

**English 4 Honors
Prerequisite Reading Assignment for 2018-2019**

You will be reading *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

For *The Picture of Dorian Gray*:

1. **Attached Chapter Questions:**

Write your answers neatly on the question sheets. Answer the questions specifically, not generally. Some questions ask you to quote from the novel. Include page numbers for quotes.

2. **Attached Vocabulary List:**

Write a sentence with each of the vocabulary words **in the context of the novel** (“In context” means to use the characters’ names, setting, etc.).
You may type these.

Due Date:

These assignments are due on the first day of class.

*******You will have a reading quiz on the novel during our 2nd class.**

If you have a question, please do not hesitate to e-mail me:

jtownsend@g.oconee.k12.sc.us.

1. conjectural (adj.) – hypothetical, unproven
2. languidly (adv.) – spiritlessly
3. cynicism (noun) – skepticism
4. truculent (adj.) – belligerent, savagely brutal
5. enmity (noun) – animosity, hatred
6. proletariat (noun) – working class, common people
7. petulant (adj.) – irritable, pouty, sullen
8. philanthropy (noun) – charity
9. paradox (noun) – contradiction
10. caprice (noun) – whim
11. panegyric (noun) – speech of elaborate praise
12. candor (noun) – frankness
13. fidelity (noun) – faithfulness
14. physiology (noun) – biology
15. indolence (noun) – laziness
16. aristocratic (noun) – refined
17. dandy (noun) – man who cares much about his appearance
18. subaltern (adj.) – inferior
19. lucrative (adj.) – profitable
20. aphorism (noun) – epigram; short, truthful saying
21. munificent (adj.) – generous
22. consummate (adj. or verb) – complete or to complete
23. crucible (noun) – trial
24. turbid (adj.) – muddy
25. animalism (noun) – bestial, only caring about physical appetites
26. querulous – (adj.) complaining in a whiny or petulant (pouty) manner
27. affectation – (noun) behavior or speech that is artificial and designed to impress
28. infatuation – (noun) A foolish, unreasonable, or extravagant passion or attraction
29. spiritualize – (noun) elevate or idealize; give a spiritual meaning to
30. anodyne – (noun) something used to relieve pain
31. absolution – (noun) freeing from guilt or sin
32. misanthrope – (noun) a person who hates or distrusts mankind
33. tawdry – (adj.) gaudy, showy, or cheap
34. dogma – (noun) A teaching or set of teachings laid down by a religious group
Note : The term *dogma* is often applied to statements put forward by someone who thinks, inappropriately, that they should be accepted without proof.
35. melodrama – (noun) a drama that exaggerates emotion and emphasizes plot or action at the expense of characterization (today - soap operas)
36. incorrigible – (adj.) willful, unruly, uncontrollable
37. florid – (adj.) reddish, ruddy; flowery, showy, ornate
38. espial (noun) – the act of spying, keeping watch, or observing
39. conjugal (adj.) – relating to marriage or the relationship between a husband and wife
40. solicitor (noun) – one who solicits; an attorney, lawyer
41. profanation (noun) – the act of defilement or desecration, blasphemy
42. affinity (noun) - a natural liking for or attraction to a person, thing, or idea
43. cognizance – (noun) awareness, realization, knowledge, perception

44. renunciation – (noun) an act or instance of relinquishing, abandoning, repudiating, or sacrificing something, as a right, title, person, or ambition
45. profligacy – (noun) reckless extravagance
46. calumny – (noun) a false and malicious statement designed to injure the reputation of someone or something
47. fetid – (adj.) having an offensive odor, stinky
48. garrulous – (adj.) excessive talking in a rambling manner
49. pathos - (noun) arousing strong feelings of sympathy, pity, or compassions
50. poignant – (adj.) sharply distressing or painful
51. ague – (noun) a fever with chills
52. pecuniary/impecunious – (adj.) pertaining to money / penniless, poor
53. ennui – (noun) weariness, lack of interest, boredom
54. obsequious - (adj.) obedient or attentive in a servile manner
55. vestige – (noun) very small trace of something (that no longer exists)
56. iteration, iterate, reiterate – (noun) a repetition, to repeat
57. inordinate – (adj.) not within reasonable limits, excessive

Chapter 1

1. Identify the following: Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward, Lord Henry Wotton.
2. What is Basil Hallward's latest "creation"?
3. How does Basil view his profession, his gift?
4. What are his feelings about the portrait and its subject?
5. What is Lord Henry's reaction to the portrait?
6. What are Basil's concerns about Lord Henry's meeting Dorian Gray?

