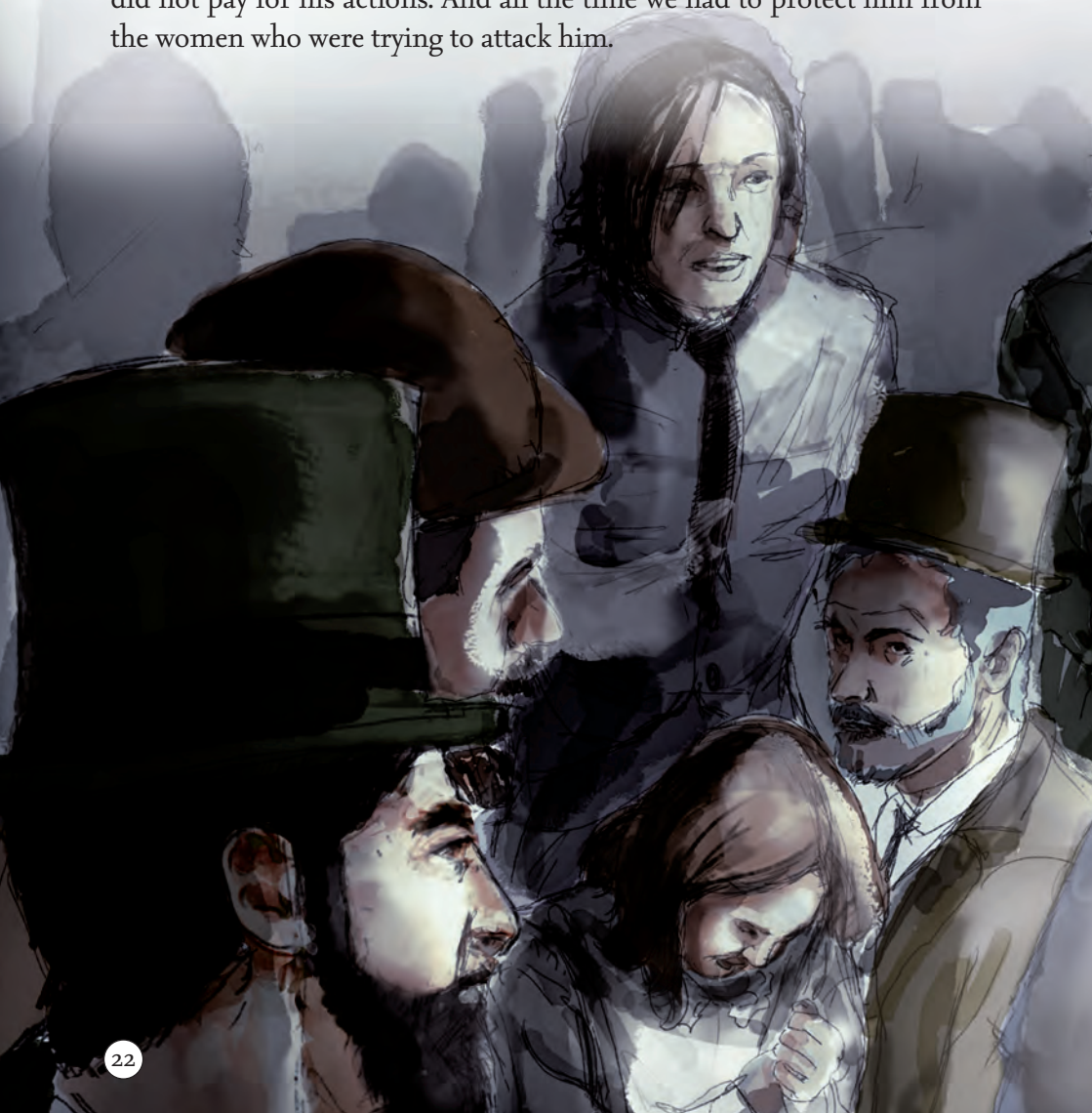
‘Well,’ replied Mr Enfield. ‘Once, I was coming home this way at about 3 am on a dark winter’s night, and the whole area was very quiet and deserted. It was so quiet that I thought to myself, ‘If I see a policeman I will feel safer.’ But then suddenly I saw two people. One was a small unpleasant-looking man walking along this street at a good speed. The second was a small girl, about eight or nine years old, running as fast as she could along another street which led into this one. Well, the two met at the corner and ran into each other. The unusual thing was that instead of stopping and apologizing•, the little man, quite• on purpose•, stamped• hard on the girl as she lay on the ground, screaming with pain. Then he walked on, leaving her there.’

