

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey

Oscar Wilde and The Picture of Dorian Gray: A Timeless Exploration of Beauty and Morality

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey is a phrase that instantly conjures images of decadence, moral ambiguity, and the eternal struggle between youth and corruption. Wilde's only novel, published in the late 19th century, remains a seminal work of Gothic fiction and a profound commentary on society, art, and the nature of the human soul. Its enduring appeal lies not only in its captivating narrative but also in its rich philosophical undertones, which continue to inspire readers and scholars alike.

The Genesis of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde, an Irish playwright, poet, and wit, was known for his sharp social commentary and flamboyant style. When he penned The Picture of Dorian Gray in 1890, Wilde was already a celebrated figure in literary and social circles. The novel originally appeared as a serial in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine but stirred controversy due to its provocative themes and perceived immorality.

The Cultural Context of Late Victorian England

Understanding the backdrop of Victorian England helps illuminate why Wilde's novel was so provocative. The era was marked by strict social mores, an obsession with morality, and a rigid class system. Wilde's exploration of hedonism, aestheticism, and hidden sins challenged these conventions head-on. The book's themes of duplicity, beauty, and decay unsettled many readers and critics, reflecting anxieties about changing social norms.

Plot Overview: The Allure and Consequences of Eternal Youth

At its core, The Picture of Dorian Gray tells the story of a young man named Dorian Gray, whose portrait ages and reveals the corruption of his soul while he himself remains youthful and beautiful. This supernatural premise allows Wilde to explore the consequences of vanity, moral degradation, and the pursuit of pleasure without accountability.

Key Characters and Their Symbolism

- **Dorian Gray:** The protagonist, symbolizing the dangers of unchecked vanity and the conflict between outward appearance and inner reality.

- **Lord Henry Wotton:** Dorian's cynical friend who espouses a philosophy of indulgence and aestheticism, influencing Dorian's descent.
- **Basil Hallward:** The artist who paints Dorian's portrait, representing innocence and the genuine appreciation of beauty.

These characters form a triangle of influence, each embodying different aspects of Wilde's critique of society and morality.

Themes Explored in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Wilde's novel is layered with themes that resonate even today, providing fertile ground for literary analysis and reflection.

Beauty and Aestheticism

Wilde was a leading figure in the Aesthetic Movement, which championed "art for art's sake." In *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, beauty is both a gift and a curse. Dorian's obsession with his own appearance leads him to a life of excess and moral decay, illustrating the peril of valuing surface over substance. Wilde critiques society's fixation on youth and physical perfection, a topic that remains relevant in contemporary culture.

Morality and Hypocrisy

The novel delves into the duality of human nature, exposing the hypocrisy that often underpins social respectability. Dorian's outward charm masks a deeply corrupted soul, and the portrait serves as a metaphor for the hidden consequences of unethical choices. Wilde's narrative challenges readers to consider the cost of living a double life and the societal pressures that encourage such façades.

Influence and Corruption

Lord Henry's seductive philosophy promotes a life uninhibited by conventional morality, which profoundly affects Dorian. This dynamic explores the power of influence and the dangers of adopting destructive worldviews without scrutiny. Wilde seems to warn against blindly following charismatic figures or ideologies that glorify self-indulgence.

Literary Style and Symbolism in The Picture of Dorian Gray

Wilde's prose is renowned for its wit, elegance, and paradoxical statements. The novel's style enhances its themes, making each reading a rich experience.

The Use of Symbolism

The portrait itself is the central symbol, representing the externalization of Dorian's inner corruption. Its gradual transformation from beauty to grotesqueness mirrors Dorian's moral decline. Other symbols include:

- **The Yellow Book:** A decadent novel referenced in the story that influences Dorian's worldview.
- **Opium and Drugs:** Representing escapism and the numbing of conscience.
- **The Garden:** A place of innocence and natural beauty contrasted with the artificiality of Dorian's lifestyle.

