



# Jekyll and Hyde activities – Extracts

## Extract 1

Atavism was the idea that, if all humans had evolved from \_\_\_\_\_ forms, then we could potentially return to this basic state, behave like \_\_\_\_\_ animals, and succumb to primitive urges. Atavistic behaviour was therefore associated with \_\_\_\_\_, as it represented \_\_\_\_\_ such as violence and murder which shattered the class-conditioned, \_\_\_\_\_ framework governing Victorian standards of behaviour.

The Italian scientist Cesare Lombroso was the central figure in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the theory of atavism. He endorsed the use of physiognomy, a now \_\_\_\_\_ scientific theory which claimed that atavistic behaviour was identifiable through the examination of individual \_\_\_\_\_. Lombroso believed in the '\_\_\_\_\_ criminal', claiming that criminals could be identified by their appearance, particularly by the size of their \_\_\_\_\_.'

from 'Introduction to The Victorian Gothic' by Charlotte Barrett; full text available at:

<http://writersinspire.org/content/introduction-victorian-gothic>

<b>born</b>	<b>defunct</b>	<b>immoral</b>	<b>primitive</b>	<b>skulls</b>
<b>criminality</b>	<b>features</b>	<b>moral</b>	<b>promotion</b>	<b>transgressions</b>



## Extract 2

When a young doctor at the Asylum in Pavia, he was requested to make a post-mortem examination on a criminal named Giuseppe Vilella, an Italian Jack the Ripper, who by atrocious crimes had spread terror in the Province of Lombardy.

“At the sight of that skull,” says my father, “I seemed to see all at once, standing out clearly illumined as in a vast plain under a flaming sky, the problem of the nature of the criminal, who reproduces in civilised times characteristics, not only of primitive savages, but of still lower types as far back as the carnivora.”

Thus was explained the origin of the enormous jaws, strong canines, and strongly developed orbital arches which he had so frequently remarked in criminals, for these peculiarities are common to carnivores and savages, who tear and devour raw flesh. Thus also it was easy to understand why the span of the arms in criminals so often exceeds the height, for this is a characteristic of apes, whose fore-limbs are used in walking and climbing. The other anomalies exhibited by criminals - the scanty beard but general hairiness of the body, prehensile<sup>1</sup> foot, diminished number of lines in the palm of the hand, cheek-pouches, flattened nose and angular or sugar-loaf form of the skull, common to criminals and apes; the excessive size of the orbits<sup>2</sup>, which, combined with the hooked nose, so often imparts to criminals the aspect of birds of prey, the projection of the lower part of the face and jaws found in some animals, and supernumerary teeth (amounting in some cases to a double row as in snakes) : all these characteristics pointed to one conclusion, the atavistic origin of the criminal, who reproduces physical, psychic, and functional qualities of remote ancestors.

<sup>1</sup> Prehensile – capable of grasping

<sup>2</sup> Orbits – eyes

from Criminal Man According to the Classification of Cesare Lombroso by Gina Lombroso, 1911. Full text available at:

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/gina-lombroso/criminal-man-according-to-the-classification-of-cesare-lombroso-bmo/page-2-criminal-man-according-to-the-classification-of-cesare-lombroso-bmo.shtml>



- (a) Who was Giuseppe Vilella?
- (b) Name two features that Lombroso claimed to have frequently noticed when studying the skulls and teeth of criminals.
- (c) What did Lombroso suggest was unusual about the arm span of criminals?
- (d) Identify five other physical anomalies that Lombroso believed to show a link between criminal and 'remote ancestors.'

### Extract 3

The lawyer stood a while when Mr. Hyde had left him, the picture of disquietude. Then he began slowly to mount the street, pausing every step or two and putting his hand to his brow like a man in mental perplexity. The problem he was thus debating as he walked, was one of a class that is rarely solved. Mr. Hyde was \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, he gave an impression of \_\_\_\_\_ without any nameable malformation, he had a displeasing \_\_\_\_\_, he had borne himself to the lawyer with a sort of murderous mixture of timidity and boldness, and he spoke with a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and somewhat broken voice; all these were points against him, but not all of these together could explain the hitherto unknown disgust, loathing, and fear with which Mr. Utterson regarded him. "There must be something else," said the perplexed gentleman. "There is something more, if I could find a name for it. God bless me, the man seems hardly human! Something \_\_\_\_\_, shall we say? or is it the mere radiance of a foul soul that thus transpires through, and transfigures, its clay continent?

- How different were your choices from the author's?
- Why might Stevenson have chosen the words he did?
- In what ways could Mr Hyde be like Cesare Lombroso's 'born criminal'?