‘It was a terrible thing to see. It was as if the man was not human at all, more a powerful, unstoppable machine. I shouted out and chased the man, caught him and brought him back to where he had knocked down the girl.’



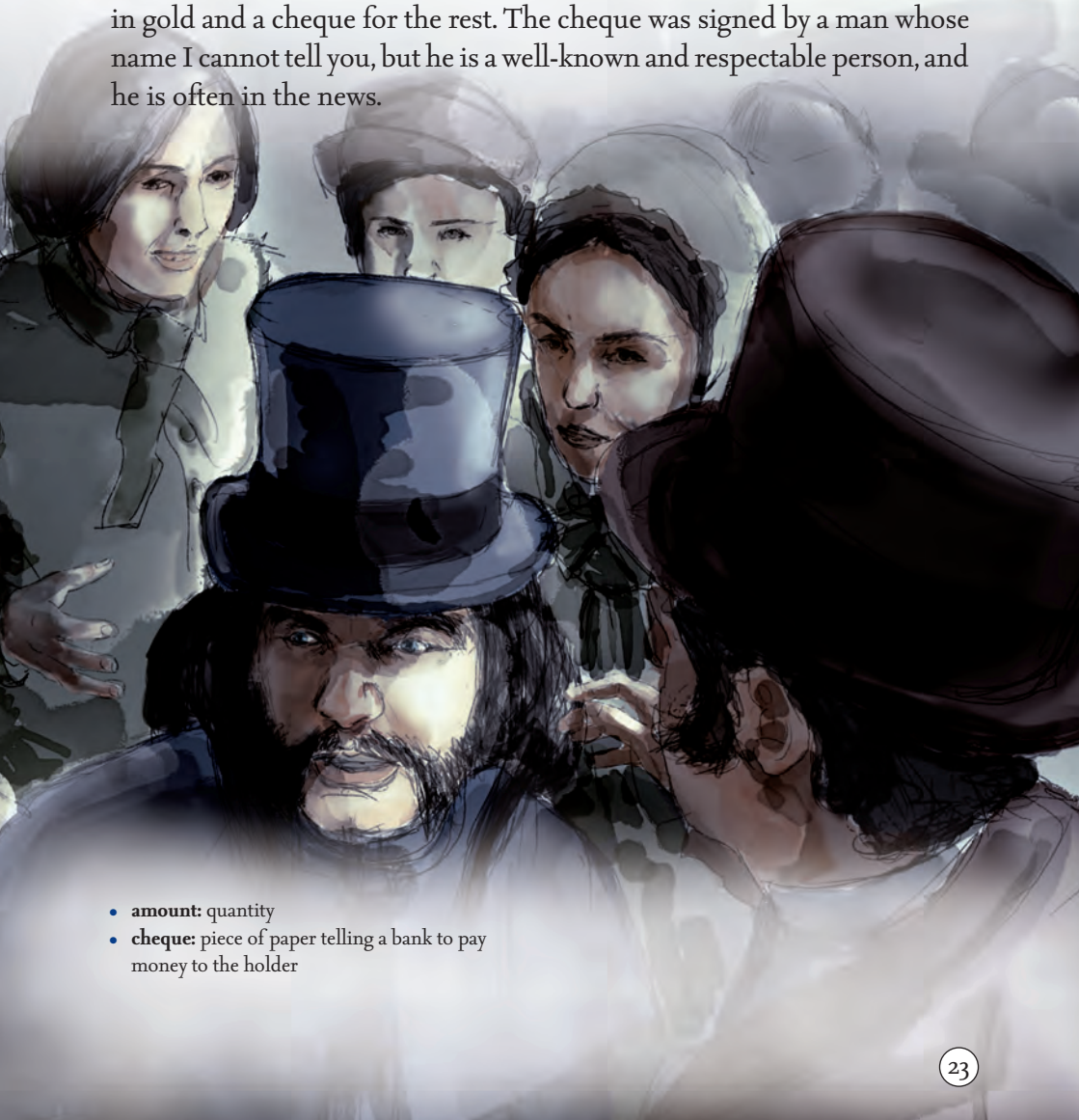
- **apologizing:** saying sorry
- **on purpose:** deliberately; when you mean to do something
- **quite:** (here) completely
- **stamped:** brought his foot down