Wilde's Wit and Aphorisms

One of the hallmarks of Oscar Wilde's writing is his use of sharp epigrams that incisively critique society and human behavior. Phrases like "The only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it" encapsulate the novel's exploration of hedonism and moral ambiguity with both humor and depth.

The Legacy and Impact of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

Since its publication, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* has become a cornerstone of Gothic literature and a subject of endless interpretation. It's been adapted into numerous films, theater productions, and even modern retellings, underscoring its universal themes.

Influence on Popular Culture and Literature

The concept of a portrait aging instead of its subject has permeated popular culture, inspiring countless stories about vanity, identity, and the soul's corruption. Wilde's novel also paved the way for more open discussions about sexuality, morality, and aesthetic philosophy in literature.

Why The Picture of Dorian Gray Still Matters Today

In an age obsessed with social media and curated online identities, Wilde's exploration of appearance versus reality feels particularly prescient. The novel invites readers to question the value placed on external beauty and to consider the ethical implications of living a life detached from accountability.

Understanding Wilde's Personal Influence on the Novel

Oscar Wilde's own life, marked by flamboyance, scandal, and tragedy, deeply informs the novel's themes. His experiences with social ostracism after his conviction for "gross indecency" add a poignant layer to the story's exploration of secrecy and reputation.

The Intersection of Art and Life

Wilde famously stated, "Life imitates Art far more than Art imitates Life," a philosophy evident in the novel's blending of aesthetic ideals with harsh realities. His critique of Victorian hypocrisy is not just literary but intensely personal, making *The Picture of Dorian Gray* both a social commentary and a reflection of Wilde's struggles.

Tips for Readers Diving into The Picture of Dorian Gray

If you're approaching Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* for the first time, here are some pointers to deepen your appreciation:

- **Pay attention to the dialogue:** Wilde's characters often communicate complex ideas through witty exchanges and epigrams.
- **Consider the historical context:** Understanding Victorian morals and social expectations enriches the reading experience.
- **Reflect on the symbolism:** The portrait is more than a plot device; it's a profound metaphor for conscience and identity.
- **Explore Wilde's other works:** His plays and essays provide insight into his aesthetic philosophy and social critiques.

Reading *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with these tips in mind can transform it from a mere gothic tale into a profound meditation on human nature.

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* transcends time through its masterful storytelling and sharp examination of the human condition. Its exploration of beauty, morality, and the consequences of living a life devoted solely to pleasure offers timeless lessons wrapped in a compelling narrative. Whether you're a literature enthusiast or a casual reader, Wilde's novel invites you to look beyond the surface and confront the complexities hidden beneath.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of Oscar Wilde's 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'?

The central theme of 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' is the relationship between aestheticism, moral duplicity, and the consequences of living a life devoted to pleasure and vanity without regard for morality.

How does the portrait in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' symbolize Dorian's inner self?

The portrait symbolizes Dorian's inner self by reflecting the corruption and moral decay that results from his hedonistic and immoral actions, while Dorian's outward appearance remains youthful and unspoiled.

What role does Lord Henry Wotton play in the novel?

Lord Henry Wotton acts as a catalyst for Dorian Gray's transformation, influencing him with his hedonistic and cynical worldview, encouraging Dorian to pursue a life of indulgence and self-gratification.

How does Oscar Wilde explore the concept of beauty in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'?

Oscar Wilde explores beauty as both a superficial and dangerous ideal, showing how an obsession with physical appearance and youth can lead to moral decay and the neglect of deeper ethical values.

What is the significance of the moral consequences faced by Dorian Gray?

The moral consequences highlight the novel's warning that a life devoted solely to pleasure and self-indulgence, without accountability or conscience, ultimately leads to ruin and despair.

How does 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' reflect the principles of the Aesthetic Movement?

'The Picture of Dorian Gray' reflects the Aesthetic Movement by emphasizing 'art for art's sake,' valuing beauty and sensory experiences over moral or social themes, while also critiquing the

potential dangers of this philosophy.

