

## Worksheet 1 – Genre

### Recall

**Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.**

1. Which TWO Gothic novels does Dr Pittard compare *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* to?  
a) Frankenstein  
b) The Monk  
c) Dracula  
d) The Castle of Otranto
2. Which earlier Victorian detective writer does Dr Pittard compare Stevenson to?  
a) Thomas de Quincey  
b) Wilkie Collins  
c) Henry Mayhew  
d) Douglas G Browne

Bonus question: which aspect of the novel is typical of detective fiction, and the above writer's work?

3. Which short story by Edgar Allan Poe does Dr Pittard compare *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* to?  
a) William Wilson  
b) The Monkey's Paw  
c) The Tell-Tale Heart  
d) The Fall of the House of Usher
4. What could the seemingly rational explanation for Mr Hyde at the end of the novel be an allegory of?  
c) Science and medicine  
d) Substance abuse  
c) Depression  
d) Borderline personality disorder

### Analysis

5. In the lecture Dr Pittard mentions a short story by Edgar Allan Poe called 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue', often cited as the first example of detective fiction. Below is an extract from the story, in which the unnamed narrator and the detective (Mr Dupin) attempt to solve the mystery of the murder of two women. Read the extract below, and highlight and annotate any examples of how the story fits into both the **detective story genre** and also the **Gothic genre**.

"On the hearth were thick tresses --very thick tresses --of grey human hair. These had been torn out by the roots. You are aware of the great force necessary in tearing thus from the head even twenty or thirty hairs together. You saw the locks in question as well as myself. Their roots (a hideous sight!) were clotted with fragments of the flesh of the scalp --sure token of the prodigious power which had been exerted in uprooting perhaps half a million of hairs at a time. The throat of the old lady was not merely cut, but the head absolutely severed from the body: the instrument was a mere razor. I wish you also to look at the brutal ferocity of these deeds. Of the bruises upon the body of Madame L'Espanaye I do not speak. Monsieur Dumas, and his worthy coadjutor Monsieur Etienne, have pronounced that they were inflicted by some obtuse instrument; and so far these gentlemen are very correct. The obtuse instrument was clearly the stone pavement in the yard, upon which the victim had fallen from the window which looked in upon the bed. This idea, however simple it may now seem, escaped the police for the same reason that the breadth of the shutters escaped them -- because, by the affair of the nails, their perceptions had been hermetically sealed against the possibility of the windows have ever been opened at all.

If now, in addition to all these things, you have properly reflected upon the odd disorder of the chamber, we have gone so far as to combine the ideas of an agility astounding, a strength superhuman, a ferocity brutal, a butchery without motive, a grotesquerie in horror absolutely alien from humanity, and a voice foreign in tone to the ears of men of many nations, and devoid of all distinct or intelligible syllabification. What result, then, has ensued? What impression have I made upon your fancy?"

I felt a creeping of the flesh as Dupin asked me the question. "A madman," I said, "has done this deed --some raving maniac, escaped from a neighboring Maison de Sante."

"In some respects," he replied, "your idea is not irrelevant. But the voices of madmen, even in their wildest paroxysms, are never found to tally with that peculiar voice heard upon the stairs. Madmen are of some nation, and their language, however incoherent in its words, has always the coherence of syllabification. Besides, the hair of a madman is not such as I now hold in my hand. I disentangled this little tuft from the rigidly clutched fingers of Madame L'Espanaye. Tell me what you can make of it."

"Dupin!" I said, completely unnerved; "this hair is most unusual --this is no human hair."

## Evaluation

6. Read this summary of the Arthur Conan Doyle short story, 'The Man With The Twisted Lip': <https://cwzsherlock.weebly.com/the-man-with-the-twisted-lips.html>

Once you have read the story, create a table summarising the main similarities and differences between this story and The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. You should aim to find around 5 similarities and 5 differences.

## Glossary

- **Novella** – A short novel, or long short story (usually around 100 pages or less).

*e.g. The pupil enjoyed reading the novella out loud in class.*

- **Allegory** – A story, poem or picture that can be revealed to have a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one.  
*e.g. The book Pilgrim's Progress is a famous allegory about the spiritual journey.*
- **Mystical** – Relating to the spiritual, religious or supernatural; or invoking a sense of spiritual mystery or awe.  
*e.g. The ancient city almost seemed mystical to him.*
- **Alchemist** – Someone who practices alchemy: the medieval forerunner of chemistry, which was particularly interested in the transformation of matter, sometimes by magical means.  
*e.g. Phosphorus was discovered by a German alchemist in 1669.*