

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

Read the following extract from Chapter 1 of *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and then answer the question that follows.

In this extract, Utterson and Enfield are out for a walk. This walk has taken them into the area where Mr Hyde lives.

5 It chanced on one of these rambles that their way led them down a by-
street in a busy quarter of London. The street was small and what is
called quiet, but it drove a thriving trade on the weekdays. The
inhabitants were all doing well, it seemed and all emulously hoping to do
better still, and laying out the surplus of their grains in coquetry; so that
the shop fronts stood along that thoroughfare with an air of invitation, like
rows of smiling saleswomen. Even on Sunday, when it veiled its more
florid charms and lay comparatively empty of passage, the street shone
out in contrast to its dingy neighbourhood, like a fire in a forest; and with
10 its freshly painted shutters, well-polished brasses, and general
cleanliness and gaiety of note, instantly caught and pleased the eye of the
passenger.

15 Two doors from one corner, on the left hand going east the line was
broken by the entry of a court; and just at that point a certain sinister block
of building thrust forward its gable on the street. It was two storeys high;
showed no window, nothing but a door on the lower storey and a blind
forehead of discoloured wall on the upper; and bore in every feature, the
marks of prolonged and sordid negligence. The door, which was
equipped with neither bell nor knocker, was blistered and
20 distained. Tramps slouched into the recess and struck matches on the
panels; children kept shop upon the steps; the schoolboy had tried his
knife on the mouldings; and for close on a generation, no one had
appeared to drive away these random visitors or to repair their ravages.

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Starting with this extract, how does Stevenson use settings to create mystery and fear?

Write about:

- how Stevenson describes the setting in this extract
- how Stevenson uses settings to create mystery and fear in the novel as a whole.

[30 marks]