In what ways does Oscar Wilde use symbolism in the novel?

Wilde uses symbolism extensively, notably through the portrait that ages and corrupts instead of Dorian, representing the hidden consequences of his actions, as well as other symbols like the yellow book that influences Dorian's worldview.

What is the impact of the novel's ending on its overall message?

The ending, where Dorian destroys the portrait and consequently dies, reinforces the message that one cannot escape the consequences of one's actions, and that inner corruption will ultimately manifest, destroying the individual.

Additional Resources

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*: A Timeless Exploration of Beauty, Morality, and Decadence

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey stands as one of the most provocative and enduring works of 19th-century literature. Published in 1890, this novel encapsulates Wilde's sharp wit, his critique of Victorian society, and his fascination with aestheticism and moral duplicity. The story of a young man who remains outwardly youthful while his portrait ages and reflects the corruption of his soul continues to captivate readers and scholars alike, serving as a profound commentary on vanity, ethics, and the human condition.

In-Depth Analysis of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a complex narrative that intertwines themes of beauty, morality, and self-indulgence. At its core, the novel scrutinizes the consequences of living a life devoted solely to pleasure and external appearances, challenging the Victorian era's rigid moral codes. Wilde's exploration of aestheticism—the belief in art for art's sake—is embodied in the character of Dorian Gray, whose physical appearance remains untouched while his portrait bears the burden of his immoral acts.

The novel's publication history is equally telling. Initially serialized in Lippincott's *Monthly Magazine*, the book was met with sharp criticism for its perceived immorality and decadence. Wilde's unapologetic portrayal of hedonism and subtle allusions to homosexuality provoked controversy, leading to revisions and censorship. This historical context enriches the reading experience, revealing the tension between artistic expression and societal norms during the late Victorian period.

Thematic Exploration: Beauty and Corruption

One of the most compelling aspects of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is its examination of beauty as both a blessing and a curse. Dorian's extraordinary appearance grants him social advantages but also becomes a trap, as he prioritizes physical allure over moral integrity. The portrait, hidden away from public view, becomes a symbol of the hidden consequences of his actions—a visual manifestation of his decaying soul.

Wilde deftly uses this supernatural element to question the relationship between external appearance and inner virtue. The duality of Dorian's existence serves as a metaphor for the facades people maintain in society. Through this lens, the novel anticipates modern discussions about identity, authenticity, and the psychological cost of living a double life.

Character Dynamics and Symbolism

The characters surrounding Dorian Gray contribute significantly to the novel's richness. Lord Henry Wotton, with his cynical worldview and seductive rhetoric, acts as the catalyst for Dorian's transformation. His hedonistic philosophy—encapsulated in aphorisms about youth and pleasure—embodies the book's exploration of moral relativism. Meanwhile, Basil Hallward, the artist who paints the fateful portrait, represents innocence and moral conscience. The interplay between these figures creates a dramatic tension that drives the narrative and underscores Wilde's critique of societal values.

Symbolism permeates the novel, from the portrait itself to recurring motifs such as mirrors, opium dens, and decadent settings. These elements deepen the novel's atmosphere, evoking a sense of impending doom and moral decay. For instance, the portrait's gradual deterioration mirrors the psychological unraveling of Dorian, while the opium dens highlight the escapism sought by those trapped in their own vices.

Oscar Wilde the Picture of Dorian Gray in Literary Context

When contextualizing Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* within the broader literary canon, it is essential to consider its place in the Aesthetic Movement and Gothic literature. Wilde's novel bridges the gap between aestheticism's celebration of beauty and the Gothic tradition's fascination with the supernatural and the macabre.

Unlike typical Gothic novels, which often emphasize external horrors, Wilde's narrative internalizes the terror, focusing on the psychological consequences of unchecked indulgence. This approach influences later literary works that explore the dark side of human nature and the complexity of identity.

