

# RISING FROM THE DEAD: WHO ARE THE MONSTERS AND WHY?

How culture develops monsters, reflecting the fears of the time in literature.

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## How does culture make a monster?

From *Dracula* to *Twilight*, a monster represents the fear of a society created by a certain cultural moment. After death, monsters are reimagined and revived by the new fear that is embodied within the civilization at that time. As people and culture change, so too do the fears that create their monsters.

### Jekyll and Hyde: The Consumption of Violence



Jekyll rids himself of evil desires, placing them in Hyde

Jekyll and Hyde share one body

Hyde's monstrosity (and violence) is shown in his body, making Jekyll a monster too

Jekyll loses the ability to distinguish himself from Hyde

The difference between civil and monster blurs



### The Invisible Man: The Terror that Creates Monsters



Griffin's invisibility extends past his body

With no connections outside his experiments, he lacks social definition

Unseen and unknown, he cannot be policed by society

Attempting to kill as he pleases, he himself is killed by a mob

With a cloth over his face, Griffin is denied his humanity in the end



Transforming from ape-like creature to gentlemanly monster.



Without Jekyll's restraint, Hyde gives into his rage



Consumed by rage, Hyde loses all appearance and mannerisms of humanity



Griffin's invisibility is maintained even when depicted in a graphic novel



Griffin's apathy making his actions unreadable as well



Without the sight of Griffin's body, the reader becomes an accomplice in the murder

## What do monsters make of us?

Hyde's embodiment of the fear of violence morphs from blurring differences between violent and civil to violence consuming humanity and creating a monster. Griffin's embodiment of the fear of the unknown "Other" that turns people into monsters who kill and then deny his innate humanity, changes from a mere warning to engaging the reader as an active participant, questioning the reader's monstrosity.