

**ASSIGNMENT:** Write a **five page (or more)** argument analyzing a specific theme found in BOTH Anne Brontë's The Tenant of Wildfell Hall AND Robert Louis Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

A **theme** is a major idea that drives the plot of a literary work. A theme must be supported by motifs, characterization, point of view, plot events, tropes and so forth that repeat throughout a text. It is NOT a summary of plot nor does it require discussion of authorial biography or intent. It concerns overall meaning.

**Pre-Write Moment:** Write a rough draft that **CONSIDERS** how aspects of characterization, plot, and so forth support OR conflict with your IDEA about meaning (theme).

**THEN CONSTRUCT** a thesis that permits you to analyze the theme of your choice. **REVISE your rough draft accordingly.**

A GOOD thesis statement makes an arguable assertion about meaning. It DOES NOT simply state a topic found in the works under analysis.

BAD THESIS STATEMENT: The two novels discuss morals [or any other topic you could plug in here] in the same way [or differently].

This type of thesis statement is simply a statement of topic. It is way too general. What is their moral philosophy? How and why do they do this the same (or differently)? What does it matter? Say something THAT IS NOT OBVIOUS, that is specific to these two texts, and that can be proven using logic and specific textual support.

**DO NOT** evaluate the texts in terms of value. This is NOT a review of the texts or a plot summary.

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHETHER YOU LIKE THE BOOKS OR NOT, WHETHER YOU THINK IT IS WORTH READING OR NOT. What matters is whether or not your specific theme is VALID.

### **RESEARCH?**

DO NOT DO LIBRARY OR COMPUTER RESEARCH. The analysis must be your own. You can use ideas and materials from class lectures, but these must be correctly cited using MLA. I

If you paraphrase, summarize, or directly quote any ideas or information not your own, you must credit your source.

If you do not **correctly** reference all sources, it is considered **plagiarism** and you will receive an **F**.

**FORMAT GUIDELINES** (minimum requirements if you expect a C or higher for a grade):

Use MLA citation rules (the most recent version is 2009) when you quote, summarize or paraphrase from the two novels.

You **MUST** have a correctly formatted works cited page, using MLA guidelines.

Margins must be 1" top, bottom, and both sides. NO bigger margins.

Paragraphs **MUST NOT** have extra lines between them.

Double-space entire document, including the Works Cited page.

Five page **MINIMUM** length. That **DOES NOT** include the works cited page.