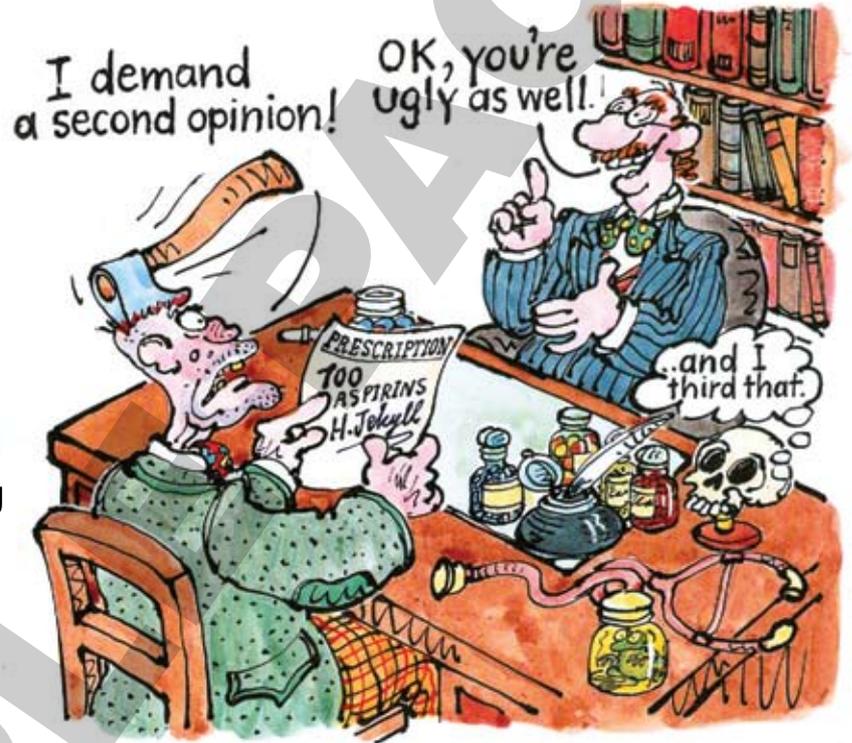


THE CONFUSED ME



This man is looking confused because battling inside him two very different personalities are trying to take control of his life.

During the day he is Dr Jekyll, a hard working physician who spends his time doing respectable things like prescribing aspirins, feeling pulses, peering down ears, looking up noses, knocking knees with a hammer, sticking spoons down throats, instructing patients to cough, and telling them things like, 'I don't really know what's wrong with you but it's probably a virus and the chances are that it will clear up within a week.'



However, at night, after retreating to his secret laboratory and drinking a brew of steaming, bubbling chemicals, he turns into Mr Hyde, a hideous looking creature with hair sprouting from every part of his body, blood dripping from his mouth and fingers, who spends his time lurking in shadowy streets and alleyways doing disrespectful things like murdering young women.



Now, unfortunately, this man has a 'GOOD TIME' being both characters (although of course in different ways). But he knows that one of them will have to go because the battle between them is too painful to live with. His problem, then, is deciding which 'good time' he prefers and therefore which character should stay and be the person he calls 'ME'.

THE BATTLE INSIDE ME

Many people believe that all human beings have the same sorts of problems as this man. They are not suggesting, of course, that we drink strange potions, turn hideously ugly and become psychopaths. However, they are saying that inside each of us there is also a battle raging between different personalities, and so, like this man, we also end up behaving as if we were totally different people.

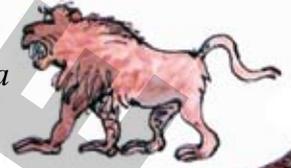


They also suggest that, like this man, we also often have a 'GOOD TIME' being these different characters and therefore have problems deciding which characters should go or stay. In other words, deciding which personality battling inside us should win the battle and be the personality we call 'ME'.

The following poem describes this battle:

*There is a wolf in me ... fangs pointed for tearing gashes ... a red tongue for raw meat ... and the hot lapping of blood ...
 There is a fox in me ... a silver grey fox ... I sniff and guess ...
 I pick things out of the air ... I nose in the night ... I circle and loop and double-cross.
 There is a hog in me ... a snout and a belly ... a machinery for eating and grunting ... a machinery for sleeping satisfied in the sun ...
 There is a baboon in me ... clambering-clawed ... dog-faced ... yawmping a gallot's hunger ... hairy under the armpits ... ready to snarl and kill.
 There is an eagle in me and a mockingbird ... and the eagle flies among the Rocky mountains of my dreams ... and the mockingbird warbles in the early forenoon before the dew is gone.*

From The Circus Within Me by Carl Sandburg.



- 1 In your own words explain the decision that Dr Jekyll felt he had to make and why he found it so difficult.
- 2 Some people believe that all human beings face the same sort of decision as Dr Jekyll. What do they mean? Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
- 3 In the poem the writer is suggesting that in him there is a battle going on between different animals. Try to explain what characteristics each of the animals represent in the poem.
- 4 Draw a line down the middle of a plain piece of paper. On one side of the paper write the title 'How I am when I'm at school' and on the other write 'How I am when I'm alone'. Draw animals (or an animal) on either side to illustrate the two titles.
- 5 Write your own poem entitled 'The Circus Within Me' and choose animals which represent the different characteristics within you which are battling for control.
- 6 Many people say there have been occasions when they have not felt in control of their behaviour, i.e. as if some wild animal within them has taken control. Have you ever felt that some wild animal within you took control of your behaviour? Give details.
- 7 Which animals within you would you like to disappear from your life, and which to stay? Give reasons for your answer.
- 8 A man called Paul describes the battle going on inside him in a different way. Read Roman 7: 14–26 and in your own words explain what he is saying.
- 9 Is your experience of yourself similar to that of Paul? Give reasons for your answer.