

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

- 1** Lord Henry Wotton and Basil Hallward. Lord Henry and Basil are good friends. They studied at Oxford University together. They are both about thirty years old. Basil works hard and is a well-known artist. Lord Henry does not work at all. He is rich. He spends his money on expensive food and clothes, and on valuable books and paintings. His friends call him Harry. **2** He does not want to show the portrait because he thinks he has shown too much of himself in it. **3** Because he thinks that Harry will try to change Dorian. He thinks that Harry's influence will be bad.
- 2** **1** He is about twenty and he is very beautiful. He has blond hair and a pale face. His eyes are bright blue. **2** 'You must enjoy life – the good things and the evil things. You must not worry about what other people think.' **3** He says that Dorian must take care of his beauty while he is young. He says that one day Dorian will be old and he will not be beautiful anymore.
- 3** **1** At first, he is pleased. **2** He feels sad because he will be old one day. But the picture will always be young. **3** He wishes that he could always be young and that the picture could grow old instead of him. **4** (a) To destroy the painting. (b) He pulls the knife from Basil's hand.
- 4** **1** He talks, laughs and plays games with words. He says clever things and dangerous things. He wants to influence Dorian. **2** An actress called Sibyl Vane. **3** To meet at the theatre where Sibyl is acting. **4** That Dorian is engaged to be married to Sibyl Vane.
- 5** **1** She is worried about Sibyl because she has fallen in love. And she is worried about James because he is going to Australia. **2** He is angry because Sibyl is in love with a rich young man. But she does not even know this man's name. James thinks the young man will hurt Sibyl. **3** Prince Charming. **4** He wishes he had seen Dorian because he will kill him if he hurts Sibyl.
- 6** **1** Sibyl acts very badly. The audience starts to shout at the actors. Some people leave the theatre. **2** They leave the theatre. **3** He sits in a chair and puts his head in his arms. He says that Sibyl has killed his love for her. He thinks she is boring and stupid. He says he does not want to see her again.
- 7** **1** He sees that the face in the portrait has changed. **2** He remembers his wish and thinks that it is coming true. That is why it is changing. **3** He decides not to open it because he does not want to see Harry again. He thinks Harry has made him cruel. **4** He wants to see if the picture really has changed. **5** The picture is showing him that he is evil.
- 8** **1** That Sibyl was dead. She had drunk some poison. **2** Student's own answers. **3** He decides to enjoy life and to do everything he wants, and not to care about other people.
- 9** **1** He comes because he is worried about Dorian. **2** It has
- changed. He does not want anyone to see it. **3** He wants to show it in a gallery in Paris. **4** He tells two servants to put the portrait in a small room in the attic, then locks the door.
- 10** **1** (a) He is still beautiful. And he still looks young. (b) The face in the picture is old, ugly and wrinkled. It looks very, very evil. **2** He is worried because he is unhappy now. Some people will not speak to him. And other people leave the room when he enters. He is worried that that someone will find out the truth about him and that someone will see the picture. **3** He meets Basil. Basil is going to Paris for six months. He has heard terrible things about Dorian. He wants to talk to Dorian about them.
- 11** **1** He has been asking Dorian if he is an evil man. **2** Basil has said that nobody can see another man's soul. Dorian is going to show him the portrait. Then he will see Dorian's soul. **3** He looks at the terrible face in the picture. It is smiling at him. He picks up a knife and he pushes it into Basil's neck. He stabs Basil again and again. **4** He knows that nobody has seen him arrive home. He goes out and shuts the door. Then he rings the bell and wakes his servant. He says he has been out and asks if anyone has called. The servant says that Basil has called and gone away again to catch his train. Now nobody will know that Dorian has seen Basil. No one will know that he has killed Basil.
- 12** **1** He puts one letter in his pocket. And he tells his servant to take the other letter to Alan Campbell's house. **2** He is a very clever scientist. He used to be Dorian's friend. Dorian asks him to destroy Basil's body. **3** The picture has changed again. There is now blood on the hands.
- 13** **1** He burns Basil's coat and suitcase. Then he goes out and finds a cab. **2** Because he wants to smoke some opium. It will help him forget everything. **3** (a) The man is Sibyl Vane's brother. He has been looking for Dorian. He wants to kill him. (b) He has heard the woman call Dorian 'Prince Charming'. He knows that that is what Sibyl called Dorian. **4** She tells him that she first saw Dorian seventeen years before. She says that he has not changed since then.
- 14** **1** At Dorian's house in the country. **2** Dorian has fainted in the next room. **3** One of the guests shoots at something among the trees. There is a cry of a man in pain. Dorian and his guests find the man. He is dead. **4** He is James Vane. Dorian is happy because James Vane cannot kill him now.
- 15** **1** No. **2** He wants to change his life. He wants to be good. He thinks he has been good to Hetty. He wants to see if the picture is changing again. He wants to see if it looks kinder. **3** That he can never change. That he will always be evil. **4** Student's own answer. Student should mention that Dorian wants to kill the painting. So perhaps he pushes the knife into the painting, but dies himself. Or perhaps he changes his mind and stabs himself. (The story is deliberately ambiguous.) **5** A picture of Dorian as a beautiful young man. And the dead body of an old, ugly, wrinkled man. He has an evil face. And there is a knife in his heart.