Chapter 2

1. How does Lord Henry react to Dorian Gray?
2. How is Dorian physically described? (**Quote**)
3. What effect does Lord Henry have on Dorian?
4. What does Lord Henry say are the two things that govern us and why? (**Quote**)
Agree or disagree – why?
5. How does Dorian react to the portrait of himself? What does this indicate about him?
6. **Quote** the vow Dorian Gray makes after viewing his portrait.
7. Compare and contrast Lord Henry and Basil.

Chapter 3

8. What information does Lord Henry discover about Dorian's parentage, and what is its effect on Dorian? **Give specifics.**

9. Explain the decision Lord Henry makes concerning Dorian and how he begins to accomplish this.

10. How does Lord Henry suggest that a person can regain his or her youth?

Chapter 4

11. Examine the relationship between Lord Henry and his wife, Victoria, and compare with the relationship between Lord Henry and Dorian.

12. Describe Sibyl Vane (**quote**), Dorian's revelation of his love for her, and how Lord Henry feels about the relationship.

13. Analyze Lord Henry's view of women, men, and fidelity. (**Quote about marriage**)

14. Analyze the change in the relationship between Dorian and Basil

Chapter 5

15. Identify members of Sibyl Vane's family and analyze their interrelationships.

16. Examine the reactions of Sibyl, Mrs. Vane, and Jim toward Dorian.

17. "Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them." Agree or disagree – why?

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Chapters 6 and 7

1. Discuss the reaction of Basil and Lord Henry to Dorian's announced engagement to Sibyl.
2. How does Dorian describe Sibyl? **(Quote)** What is significant about his description?
3. Discuss what Dorian reveals about his feelings for Sibyl and Lord Henry's response.
4. Explain the effects of Sibyl's performance in *Romeo and Julie* the night Basil and Lord Henry go to see her.
5. Discuss the significance of the changes in Dorian's portrait after his confrontation with Sibyl and the effect on him.

(OVER)

Chapters 10 and 11

1. Analyze Dorian's concealment of the portrait and the meaning of the sentence, "What the worm was to the corpse, his sins would be to the painted image on the canvas."
2. Discuss the yellow book Lord Henry sends to Dorian.
3. Examine the two sides of Dorian and the effect of his decline on the portrait.
4. Identify and discuss the significance of the variety of things with which Dorian attempts to satisfy his worship of the senses.
5. Analyze why Dorian is drawn to the power of the jewels and what they symbolize.
6. Examine the overpowering fear that grips Dorian and the influence the yellow book has on him.

Chapters 12 and 13

1. Retell Dorian's fateful meeting with Basil from beginning to end.

2. Examine the cause and effect of Basil's viewing of Dorian's "soul."

Chapter 14

1. Examine the effect of Basil's death on Dorian and the significance of his reaction.

2. Discuss Dorian's acquaintance with Alan Campbell and its significance to the plot.

3. Retell the part about Alan's visit to Dorian.

4. Analyze the symbolism of what Dorian sees in the portrait after he murders Basil.

Chapters 15 and 16

1. Discuss the significance of the dinner party Dorian attends. What does Dorian do when he returns home?
2. Analyze the irony of Lady Narborough's statement to Dorian, "Lord Henry is very wicked. . .but you are made to be good – you look so good."
3. Study Dorian's application of the notion, "To cure the soul by means of the senses, and the senses by means of the soul."
4. Discuss Dorian's visit to the opium den. Whom does he see there?
5. Discuss the effect when the woman calls Dorian "Prince Charming" and examine the resulting events.

Chapters 17 and 18

1. Analyze why Dorian calls Lord Henry "Prince Paradox."
2. Discuss Lord Henry's views of art, love, and religion and whether or not these views make him a skeptic.
3. Summarize the events of Selby and examine their significance to the plot.
4. Analyze Lord Henry's reaction to the accidental shooting of what is presumed to be a "beater" and what this reveals about him. Contrast his reaction with Dorian's.

Chapters 19 and 20

1. Discuss Dorian's resolution and analyze his self-righteousness. Can Dorian reform?
2. What happens to Alan Campbell? Why do you think this happens?
3. Analyze Dorian and Lord Henry's conversation about Basil.
4. Analyze Lord Henry's reference to, "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Discuss Dorian's response.
5. Examine Lord Henry's discourse on life, and Dorian's response.
6. Analyze Dorian's summation of his life and the implications.
7. Analyze Dorian's reaction to his final viewing of the portrait and what this leads him to do. What actually happens in the final scene?