

Robert Louis Stevenson

He was born in Edinburgh in 1850. He led a Bohemian way of life but, since he was affected by a respiratory illness, he went to Samoa after 1887, the year in which he had gone to America. He lived on the island until 1894, the year of his death. He was called "Sussibals" by the natives. It means story-teller.

In his works, Stevenson wants to analyse the dual nature of man.

"Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" (1887)

This will is evident in "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde" (1886). Dr Jekyll is the typical gentleman of Victorian society. He is respectable, but he has negative vices.

The first is the addiction to alcohol.

The other vices are to be found in Hyde's behaviour. When Dr Jekyll drinks the potion he has made he transforms in

a small monkeylike being who is the evil part of his being. There is only megalomania in Mr Hyde: he is violent and kills people, too.

Dr Jekyll finishes to be addicted to the potion and finally he doesn't need to drink it to transform. This represents the addiction to opium.

So we can explain the pun in the name of "Hyde": Mr Hyde hides the hypocrisy of middle-class people and the social injustice due to this hypocrisy.

The short novel was written because Stevenson had been asked to write something for Christmas.