

# THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

1st and 2nd of ESO  
Teacher's Guide





## BEFORE GOING TO THE THEATRE

### 1. The Story

The aristocrat Dorian Gray is a handsome young man living in the nineteenth century, in England. He enjoys life very much. However, his soul is not as attractive as his face and he does as he likes without minding the consequences of his acts. He hurts people's feelings all the time, even leading one of his lovers to commit suicide. One of his best friends, Basil, paints his portrait. He looks magnificent and wishes to remain so for all eternity. He gets his wish and over the years it is Dorian's portrait and not he himself who gets old. However, the portrait not only shows his appearance as an old man but also the evilness of his soul. In the end, being unable to stand the sight of the portrait, he destroys it, killing himself in doing so.

**Answer the following questions related to the text:**

a) Who is Dorian Gray?

He is a young and handsome aristocrat.

b) Where does he live? When?

He lives in England in the 19th century.

c) Is he a good person? Why or why not?

No, he isn't. He hurts people's feeling all the time and he doesn't mind the consequences of his acts.

d) What does his friend Basil do for him?

He paints his portrait.

e) What's Basil's profession?

He is a painter.

f) Why is the present special?

Because it gets older instead of Dorian.

g) Is Dorian's ending a happy one? Why?

No, it isn't. Because in the end he kills himself.



# THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

1st and 2nd of ESO - Teacher's Guide

Find in the text synonyms for the followings words:

- |                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| • Good-looking           | handsome    |
| • Like                   | enjoy       |
| • In fact                | indeed      |
| • Painting (of a person) | portrait    |
| • Wonderful              | magnificent |
| • Desire                 | wish        |
| • Badness                | evilness    |

Try to fill the gaps with the words (or their synonyms):

- I don't want to eat meat. I don't like / enjoy it.
- I have finished my homework. In fact / indeed, I did it yesterday after school.
- You've passed the exam! That's wonderful / magnificent !
- They only recognize badness / evilness when they perceive it in others.
- Dorian Gray has the desire / wish of staying young and handsome forever.
- Oh, that painting / portrait is very nice. I'll buy it.
- That guy over there is Fiona's boyfriend. He is very good-looking / handsome.





## 2. The characters

**DORIAN GRAY** is the main character. He is a person with a lot of money and who does not care about the consequences of his actions. He would like to be handsome and young forever.

**HENRY WOTTON** is Dorian's best friend. He loves to enjoy youth and parties. He is the one who encourages friends not to worry about problems and to spend time enjoying small pleasures.

**BASIL HALLWARD** is an artist. He is the one who paints Dorian's portrait. Unlike Henry, Basil is a good-natured person. He believes in the good qualities of people, although he does not talk too much.

**SIBYL VANE** is an artist who sings in a theater where Dorian likes to hang out. Henry thinks she doesn't have much talent, and describes her as cute but not beautiful.

**JAMES VANE** is Sibyl's brother. He is aggressive and very protective of people who want to approach his sister. He doesn't seem to like Dorian very much.

## 3. Oscar Wilde



As you may know, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was written by Oscar Wilde.

What do you know about Oscar Wilde?

In groups of four, do some research on the internet about the author. Find the correct answer to the following questions. Then share them with the whole class.

- What was Oscar Wilde's full name?  
**His full name was Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde.**
- Can you list two famous works written by Oscar Wilde?  
**Some examples: *Salome*, *An Ideal Husband*, *A Woman of No Importance* or *The Canterville Ghost*.**



- Who was Lord Alfred Douglas?  
He was a British poet and Oscar Wilde's lover.
- What happened to Oscar Wilde in 1895?  
He was sent to prison for being homosexual.
- Is there anything about Oscar Wilde's life that surprised you? Why? Write and discuss together in class.  
The answer is open and free. Please encourage students to discuss their ideas in English and with the whole class.

#### 4. Vocabulary

Look at the vocabulary from the play and learn it. Choose 4 words and explain, in your own words, what you think they mean.

PAINTING	TO WASTE	PORTRAIT	SHOULDER	WEAK	TO GO OUT
SPOTLIGHT	PERFORMANCE	PROTECTIVE	TO CHARM	MARRIAGE	SNOB
AWFUL	TO BOTHER	BLIND	MERMAID	TO DROWN	TO OWE
REVENGE	HEARTBROKEN	PARANOID	PERSISTENT	SELFISH	

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....





**5. Put the following words in order to create coherent sentences. You have to add the necessary articles and prepositions:**

a) going/parties/Dorian/likes

Dorian likes going to parties.

b) Dorian/Basil/friends/best/one/is/'s

Basil is one of Dorian's best friends.

c) works/Basil/painter/as

Basil works as a painter.

d) forever/Dorian/like/young/would/be

Dorian would like to be young forever.

e) year/Dorian/portrait/'s/every/older/gets

Dorian's portrait gets older every year.

f) portrait/finally/destroyed/is/owner/its

The portrait is finally destroyed by its owner.

## 6. Speaking

Work in pairs. Choose a picture from your book and describe it to your partner. Then, change roles.



## 7. Listening

Listen to track 1 and answer the following questions:

- What is Basil doing?  
He is painting Dorian's portrait.
- What does Henry think about Basil? What does he think the portrait is going to look like before seeing it finished?  
He thinks Basil is the best painter of this generation. He thinks the portrait will be incredible.
- When Dorian sees the portrait, what does he think?  
He thinks he looks beautiful, handsome, and amazing.
- According to Henry, what is going to happen to Dorian in twenty or thirty years?  
He is going to be old and his beauty will be gone.
- What is Dorian's wish?  
He wishes he could look young forever. He wishes the portrait would age instead of him.



## AFTER GOING TO THE THEATRE

### 8. True or False

Look at these sentences about the story and say if they are true or false.

- | T                                   | F                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Henry paints Dorian's portrait and Dorian thinks he looks handsome. <b>False: Basil paints Dorian's portrait.</b>                                                                                           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Dorian likes Sibyl from the moment he sees her on stage. <b>True.</b>                                                                                                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sibyl thinks Dorian looks more handsome in the portrait than he is. <b>False: Sibyl likes the real Dorian better.</b>                                                                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | After twenty years, everybody looks better than Dorian. His lifestyle is not good and he looks terrible. <b>False: After twenty years, Dorian is the one who looks as young and as beautiful as always.</b> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Dorian starts helping others when he realizes the portrait is getting uglier. But his good actions doesn't change anything. <b>True.</b>                                                                    |







## 9. Who said that?

Match the phrase to the character who says it: Dorian, Henry or Sibyl.

PHRASE	WHO SAYS IT?
In twenty or thirty years you will be old and your beauty will be gone.	Henry
I know I can charm your brother. I am sure that if he meets me, he will love me.	Dorian
Is this the picture you told me about? It's beautiful! You look beautiful. And your house is amazing!	Sibyl
She has talent, beauty, kindness... She is an amazing woman.	Dorian
This place looks... so ugly and dirty... I thought you gave me the wrong address!	Henry
Dorian, think hard about who you want to give your youth to. Remember, you won't be young forever.	Henry
Last time I saw you I was distracted. I thought you were better. But now I understand you are not good enough for me.	Dorian
All the good things you did... You did them for yourself. It was all selfish.	Sibyl



## 10. Writing

Imagine you meet a famous artist. Write an interview. Ask about his/her life, current situation, plans for the future... (About 200 words)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....





transeduca

[www.transeduca.com](http://www.transeduca.com)

[info@transeduca.com](mailto:info@transeduca.com)

934 740 002