



lingoda

# The Picture of Dorian Gray

READING

LEVEL  
Advanced

NUMBER  
C1\_1047R\_EN

LANGUAGE  
English





## Goals

- Can read and understand a literary excerpt from *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
- Can relate ideas of art and beauty to literature and develop my own ideas and opinions on the relationship.



Oscar Wilde was an Irish writer known for his **witty** plays, poems and poetry. The Picture of Dorian Gray is one of his most famous works. It tells of the story of an artist who paints a beautiful man, but the painting is not quite what it seems...



## Reading habits



Do you enjoy reading? What kind of books do you read? What was the last book you read? How many books have you read so far this month?



## Literary genres

Look at the literary genres below. What are the hallmarks of each genre? Do you like reading these kind of books? Why (not)?

romance

crime

non-fiction

satire



His name is Oscar Wilde and he...

**What do you  
know about  
Oscar Wilde?**

writer

Irish

Victorian era



## The Picture of Dorian Gray

The studio was filled with the rich odour of roses, and when the light summer wind stirred amidst the trees of the garden there came through the open door the heavy scent of the lilac, or the more delicate perfume of the pink-flowering thorn.

From the corner of the divan of Persian saddle-bags on which he was lying, smoking, as usual, innumerable cigarettes, Lord Henry Wotton could just catch the gleam of the honey-sweet and honey-coloured blossoms of the laburnum, whose tremulous branches seemed hardly able to bear the burden of a beauty so flame-like as theirs; and now and then the fantastic shadows of birds in flight flitted across the long tussore-silk curtains that were stretched in front of the huge window, producing a kind of momentary Japanese effect, and making him think of those pallid jade-faced painters who, in an art that is necessarily immobile, seek to convey the sense of swiftness and motion.



## The Picture of Dorian Gray



The sullen murmur of the bees shouldering their way through the long unmown grass, or circling with monotonous insistence round the black-crocketed spires of the early June hollyhocks, seemed to make the stillness more oppressive, and the dim roar of London was like the bourdon note of a distant organ.

In the centre of the room, clamped to an upright easel, stood the full-length portrait of a young man of extraordinary personal beauty, and in front of it, some little distance away, was sitting the artist himself, Basil Hallward, whose sudden disappearance some years ago caused, at the time, such public excitement, and gave rise to so many strange conjectures.





## Review new vocabulary with your teacher

scent

gleam

tremulous

flit

clamp

sullen



## Adjectives

Look at the text again with your teacher.



1

Take a moment to highlight all the adjectives you can find in the text.  
List the new adjectives.



## Adjectives

Now make your own sentences.



1

Take a moment to highlight all the adjectives you can find in the text, list the new adjectives.



2

Make your own sentence with each new adjective.



# Adjectives

**Look around you!**



**1**

Take a moment to highlight all the adjectives you can find in the text, list the new adjectives

**2**

Make your own sentence with each new adjective.

**3**

Now look around you, can you describe the room you're in now? Use as much detail as possible!



## The Picture of Dorian Gray

As he looked at the gracious and comely form he had so skilfully mirrored in his art, a smile of pleasure passed across his face, and seemed about to linger there. But he suddenly started up, and, closing his eyes, placed his fingers upon the lids, as though he sought to imprison within his brain some curious dream from which he feared he might awake.

"It is your best work, Basil, the best thing you have ever done," said Lord Henry, languidly. "You must certainly send it next year to the Grosvenor. The Academy is too large and too vulgar. The Grosvenor is the only place."

"I don't think I will send it anywhere," he answered, tossing his head back in that odd way that used to make his friends laugh at him at Oxford. "No: I won't send it anywhere."

Lord Henry elevated his eyebrows, and looked at him in amazement through the thin blue wreaths of smoke that curled up in such fanciful whorls from his heavy opium-tainted cigarette.



## The Picture of Dorian Gray

"Not send it anywhere? My dear fellow, why? Have you any reason? What odd chaps you painters are! You do anything in the world to gain a reputation. As soon as you have one, you seem to want to throw it away. It is silly of you, for there is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about. A portrait like this would set you far above all the young men in England, and make the old men quite jealous, if old men are ever capable of any emotion."



## The Picture of Dorian Gray



"I know you will laugh at me," he replied, "but I really can't exhibit it. I have put too much of myself into it."

Lord Henry stretched his long legs out on the divan and shook with laughter.

"Yes, I knew you would laugh; but it is quite true, all the same."



## Vocabulary Review

comely

to linger

vulgar

wreath of smoke

whorl

to set yourself  
above someone





## Quick review

Check your understanding of the text. Can you summarise what has happened so far to your teacher? Remember to include details about setting, plot and characters.



## Character descriptions

**What do we know so far about these two main characters? How would you describe them? List facts and character traits. Do you like them?**

Basil

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Lord Henry

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## What about you?

Which of the characters would you invite to a dinner party at your house, Basil or Lord Henry? Why? Use the lists of traits you built in the last activity to help explain your answer.





