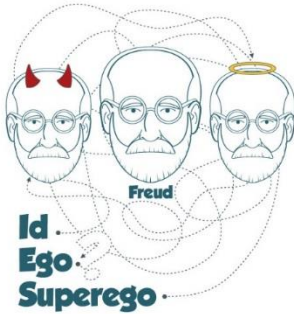


The Subconscious

Shortly after *Jekyll & Hyde* was written, a famous psychoanalyst called Sigmund Freud developed a theory about human nature. He thought our personalities could be divided into three different parts:



The Id: *this is the animalistic wild part of the brain. It seeks pleasure and avoids pain.*

The Ego: *the decision making part of the brain. It uses reason and logic to make the Id behave.*

The Superego: *the voice that incorporates society's values and morals.*

We can use Freud's theory when we look at Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

Hyde is the animalistic, wild part of Jekyll's personality – his Id. Jekyll keeps him under control as long as he can, with his Superego repressing his true desires. But once he drinks the potion, his wild side is released – and because it has been kept repressed for so long, once it is unleashed it is bigger and stronger than it would have been if he had expressed it naturally.

Jekyll himself knows this when he describes the murder of Carew:

"My devil had been long caged, and he came out roaring. I was conscious, even when I took the draught, of a more unbridled, a more furious propensity to ill."

Glossary:

Repress:

Conscious:

Unbridled:

Propensity:

To ill: *to do terrible things*