

Title: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

(Published in 1891)

Approved for use in

Summary of the Work:

The Picture of Dorian Gray is about influence, youth, beauty, upper class society, and art. Dorian Gray is the subject of a portrait by Basil Hallward, a painter who is enthralled by Dorian's youthful beauty. Through Basil, Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, who introduces him to hedonism and aestheticism. When Lord Henry warns Dorian that his beauty will fade, Dorian wishes to trade places with the picture, so that the painting ages while he maintains his youth. The wish is granted, and, as Dorian engages in a decadent, amoral lifestyle, the portrait reveals the corruption of his soul.

Rationale:

The Picture of Dorian Gray is an excellent novel for both English IV: Gothic/Horror Literature and English Lit 110 (Dual Credit). It navigates human nature and moral dilemmas with challenging text and technical craft. Oscar Wilde was an Irish poet and playwright considered as the "the master of paradox," according to the MLA.org. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of the most popular playwrights in London in the early 1890s. Wilde wrote at a pivotal moment between the Victorian period and Modernism, and his work is sometimes considered visionary of the postmodern age. His writing greatly influenced British, Irish and American literature. He is now taught in a variety of university courses: in literature, theater, psychology, criticism, Irish studies, cultural studies, and gender studies.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

Student will also be reading, annotating, reviewing and discussing Scholarly articles including:

"The Conflict Between Aestheticism and Morality in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Patrick Duggan

"The Supernatural Side in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*" by Jean S. Nounadonde

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

Noted Distinction:

Readability:

- Lexile Score: 920
- Readability Level: Grade 11 – 12

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment: [\(link\)](#)

Approval:

Submitted to Committee: 2021

Approved for Adoption:

Notes on the Text:

(The best way to evaluate and understand a novel is to personally read the book in its entirety.)

There was some early controversy with the novel at its time of publication. The moral dilemmas presented were in direct conflict with societal rules. Wilde used *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as his autobiography claiming, "Basil Hallward is what I think I am: Lord Henry what the world thinks me: Dorian what I would like to be- in other ages perhaps." Not only was this book banned because of the sexual undertones, it eventually helped send Wilde to a couple of years of imprisonment.

Connection to the Curriculum: Objectives

- ☐ Recognize and analyze how the author reflects society.
- ☐ Evaluate Dorian Gray's values of youth and beauty.
- ☐ Examine the dark and light sides of human nature and relate these to the characters of Basil and Lord Henry.
- ☐ Understand the structure and elements of Aestheticism and the Gothic horror novel.
- ☐ Relate Wilde's theory of art to the artistic elements in the novel.
- ☐ Understand the symbolism and themes portrayed in the novel.
- ☐ Annotate and analyze challenging text.
- ☐ Identify and interpret both allusion and aphorism.

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<p>Additional Connections: <i>(AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)</i></p> <p>Graphic Novel available</p>	