Moreover, the novel's reflection on the consequences of vanity and moral decay resonates with contemporary readers, making it a timeless piece. Its themes have inspired numerous adaptations across film, theater, and visual arts, attesting to its cultural significance and adaptability.

Comparisons with Contemporary Works

Comparing *The Picture of Dorian Gray* to other literary works of its time reveals its unique position. While authors like Robert Louis Stevenson and Bram Stoker also delved into themes of duality and hidden evil in works such as *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Dracula*, Wilde's focus on aestheticism and the corrupting influence of beauty offers a distinct perspective.

Additionally, the novel's critique of Victorian morality aligns it with Oscar Wilde's own life and public persona, marked by his eventual trial and imprisonment for "gross indecency." This biographical parallel enhances the novel's significance as both a literary and cultural artifact.

Key Features and Impact of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

- **Exploration of Moral Ambiguity:** The novel refuses to present clear-cut distinctions between good and evil, instead portraying Dorian's descent as a complex interplay of choices and influences.
- **Use of Symbolism and Imagery:** Vivid descriptions and symbolic elements enrich the narrative's layers, inviting multiple interpretations.
- **Critique of Victorian Society:** Wilde challenges the period's hypocrisy, exposing the darker undercurrents beneath its polished surface.
- **Literary Style:** The novel is renowned for its elegant prose, sharp dialogue, and memorable aphorisms, many of which have entered popular culture.

While these features contribute to the novel's acclaim, some critiques point to its occasionally exaggerated characters and moralizing tone. Nonetheless, such elements serve Wilde's broader artistic aims, reinforcing the novel's allegorical power.

The Enduring Legacy of Oscar Wilde's Novel

Decades after its publication, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* remains a subject of academic study and popular fascination. Its exploration of themes such as identity, beauty, and ethical responsibility continues to find relevance in modern discourse, especially in an age dominated by social media and visual culture.

The novel's influence extends beyond literature into psychology, philosophy, and the arts, highlighting Wilde's foresight in addressing issues that transcend his era. Contemporary adaptations and reinterpretations keep the story alive, demonstrating its flexibility and enduring appeal.

In sum, Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is not merely a tale of supernatural horror but a profound examination of human nature and societal values. Its provocative themes and stylistic

brilliance ensure its place as a cornerstone of English literature and a perpetual source of insight and inspiration.

Oscar Wilde The Picture Of Dorian Grey

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oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 1981
Spellbound before his own portrait, Dorian Gray utters a fateful wish. In exchange for eternal youth he gives his soul, to be corrupted by the malign influence of his mentor, the aesthete and hedonist Lord Henry Wotton.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 1998-06-01
Oscar Wilde's classic, alluring novel of a man so obsessed with his appearance that he sacrifices his soul for eternal youth—with an introduction by Jeffrey Eugenides Now a critically acclaimed Broadway play starring Sarah Snook! Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Fascinated by his own beautiful portrait, Dorian Gray makes a Faustian pact to exchange his soul for perpetual youth and beauty. Guided by Lord Henry Wotton, he embarks on a life of corruption, satisfying his desires while still appearing as a respectable gentleman to society. Only Dorian's portrait shows the signs of his moral decline. An insightful depiction of a hidden life and a critique of the darker facets of late Victorian society, The Picture of Dorian Gray provides a chilling portrayal of a man confronting the reality of his soul. Shocking in its implications of forbidden transgressions, this novel was later used as evidence against Oscar Wilde during his 1895 trial for indecency.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2006-08-03
Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence. The novel was a succès de scandale and the book was later used as evidence against Wilde at the Old Bailey in 1895. It has lost none of its power to fascinate and disturb.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2003-02-04
An astounding novel of decadence, debauchery, and secrecy from one of Ireland's greatest writers. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's The Great American Read Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray makes a Faustian bargain to sell his soul in exchange for eternal youth and beauty. Under the influence of Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, where he is able to indulge his desires while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only Dorian's picture bears the traces of his decadence. A knowing account of a secret life and an analysis of the darker side of late Victorian society. The Picture of Dorian Gray offers a disturbing portrait of an individual coming face to face with the reality of his soul. Shocking in its suggestion of unspeakable sin, this novel was later used as evidence against Wilde when he was tried for indecency in 1895. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and

notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 1908

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray: Oscar Wilde (Classics, Literature) Annotated Oscar Wilde, 2021-06-07 The Picture of Dorian Gray is the story of one beautiful, innocent young man's seduction, moral corruption, and eventual downfall. We meet our three central characters at the beginning of the book, when painter Basil Hallward and his close friend, Lord Henry Wotton, are discussing the subject of Basil's newest painting, a gorgeous young thing named Dorian Gray. Basil and Henry discuss just how perfectly perfect Dorian is--he's totally innocent and completely good, as well as being the most beautiful guy ever to walk the earth. Lord Henry wants to meet this mysterious boy, but Basil doesn't want him to; for some reason, he's afraid of what will happen to Dorian if Lord Henry digs his claws into him. However, Lord Henry gets his wish--Dorian shows up that very afternoon, and, over the course of the day, Henry manages to totally change Dorian's perspective on the world. From that point on, Dorian's previously innocent point of view is dramatically different--he begins to see life as Lord Henry does, as a succession of pleasures in which questions of good and evil are irrelevant. Basil finishes his portrait of Dorian, and gives it to the young man, who keeps it in his home, where he can admire his own beauty. Lord Henry continues to exert his influence over Dorian, to Basil's dismay. Dorian grows more and more distant from Basil, his former best friend, and develops his own interests. One of these interests is Sybil Vane, a young, exceptionally beautiful, exceptionally talented--and exceptionally poor--actress. Though she's stuck performing in a terrible, third-rate theatre, she's a truly remarkable artist, and her talent and beauty win over Dorian. He falls dramatically in love with her, and she with him. For a moment, it seems like everything will turn out wonderfully. However, this is just the beginning of Dorian's story. Once he and Sybil are engaged, her talent suddenly disappears--she's so overcome with her passionate love for Dorian that none of her roles on stage seem important to her anymore. This destroys Dorian's love for her, and he brutally dumps her. Back home, he notices something different in his portrait--it looks somehow crueler. In the meanwhile, the distraught Sybil commits suicide, just as Dorian decides to return to her and take back his terrible words. Sybil's suicide changes everything. At first, Dorian feels horrible... but he rather quickly changes his tune. On Lord Henry's suggestion, Dorian reads a mysterious yellow book, a decadent French novel that makes him reevaluate his whole belief system. The protagonist of the book lives his life in pursuit of sensual pleasures, which intrigues Dorian. From this moment on, Dorian is a changed man. Dorian starts to live as hedonistically as his wicked mentor, Lord Henry, does. The only thing that documents this turn for the worst is the portrait, which alarmingly begins to exhibit the inward corruption of Dorian's soul; the beautiful image changes, revealing new scars and physical flaws with each of Dorian's dastardly actions. As years pass, the man in the picture grows more and more hideous, as Dorian himself stays unnaturally young and beautiful. Rumors start to spread about the various people whose lives Dorian has ruined, and his formerly good reputation is destroyed. On Dorian's 38th birthday, he encounters Basil, who desperately asks his former friend if all the horrifying rumors about him are true. Dorian finally snaps and shows Basil the portrait, in which the horrible truth about his wicked nature is revealed. Basil recoils, and begs Dorian to pray for forgiveness. In response, Dorian murders Basil, stabbing him brutally. He blackmails another of his former friends into disposing of the body. Dorian retreats to an opium den after dealing with all of the evidence, where he encounters an enemy he didn't know he had--Sybil Vane's brother, James...

