The theme of the double

Istituto comprensivo Di Pelago
Scuola media L. Ghiberti
III A
The strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
Frankenstein
The Picture of Dorian Gray
The theme of the double

The divided nature of man, the theme of good and evil aspects of a character has attracted many English writers.
The theme of the double

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde is Robert Louis Stevenson's most famous and important novel and it is one of the greatest classics of the fantasy genre.
The theme of the double

Henry Jekyll is a brilliant scientist who, by mixing special drugs, succeeds in creating a potion which is able to separate the two nature of man: good and evil. The latter, the deformed and repulsive Mr Hyde, slowly manages to prevail over the former and commits several wicked and criminal deeds.
The theme of the double

The novel represents the eternal struggle between good and evil, which, this time, live together in the same person: Jekyll and Hyde are the symbol of a double personality.
The theme of the double

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are symbolic of the duplicity of the Victorian Age: on one side Jekyll represents the public face of the individual and is a respectable man; on the other side, at night in the bad areas of London, he is Mr Hyde, who represents the dark side present in all people.
The theme of the double

Even the name Hyde is linked to the theme of the double: it means to hide, to do what you cannot do openly.
The theme of the double

In *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, Victor Frankenstein, creates a monster that in a certain way represents his *double*. 
The theme of the double

As a consequence of his manipulations with nature, Frankenstein is punished because his creature kills the people that the doctor loved.
The theme of the double

Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is the story of a young man that is very beautiful: his portrait represents his double, his soul corrupted by his bad actions. At the end of the novel, Dorian dies when he destroys his picture with a knife.
A common element in all these stories is their moral message: sooner or later the protagonists will be punished for their sins because in the end the evil will be defeated.