**Lesson 6 - Darwin and Religion in Gothic Literature**

**Please complete the following tasks for your lesson today. There are ‘icons’ you can click on to hear the extracts being read out loud.**

1. Recap:
   1. Who are these characters?
   2. What can you remember about their story in 3 bullet points?



1. Read through (or listen using the icon at the end) this information about **religion** in the **Victorian** era:

In the Victorian period, people in England were extremely religious. They regularly visited church or went to chapel every Sunday; they read the Bible often and followed Christian ideas in everyday life. Victorians believed that acting in an **immoral** or **sinful** manner would result in eternal damnation in hell. At this time, it was generally believed that humankind was created by God, who breathed life into humans and made them in ‘his own image’.



1. What does it mean to be ‘immoral’ or ‘sinful’?
2. If humans were made in ‘God’s image’, how does this suggest that humans should behave?
3. Now, read through this information on **Charles Darwin**. He had a different opinion on how humans were created *(helpful clip:* [*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0B6os-6uuc*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0B6os-6uuc) *)*:

Charles Darwin was a famous scientist in the Victorian period. He studied animals and plants. In his famous work ‘The Origin of Species’, Darwin gave a different theory for the creation of humans. He argued that humankind evolved from primates, and were therefore not created in ‘God’s image’, but evolved over time from ape-like creatures into humans.



1. In your own words, can you explain the difference between religion and science when it came to humankind?
2. So, how did Darwin’s theory of evolution impact Victorian society?

Darwin’s theory frightened the religious Victorian society. Religion had always provided a good sense of morality – if you acted badly, you would go to hell; if you acted well, you would go to heaven.

However, people began to fear that if religion was wrong then society might break down and people would stop acting morally.



1. Let’s look at how these ideas influenced Victorian texts. Read the extract below from *Jekyll and Hyde* then complete the tasks that follow.

*In this extract, Hyde attacks a seemingly innocent, old man.*

And then **all of a sudden** he broke out in **a great flame of anger**, stamping with his foot, brandishing the cane, and carrying on (as the maid described it) like a madman. The very old gentleman took a step back, with the air of one very much surprised and a trifle hurt; and at that Mr Hyde **broke out of all bounds**, and **clubbed him** to the earth. And next moment, with **ape-like fury**, he was **trampling** his victim under foot, and **hailing down a storm of blows**, under which the bones were audibly shattered and the body jumped upon the roadway. At the horror of these sights and sounds, the maid fainted.



1. Which quotations suggest that Hyde is not in control?
2. What examples are there of Hyde being an extremely violent man?
3. Where is Hyde presented as **primitive** (less evolved than humans)?
4. Finally, can you complete these sentences to explain how the character of Hyde is influenced by Darwinism?

*In this extract, Hyde is presented as primitive when….*

*This could link to Darwin’s theory because…*

*Also, the fact that Hyde seems to lack any self-control could suggest…*

*It is likely that a Victorian reader would have felt… because they believed..*

**Fab work, all!**

**Want to check your answers? Click on this audio link for some ideas from Miss Hawkins!**