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray (annotated) Oscar

Wilde, 2015-10-10 The artist is the creator of beautiful things. To reveal art and conceal the artist is art's aim. The critic is he who can translate into another manner or a new material his impression of beautiful things.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: Portrait of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2010-02-03 This classic book is about a young man named Dorian Gray. He is the subject of a painting by artist Basil

Hallward who thinks he is very good looking, with a pure beauty. One thing leads to another and Dorian embraces a new hedonism with Basil and a new group of friends. He begins to believe that the only things worth pursuing in life are beauty, fulfillment of the senses, and pleasures of the flesh ...--

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2020-12-13 The story begins in the art studio of Basil Hallward, who is discussing a current painting with his witty and amoral friend Lord Henry Wotton. Henry thinks that the painting, a portrait of an extraordinarily beautiful young man, should be displayed, but Basil disagrees, fearing that his obsession with the portrait's subject, Dorian Gray, can be seen in the work. Dorian then arrives, and he is fascinated as Henry explains his belief that one should live life to the fullest by indulging one's impulses. Henry also points out that beauty and youth are fleeting, and Dorian declares that he would give his soul if the portrait were to grow old and wrinkled while he remained young and handsome. Basil gives the painting to Dorian.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2025-03-24 The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde is a profound exploration of vanity, morality, and the consequences of unchecked hedonism. The novel follows Dorian Gray, a young man whose extraordinary beauty is immortalized in a portrait. Under the influence of Lord Henry Wotton, Dorian embraces a life of pleasure and excess, while his portrait bears the physical and moral decay of his actions, allowing him to remain outwardly unscathed. Wilde crafts a sharp critique of aestheticism and the pursuit of eternal youth, exposing the dangers of living without ethical boundaries. Since its publication, The Picture of Dorian Gray has been celebrated for its wit, philosophical depth, and psychological complexity. The novel's exploration of duality—the conflict between appearance and reality, virtue and vice—has ensured its status as a cornerstone of Gothic and philosophical literature. Wilde's mastery of language and epigrammatic style adds layers of irony and insight, making the work as thought-provoking as it is captivating. The novel's enduring relevance lies in its timeless meditation on self-indulgence, corruption, and the price of vanity. The Picture of Dorian Gray remains a powerful reflection on the human soul, urging readers to question the cost of a life devoted solely to pleasure and the illusions that beauty and youth can sustain.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2006-10-12 Dorian Gray gives his soul for eternal youth. While his portrait changes hideously, reflecting his crimes and corruption, he remains outwardly flawless. This new edition uses the 1891 expanded text and shows how Wilde transformed his many sources. - ;'The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it.' When Dorian Gray has his portrait painted, he is captivated by his own beauty. Tempted by his world-weary, decadent friend Lord Henry Wotton, he wishes to stay forever young, and pledges his very soul to keep his good looks. Set in fin-de-si-eacute--;cle London, the novel traces a path from the studio of painter Basil Hallward to the opium dens of the East End. As Dorian's slide into crime and cruelty progresses he stays magically youthful, while his beautiful portrait changes, revealing the hideous corruption of moral decay. Ever since its first publication in 1890 Wilde's only novel has remained the subject of critical controversy. Acclaimed by some as an instructive moral tale, it has been denounced by others for its implicit immorality. Combining elements of the supernatural, aestheticism, and the Gothic, The Picture of Dorian Gray is an unclassifiable and uniquely unsettling work of fiction. - ;It seemed to be an impossible task to outdo the former edition of 'Dorian Gray' in the World's Classics series, but Bristow has achieved his goal. The quality of the explanatory notes is, simply, superb, and the introduction is succinct but informative, -

