

Active Reading

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Story of the Door through Incident of the Letter

At a number of points in this part of the novella, Stevenson uses physical descriptions to create atmosphere, to illuminate characters, and to communicate feelings. In one revealing scene, Stevenson portrays Mr. Hyde and Sir Danvers Carew as the murder unfolds. Another vivid description is that of Dr. Jekyll's laboratory, at the beginning of "Incident of the Letter." As you read the descriptive details in these parts of the story, use the chart on this page to keep track of how Stevenson creates atmosphere, reveals characters, and communicates emotions.

Episode: Sir Danvers Carew's murder

Details	Effects on Reader
"He had in his hand a heavy cane, with which he was trifling; but he answered never a word, and seemed to listen with an ill-contained impatience."	feelings of anxiety for the victim because of Hyde's sense of anger; a feeling of impending violence

Episode: First view of Jekyll's laboratory

Details	Effects on Reader