

## BOOK REVIEW THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

“The picture of Dorian Gray”, written in 1890 by Oscar Wilde, is set in Great Britain during the Victorian age. The story takes place both in London and in the countryside and both in the rich and the poor part of London.

One of the main characters is Dorian Gray. He was a handsome, young, rich and innocent man. Till he met Lord Henry Wotton, an intelligent and clever man, with strange but interesting ideas. Lord Henry is introduced to Dorian by another main character, Basil Hallward, the artist. In fact they met while Basil was completing the picture of Dorian, the best creation that he had ever done. It was so well done, that Dorian, looking at it, said “I wish that I could always stay young and that picture could grow old”. And so that happened, even if no one understood it. However, his feelings changed: he didn’t care about hurting people and he pushed Sybil Vane to commit suicide.

Will someone stop Dorian and save him from his and Henry craziness?

You have to read the book to find that out. I really recommend this book, because it’s quite funny, a bit shocking and you won’t get bored!

(Jasmine Marini)

### THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

*“The picture of Dorian Gray” was the first novel of Oscar Wilde and it was written in 1890. Wilde was one of the most successful playwrights of this period. This story take place in London in the Victorian period.*

*The main characters are Basil Hallward, Dorian Gray and Lord Henry. Basil was an artist of the period and he painted a portrait of a young beautiful rich man, Dorian Gray. Lord Henry was a friend of the artist and he was rich too. Basil didn’t want to put his paint in a museum or in a gallery because there are too much emotions in it. So Dorian took the portrait to his home and, in the course of the story, he became friendly with Lord Henry. The young man entered to a world where it was better to be beautiful than to be good. So he hoped that he would stay young for ever and he would like the portrait to get old instead. His wish became true: he stayed young for ever instead the picture got older and older... In the course of the novel Dorian became a famous man, but people were scared of him because they said that he had a very dangerous personality.*

*The book is beautifully written because it has a simple style and can catch the attention of the reader with a lot of suspense. I like this book, it isn’t too long and it is enjoyable. I want to recommend this novel to anyone who likes thrilling and interesting story.*

(Adela Becic)

Book Talk THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

Letter to a character to another: Basil Hallward writes to Lord Henry Wotton some days after their meeting together.

Dear Lord Henry Wotton,

My friend, have you seen what is happening to Dorian?

I have noticed that Dorian has changed... very quickly... what have you done? He's not the young gentleman that I saw the last time.

He goes to my house less frequently after your meeting, he became rude, arrogant and he broke up with his girlfriend because you decided for him what is the best for his life... Fool.

Your advice can't be useful to Dorian; he's too young and your vision of life is too much negative.

Why can't he make his own decisions, take responsibility and correct them by himself?

I hope only that he'll change his opinions as soon as possible... I can't know what will happen to him in the future days.

I have only a request for you as a friend: please, you have done this mistake and you must fix it.

For Dorian's sake, do your best to change his opinions of life or I will do this by myself and you must stay away from him.

You know me better than Dorian so think carefully...

I hope you will take the right decision.

Your friend,

*Basil Hallward*

(Luca Comaretti)

## BOOK TALK THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

I focused on the tragic part of the story and I wrote a letter from Sybil to Dorian before she kills herself.

*Dear Dorian,*

*Before getting you to know, I thought theatre was all my life. I could change, be every night a different person. I could understand other people's feelings and i believed everyone. I was innocent, but at the same time it was as if I hadn't ever had real feelings. I was like a child afraid of living life. But then you arrived and everything has changed. You made me free from my prison. You taught me what real life is. And as soon as you did it, I could not say other words to explain what love is. Tonight I could find better words for love.*

*And that's all because of you.*

*Acting makes me sick, unreal, because you game me something that makes me real, complete, a better person. Maybe I won't be able to act anymore, because my love for you is too strong.*

*What if I won't be able to stay away from you? Can a person live continuously together with another one? I really hope so, or I won't be able to survive in this world. Because you are my world.*

*Oh, Dorian, you made me understand what love is.*

*When I went on stage tonight, I could not understand where my ability had gone. I thought that I could be amazing, wonderful, special. But then I realized that I wasn't able to do anything. My acting was terrible and I suddenly understood the reason of that. How could Shakespeare know my feelings for you? I hate acting. Being another person.*

*But then, when your words came out from your lips and I realized that you didn't love me anymore; all my life had no meaning anymore. Anyway, I don't blame you. You're perfect, you deserve a better wife. So with this letter, I'd like to explain what's going to happen. I'll run to the bridge and I'll jump into the river. I hope I don't survive, because surviving without you is not living.*

*I hope that you'll have a nice life without me, because everything that I've done is for you. I'll always love you.*

*Sybil*