

Edexcel English Literature GCSE

Character Profile: *Sir Carew*



Sir Danvers Carew

THE VICTIM OF HYDE'S DISREGARD FOR CONVENTIONAL AUTHORITY

INTRODUCTION

Sir Danvers Carew is **an MP**, described as *“an aged and beautiful gentleman with white hair”*. He is used to display the incredible acts of violence that Hyde is capable of committing. His murder in chapter four solidifies the reader's opinion of Hyde as a formidable and destructive character.

CHARACTER IN CONTEXT

- **The Whitechapel Murders:** The Jack the Ripper murders occurred in 1888, after the publication of the novel, some people believed that the murder of Carew in the novel inspired the killings.
- **Class:** There is a juxtaposition between the high class and wealth of the MP Sir Danvers Carew and the working class appearance of Hyde. Hyde's violent murder of Carew can be seen to represent a violent uprising of the proletariat.

KEY MOMENT

CH	OCCURRENCE	SIGNIFICANCE
4	Carew is only really present in the novella in “The Carew Murder Case”, when he is clubbed to death by Hyde. This is witnessed by a maid through a window.	The act of violence committed by Hyde in this chapter uses Carew to symbolise Hyde's general disregard for conventional authority. Carew is simply a victim in the case.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jekyll_and_Hyde_Ch4_Drawing1.jpg

RELATIONSHIPS

Utterson | It is implied that Utterson knew of or knew Carew well enough to identify him at the police station.

Hyde / Jekyll | it is unknown whether Hyde / Jekyll intentionally attacked Carew specifically, so there could potentially be a disagreement between Jekyll and Carew. It is most likely however, that Hyde attacked him simply because he was a good man, and evil preys on goodness.
Carew's innocence serves to highlight Hyde's maliciousness.



KEY QUOTES

“London was startled by a crime of singular ferocity and rendered all the more notable by the high position of the victim.”

- The first reference to Carew is mentioning his **“high position”**, which would immediately shock a Victorian readership. This is a reflection on the incredibly **hierarchical and classist society of Victorian London**.
- He is also immediately introduced as a **victim**, which heightens the mystery / thriller genre conveyed in the novella.
- The **animalistic connotations** of **“ferocity”** place Carew in the role of prey and Hyde as predator.

“an aged and beautiful gentleman with white hair”

- **“White hair”** is a **symbol of distinguishment and purity** alongside the mention of **“aged”** which perpetuates Carew’s presentation as a victim in the plot. This description of Carew is **feminised**, perpetuating the view that females are helpless in the novella.

“When they had come within speech (which was just under the maid’s eyes) the older man bowed and accosted the other with a very pretty manner of politeness.”

- This further emphasises the **vulnerability** of the character of Carew, which heightens the magnitude of violence committed by Hyde against him. Sets Carew up as a Victorian Gentleman: **“very pretty manner of politeness”**.

“such an innocent and old-world kindness.”

- This juxtaposes with the evil which is embodied by Mr Hyde. His age is emphasised here. Using the description **“old-world kindness”** implies that the current culture is harsher than its predecessors.

“with the air of one very much surprised and a trifle hurt.”

- Increases the tension surrounding his death, as this leads the reader to assume he was unaware of who Hyde was or why he was trying to hurt him. This reinforces the idea that Carew serves as more of a **plot device** rather than a three-dimensional character.