## The Picture of Dorian Gray

"Too much of yourself in it! Upon my word, Basil, I didn't know you were so vain; and I really can't see any resemblance between you, with your rugged strong face and your coal-black hair, and this young Adonis, who looks as if he was made of ivory and rose-leaves. Why, my dear Basil, he is a Narcissus, and you – well, of course you have an intellectual expression, and all that. But beauty, real beauty, ends where an intellectual expression begins. Intellect is in itself an exaggeration, and destroys the harmony of any face. The moment one sits down to think, one becomes all nose, or all forehead, or something horrid. Look at the successful men in any of the learned professions. How perfectly hideous they are! Except, of course, in the Church. But then in the Church they don't think. A bishop keeps on saying at the age of eighty what he was told to say when he was a boy of eighteen, and consequently he always looks absolutely delightful.



## The Picture of Dorian Gray

Your mysterious young friend, whose name you have never told me, but whose picture really fascinates me, never thinks. I feel quite sure of that. He is a brainless, beautiful thing, who should be always here in winter when we have no flowers to look at, and always here in summer when we want something to chill our intelligence. Don't flatter yourself, Basil: you are not in the least like him."

"You don't understand me, Harry. Of course I am not like him. I know that perfectly well. Indeed, I should be sorry to look like him. You shrug your shoulders? I am telling you the truth.



## The Picture of Dorian Gray



There is a fatality about all physical and intellectual distinction, the sort of fatality that seems to dog through history the faltering steps of kings. It is better not to be different from one's fellows. The ugly and the stupid have the best of it in this world. They can sit quietly and gape at the play. If they know nothing of victory, they are at least spared the knowledge of defeat. They live as we all should live, undisturbed, indifferent, and without disquiet. They neither bring ruin upon others nor ever receive it from alien hands.



## The Picture of Dorian Gray

Your rank and wealth, Harry; my brains, such as they are, – my fame, whatever it may be worth; Dorian Gray's good looks, – we will all suffer for what the gods have given us, suffer terribly."

"Dorian Gray? is that his name?" said Lord Henry, walking across the studio towards Basil Hallward.

"Yes; that is his name. I didn't intend to tell it to you."



## Vocabulary review

vain

rugged

chill

shrug

gape

rank





## Find the synonyms for words from the text

<b>to elevate</b>	<b>rough</b>
<b>vain</b>	<b>stare</b>
<b>rugged</b>	<b>position</b>
<b>to give rise to</b>	<b>arrogant</b>
<b>rank</b>	<b>to throw</b>
<b>hideous</b>	<b>worry</b>
<b>disquiet</b>	<b>to raise</b>
<b>to toss</b>	<b>ugly</b>
<b>gape</b>	<b>to cause</b>





## Close reading



Basil and Lord Henry speak about beauty. Can you summarise their opinions on beauty? In what ways do they disagree?

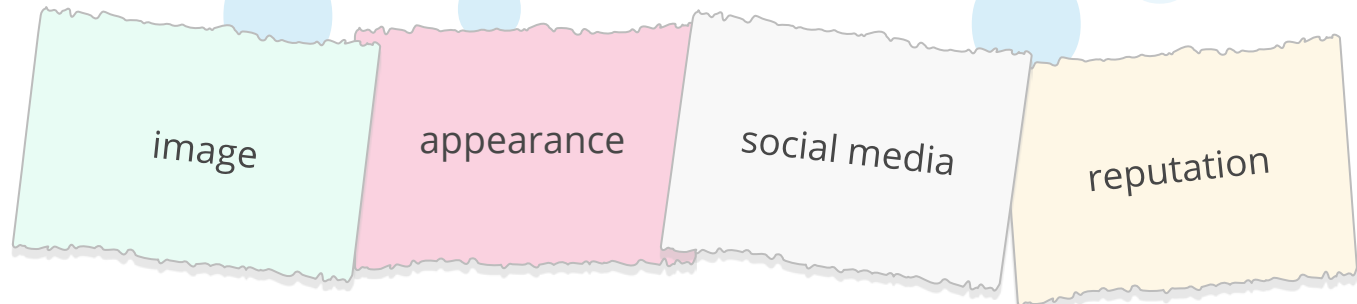
Who do you agree with? Why?



And today?

**The discussion between Basil and Lord Henry raises questions about aesthetics and the importance of beauty.**

**What do you think of their discussion in relation to society today? How much emphasis do we place on personal beauty and on having beautiful, perfect lives?**





## What does beauty mean to you?

What does beauty mean to you? Write a few lines (150 words) on this question. Use the pictures below for inspiration if you get stuck.



