

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

1st and 2nd ESO





BEFORE GOING TO THE THEATRE

1. The Story

The aristocrat Dorian Gray is a handsome young man living in nineteenth-century England. He greatly enjoys life and wants to experience everything it has to offer. However, his soul is not as beautiful as his appearance, and he does whatever he wants without thinking about the consequences of his actions. He often hurts people's feelings, even causing one of his lovers to take her own life. One of his best friends, Basil, paints a portrait of him.

Dorian is amazed by how magnificent he looks in the painting and wishes that he could remain young and beautiful forever. His wish comes true, and as the years pass, it is the portrait—not Dorian himself—that grows old. However, the portrait does more than show the effects of ageing: it also reflects the growing evil in Dorian's soul.

In the end, Dorian can no longer bear to look at the terrible portrait. He tries to destroy it, but in doing so, he kills himself. When his servants find him, they discover an old, ugly man lying dead on the floor, while the portrait has returned to its original image of a young and beautiful Dorian.

Answer the following questions related to the text:

a) Who is Dorian Gray? And where does he live? When?

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

c) What does his friend Basil do for him?

d) What's Basil's profession?

e) Why is the present special?

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



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Find in the text synonyms for the followings words:

- Good-looking
- Like
- In fact
- Painting (of a person)
- Wonderful
- Desire
- Wickedness

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

- I don't want to eat meat. I don't it.
- I have finished my homework. , I did it yesterday after school.
- You've passed the exam! That's !
- They only recognize when they perceive it in others.
- Dorian Gray has the to stay young and handsome forever.
- Oh, that is very nice. I'll buy it.
- That guy over there is Fiona's boyfriend. He is very





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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 his youth and parties a lot. 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 theatre 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?

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- Can you list two famous works written by Oscar Wilde?

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- Who was Lord Alfred Douglas?

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- What happened to Oscar Wilde in 1895?

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- Is there anything about Oscar Wilde's life that surprised you? Why? Write and discuss together in class.

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4. Vocabulary

Look at some of the vocabulary that is taken from the play. Choose 4 words and explain, in your own words, what you think they mean.

PAINTING
SPOTLIGHT
AWFUL
REVENGE
TO GO OUT

TO WASTE
PERFORMANCE
TO BOTHER
HEARTBROKEN
SNOB

PORTRAIT
PROTECTIVE
BLIND
PARANOID
TO OWE

SHOULDER
TO CHARM
MERMAID
PERSISTENT

WEAK
MARRIAGE
TO DROWN
SELFISH

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5. Find the pairs. Match the word with its opposite.

Word

honest

beautiful

young

kind

rich

alive

Opposite

old

poor

cruel

guilty

ugly

dead

6. Unscramble the letters to find the correct word.

- LSIUOXRUU →
- DANLSCA →
- NOCNIETN →
- AEPPARANCE →
- NOOSPI →
- RHEPSIW →
- TIYVAN →
- MTEATIPNOT →



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

a) going/parties/Dorian/likes

.....

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

.....

c) works/Basil/painter/as

.....

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

.....

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

.....

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

.....

8. Speaking

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



9. Listening

Listen to Scene 1 and 2 and answer the following questions:

- What is Basil doing?

- What does Henry think about Basil? What does he think the portrait is going to look like before seeing it finished?

- When Dorian sees the portrait, what does he think?

- According to Henry, what is going to happen to Dorian in twenty or thirty years?

- What is Dorian's wish?

- Why does Henry think they should enjoy the night?

- What happens when Dorian sees Sibyl for the first time?

- Why can't Sibyl be sure that she can have dinner with Dorian?

- Why does Sibyl finally agree to have dinner with Dorian?



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10. True or False

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

T	F	
☐	☐	Henry paints Dorian's portrait and Dorian thinks he looks handsome.
☐	☐	Dorian likes Sibyl from the moment he sees her on stage.
☐	☐	Sibyl thinks Dorian looks more handsome in the portrait than he is.
☐	☐	After twenty years, everybody looks better than Dorian. His lifestyle is not good and he looks terrible.
☐	☐	Dorian starts helping others when he realizes the portrait is getting uglier. But his good actions don't change anything.





Now imagine the story happens in a different time or place. Describe your new version of the story. How does the new setting change the characters and the story?

Example: Dorian Gray in the future

- What happens in your story?
- Who are the main characters?
- What is different from the original story?
- How does the story end?

[illegible]



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12. Who said that?

Match the phrase to the character who says it: Dorian, Henry or Sibyl. And to whom it is said.

PHRASE	WHO SAYS IT?	TO WHOM?
But you'd better enjoy that beauty, because in twenty or thirty years, you'll be old... and your beauty... will be gone.		
What does he have to protect you from? You're a free woman.		
Is this the famous portrait you never stop talking about? You were right, it's amazing.		
She's a wonderful woman. She makes me happy. And, as you always say... she makes me feel young.		
Life is full of tragedies, Dorian. But your life isn't over.		
This is the perfect time to fall in love. Once, twice, three times... even fifty times if necessary.		
The first time I saw you, I thought you were extraordinary. Today, I only saw... an ordinary actress.		
For the first time, you're finally seeing what you've been running away from for so many years. You've grown old inside...but you've learned nothing.		



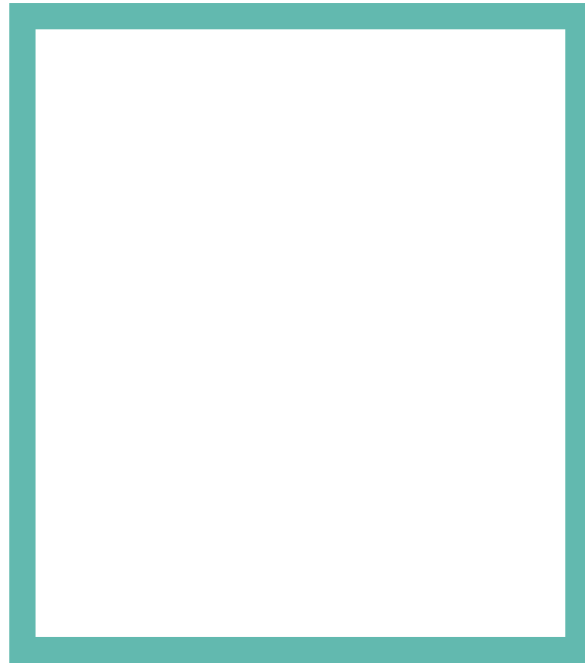
13. Writing

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

[illegible]



14. Draw your own portrait in the frame below.



a) Now imagine your portrait changes every time you do something good or bad. Write 5 things that happened this week and explain how they would change your portrait.

Example:

I helped my friend. → My portrait would have a big smile.

I argued with my brother. → My portrait would look angry.

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b) Would your portrait look better or worse? Why?

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