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture Of Dorian Gray - Oscar Wilde (Stage-3) Oscar Wilde, Dorian Gray is having his picture painted by Basil Hallward, who is charmed by his looks. But when Sir Henry Wotton visits and seduces Dorian into the worship of youthful beauty with an intoxicating speech, Dorian makes a wish he will live to regret: that all the marks of age will now be reflected in the portrait rather than on Dorian's own face. The stage is now set for a masterful tale about appearance, reality, art, life, truth, fiction and the burden of conscience.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2017-10-20 The Picture of Dorian Gray Dorian Gray is having his picture painted by Basil Hallward, who is charmed by his looks. But when Sir Henry Wotton visits and seduces Dorian into the worship of youthful beauty with an intoxicating speech, Dorian makes a wish he will live to regret: that all the marks of age will now be reflected in the portrait rather than on Dorian's own face. The stage is now set for a masterful tale about appearance, reality, art, life, truth, fiction and the burden of conscience. Oscar Wilde's only full-length novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray is a lasting gem of sophisticated wit and playfulness, which brings together all the best elements of his talent in a reinterpretation of the Faustian myth.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2007 From the Longman Cultural Editions series, Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray: A Longman Cultural Edition, edited by Andrew Elfenbein, presents the 1891 version of Wilde's novel with detailed annotations drawing on contemporary writings about London. It also presents a range of cultural contexts with information about the novel's first reviews, aestheticism, Victorian treatments of sexuality and science, and parodies of the novel. Handsomely produced and affordably priced, the Longman Cultural Editions series presents classic works in provocative and illuminating contexts-cultural, critical, and literary. Each Cultural Edition consists of the complete text of an important literary work, reliably edited, headed by an inviting introduction, and supplemented by helpful annotations; a table of dates to track its composition, publication, and public reception in relation to biographical, cultural and historical events; and a guide for further inquiry and study. The following Longman Cultural Editions are available now: Othello and the Tragedy of Mariam; Pride and Prejudice; Hamlet (Second Edition), Hard Times; Beowulf; King Lear; The Merchant of Venice; Northanger Abbey; Emma; A Vindication of the Rights of Woman and The Wrongs of Woman, or Maria; Heart of Darkness, the Man Who Would Be King, and Other Works on Empire; Frankenstein (Second Edition). Forthcoming titles include: The Castle of Otranto and The Man of Feeling, Keats, Wuthering Heights, and Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2. One Cultural Edition can be packaged FREE with The Longman Anthology of British Literature by Damrosch et al, or at a discount with any other Longman textbook. Longman Cultural Editions are available for sale individually or a single volume can be packaged FREE with The Longman Anthology of British Literature.

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oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde (annotated) Oscar Wilde, 2019-09-07 The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde 6000+ words book analysis Complete novel, revised version with preface by Oscar Wilde Dorian Gray is the subject of a full-length portrait in oil by Basil Hallward, an artist impressed and infatuated by Dorian's beauty; he believes that Dorian's beauty is responsible for the new mood in his art as a painter. Through Basil, Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, and he soon is enthralled by the aristocrat's hedonistic world view: that beauty and sensual fulfilment are the only things worth pursuing in life. Newly understanding that his beauty will fade, Dorian expresses the desire to sell his soul, to ensure that the picture, rather than he, will age and fade. The wish is granted, and Dorian pursues a libertine life of varied amoral experiences while staying young and beautiful; all the while, his portrait ages and records every sin.

oscar wilde the picture of dorian grey: The Picture of Dorian Gray By Oscar Wilde Illustrated (Penguin Classics) Oscar Wilde, 2021-05-06 The Picture of Dorian Gray is a Gothic and philosophical novel by Oscar Wilde, first published complete in the July 1890 issue of Lippincott's Monthly Magazine. Fearing the story was indecent, the magazine's editor deleted roughly five hundred words before publication without Wilde's knowledge. Despite that censorship, The Picture of Dorian Gray

offended the moral sensibilities of British book reviewers, some of whom said that Oscar Wilde merited prosecution for violating the laws guarding public morality. In response, Wilde aggressively defended his novel and art in correspondence with the British press, although he personally made excisions of some of the most controversial material when revising and lengthening the story for book publication the following year.

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