“The noise had attracted a small crowd of people, including some of the girl’s family, who were very angry with the man. A doctor arrived and examined the poor girl, who was more frightened than hurt. The man was quiet and did not try to escape, but the expression on his face was so ugly and unpleasant that it frightened me. He did not apologise, nor was he sorry for what had happened. I saw that the doctor also seemed to dislike the man. We all told him that we would make a lot of trouble for him if he did not pay for his actions. And all the time we had to protect him from the women who were trying to attack him.





‘Because there were so many angry people gathered, and because we did not stop our demands, the man agreed to pay one hundred pounds to the family to pay for the trouble he had caused the girl. He obviously did not like this agreement, so we were worried that he would try to escape and not pay. As he did not have that amount• of money with him, he said he had to go and get a cheque•. And where do you think he went? He went to the house with the door we are looking at now, and came out with ten pounds in gold and a cheque for the rest. The cheque was signed by a man whose name I cannot tell you, but he is a well-known and respectable person, and he is often in the news.



- **amount:** quantity
- **cheque:** piece of paper telling a bank to pay money to the holder

‘I didn’t trust him, and I told him so. Who can walk through such a door and come out with another man’s cheque for almost one hundred pounds at 4 o’clock in the morning? It did not seem believable. Therefore we made him stay at my house with the doctor, the girl’s father and me until the banks opened in the morning. Then morning came, and after breakfast we went to cash the cheque. I handed it over myself and was sure that it would be a forgery•, but to my surprise, it was genuine•.’

Mr Utterson tut-tutted• when he heard this.

‘I see you feel as I do,’ said Mr Enfield. ‘Yes, it’s an unpleasant story. I don’t think that any decent• person would want to be friendly with this man. Yet the man whose name was on the cheque is respectable, well-known and does good work in society. Perhaps he is an honest man who is being blackmailed• by this evil person for something he did wrong in his youth. But that doesn’t explain everything.’

## TRUST•

What is trust? Write a definition.

Think of a time when you trusted someone.

Think of a time when you didn’t trust someone.



Tell a partner.

- **being blackmailed:** having to pay someone to keep a guilty secret
- **decent:** good
- **forgery:** something written that is copied, pretending to be the original

- **genuine:** real; the original
- **trust:** belief in another person
- **tut-tutted:** made a sound to show he wasn’t happy

‘And do you know if this respectable person lives in this run-down house?’ asked a surprised Mr Utterson.

‘No, I saw his address on the cheque. He lives at an address in a square somewhere else. In fact, I cannot understand how these two very different men are connected.’

‘Have you asked anyone about this?’

‘No, I didn’t want to stir up trouble. “Let sleeping dogs lie” is my motto,’ said Mr Enfield.

‘Yes, quite right. I agree,’ said the lawyer.

## LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE

What does this mean? Discuss in groups.



Is there an equivalent expression in your first language?

‘It is a strange house, though,’ continued Mr Enfield. ‘Since that night I have studied it closely. There is no other door, and nobody uses the one that we can see except, occasionally, the man who knocked down the girl. The passage leads to a courtyard, and there are three windows that overlook the courtyard on the first floor, but none on the ground floor. Someone must live there because the windows are always clean, although they are always shut, and there is usually smoke coming from the chimney.’

- **courtyard:** open space in the middle of buildings
- **motto:** short phrase that describes what you believe

- **occasionally:** from time to time
- **run-down:** in bad condition
- **stir up:** cause; create



‘That is a good rule of yours about sleeping dogs, Enfield, but there is one question I want to ask. What’s the name of the man who knocked over the child?’

