

名古屋学院大学大学院 外国語学研究科 英語学専攻（修士課程）

2025年度第Ⅱ期入学試験（2025年3月1日実施）

入学試験問題〔一般課題英作文〕

解答例

The passage describes how the life of William Brodie captivated Robert Louis Stevenson and may have been the source of inspiration that drove him to write the famous novel, "*The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*." Robert Louis Stevenson had a bookcase and chest of drawers made by the famous William Brodie in his childhood. Although William Brodie was a highly respectable citizen in Edinburgh, he had a secret and sinister side to his character. He even formed a gang and committed a series of robberies. Finally, he was arrested in Amsterdam, tried and hanged. The furniture stimulated Steven's imagination, and later he wrote that successful novel where the same character plays the role of Jekyll and Hyde. It is obvious that the story is based on the legend of William Brodie. His wife witnessed how Deacon Brodie's double life disturbed Stevenson's sleep and emerged as a famous character.

What strikes me most is how human imagination can turn real-life experiences into creative works. Brodie was already an interesting figure, but it is Stevenson's interpretation of it—filtered through memory, illness, and dream—that produced a story with lasting cultural impact. This suggests that literature does not arise from reality itself but from the mind's unique way of reorganizing reality. Stevenson's feverish dream, which his wife interrupted at the moment of the transformation scene, illustrates how creativity often emerges from a state where conscious control is weakened and the subconscious becomes active. The fact that he

rewrote the entire first draft in only three days also shows how urgently the idea demanded expression.

Another important point is the theme of duality. Brodie embodied the tension between public virtue and private vice, a contradiction that fascinated Stevenson from childhood. *Jekyll and Hyde* universalized this theme by portraying the good and evil impulses within a single human being. The novel's widespread success and the way the phrase "Jekyll and Hyde" has entered everyday English demonstrate that this duality remains a compelling way to understand human behavior.

Finally, the passage reminds us that creativity can emerge under difficult circumstances. Stevenson was chronically ill, yet he produced one of his major works during a period of physical weakness. His achievement encourages us to reconsider the relationship between limitation and creativity: constraints may not hinder imagination but can instead stimulate it. Brodie's hidden life, Stevenson's fragile body, and the subconscious dream world all converged to produce a narrative that continues to resonate today.