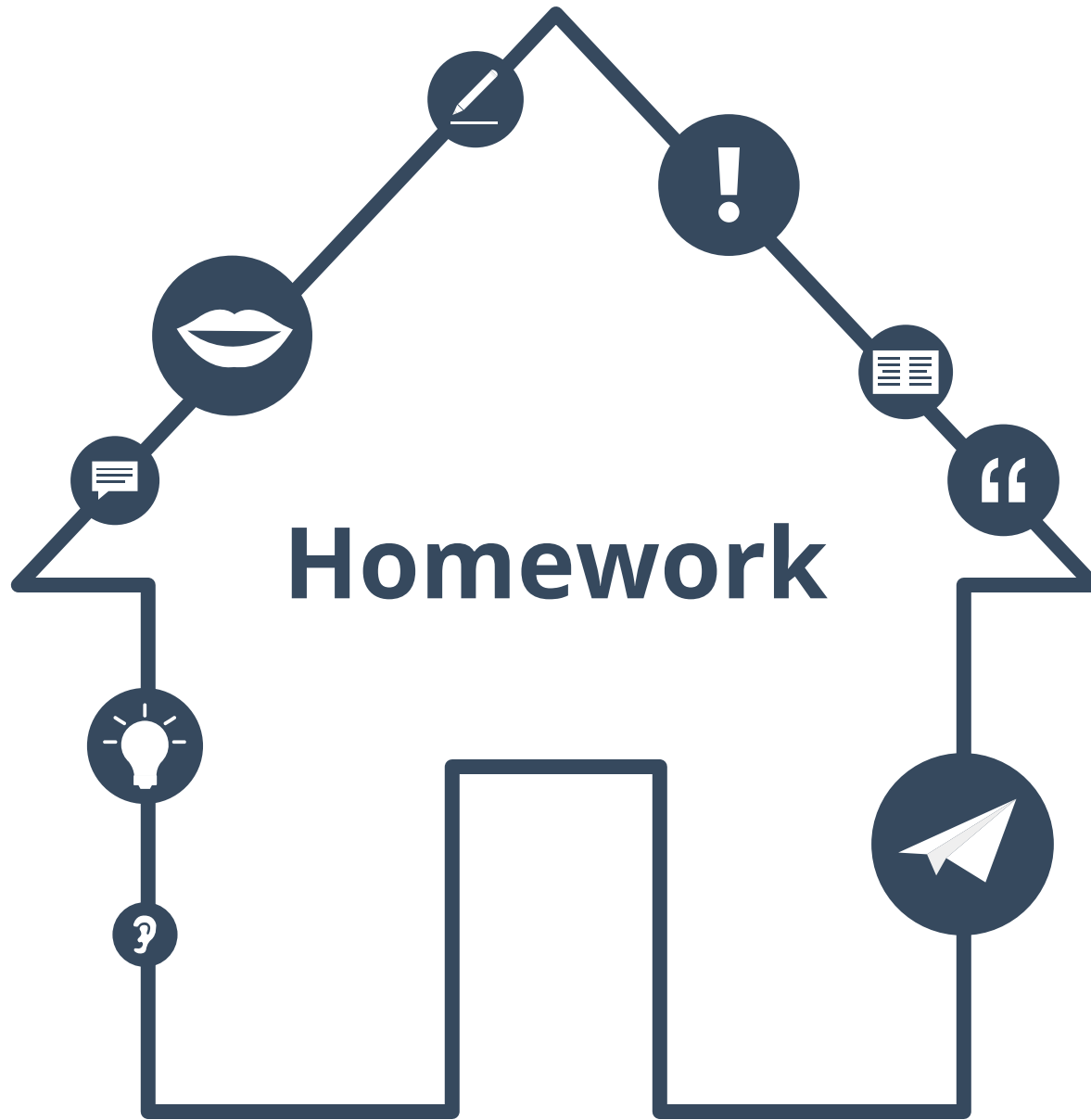


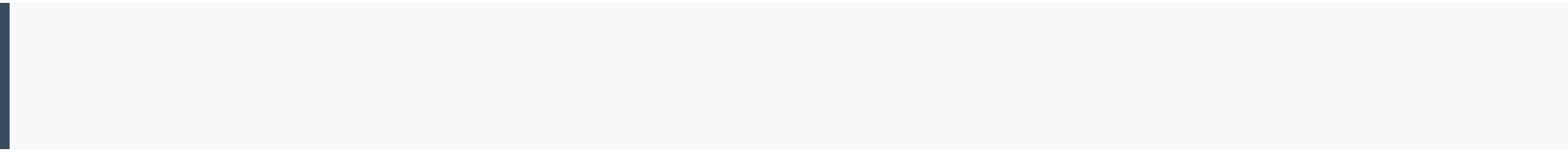
## Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

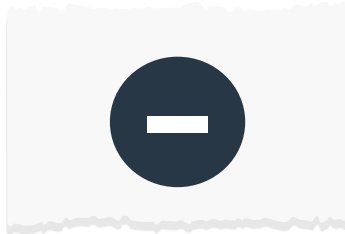
Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







**How did you find this lesson? Which parts were the most challenging? Which bits did you find easiest?**

A vertical notepad with a white background and horizontal lines. The left edge features a series of circular punch holes, suggesting it is part of a binder.



Write a text summarising the extract you read in your own words.







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