‘Well, I suppose I can tell you. That very unpleasant person was a man by the name of Hyde,’ answered Mr Enfield.

‘What does he look like?’

‘He’s not easy to describe. There’s something wrong, something unpleasant about his appearance, but it’s hard to say exactly what it is. I never saw a man I disliked more. I really can’t describe what’s wrong with him. He just generally does not seem right. If I see him again, I will recognise him, I am sure. It’s just that I find it impossible to describe him in words.’

‘And you are sure he had a key for this door?’ asked the lawyer.

‘My dear sir...!’ began Enfield.

‘Yes, I know,’ said Utterson. ‘I know my questions seem strange, but you see I have not asked the name of the man who signed the cheque because I think I already know it. I need to be sure that you have told me the truth.’

‘I think you should have warned me,’ said Enfield unhappily.

‘But I have told you the exact truth in every detail. Yes, he had a key. And what’s more, I saw him use it again less than a week ago.’

Mr Utterson stayed silent, but deep in thought.

‘I made a mistake in talking about this. We will not talk about it again,’ said Mr Enfield.

‘I completely agree,’ replied the lawyer. ‘Let us shake hands on it, Richard.’



## AFTER READING VOCABULARY

**1** Here are some quotations from the book. Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first by turning it into indirect speech.

- a** 'Have you heard the news about the murder?' Mr Utterson asked Jekyll.  
Mr Utterson asked Jekyll .....
- b** 'I have had a terrible shock and I will never recover,' said Lanyon.  
Lanyon said .....
- c** 'If I became Hyde again, it would mean death for me.'  
Dr. Jekyll realized that .....
- d** 'The cheque was signed by a man whose name I cannot tell you.'  
Mr Enfield told Mr Utterson that .....
- e** 'Let sleeping dogs lie is my motto', said Mr Enfield.  
Mr Enfield revealed .....
- f** 'Someone must live there because the windows are always clean.'  
Mr Enfield thought .....
- g** 'I could only live if I stayed as Jekyll, my better part.'  
Dr. Jekyll realized that .....
- h** 'To become Jekyll would mean to lose all the pleasures that I enjoyed.'  
Mr. Hyde thought that .....
- i** 'Is there anything else you can tell me?' asked Utterson.  
Utterson asked Poole .....
- j** 'First, read the document Lanyon told you about.'  
In his letter, Henry Jekyll asks Utterson .....

**2**  Circle the reporting verbs in Exercise 1 and use them to make sentences with a partner.



## **P** B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

**1** Read the sentences from the book and choose the best word (A, B, C, or D) for each space.

- a** 'The feeling quickly passed and I felt as ..... I was getting well after a serious illness.'  
**A** like                      **B** just                      **C** though                      **D** well
- b** 'The second part of the experiment was to see if I could return to the body and person of Dr Jekyll, or ..... I had lost him for ever.'  
**A** whether                      **B** maybe                      **C** that                      **D** see
- c** 'I could lead the two lives quite separately and safe in the ..... I would keep my money and property whatever happened.'  
**A** thought                      **B** end                      **C** knowledge                      **D** future
- d** Jekyll tried to undo the evil that Hyde did. But ..... he did not feel responsible.  
**A** whatever                      **B** only                      **C** also                      **D** still
- e** Utterson was used to ..... round to see his friend Jekyll almost daily.  
**A** go                      **B** going                      **C** being                      **D** walk
- f** The two men liked and looked forward to their weekly walks. They ..... even cancel other appointments in order to go and enjoy their walks without interruption.  
**A** once                      **B** would                      **C** did                      **D** had
- g** 'I was born ..... a wealthy family.'  
**A** at                      **B** for                      **C** inside                      **D** to
- h** 'Perhaps in future other scientists will find ..... more than me.'  
**A** much                      **B** it                      **C** out                      **D** things
- i** 'If by ..... he asks you into his office, don't go!'  
**A** himself                      **B** chance                      **C** mistake                      **D** night