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Reflections:

A Student Response Journal for...

The Picture of Dorian Gray

by Oscar Wilde

written by Nicole Guertin

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The Picture of Dorian Gray

To The Teacher

In order to allow the teacher maximum flexibility in his or her approach, we have grouped the prompts by sections. The teacher may, therefore, assign specific prompts or allow the students to select one or more prompts from each section

For *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, we also have these materials:

Book
Teaching Unit
Audio
Video

See our catalogue, visit our web site at www.prestwickhouse.com, or call 1-800-932-4593 for more information.

Note to Teacher: this novel contains descriptions of suicide, murder, blackmail and drug use.

Response Journal

To The Student

Although we may read a novel, play, or work of non-fiction for enjoyment, each time we read one, we are building and practicing important basic reading skills. In our ever-more complex society, in which reading has become more and more crucial for success, this, in itself, is an important reason to spend time reading for enjoyment.

Some readers, however, are able to go beyond basic reading techniques and are able to practice higher thinking skills by reflecting on what they have read and how what they read affects them. It is this act of reflection—that is, stopping to think about what you are reading—that this journal is attempting to encourage.

To aid you, we have included writing prompts for each section; however, if you find something that you wish to respond to in the book more compelling than our prompts, you should write about that. We hope you enjoy reading this book and that the act of responding to what you have read increases this enjoyment.

After you read the indicated sections, choose the questions to which you will respond. Keep in mind that there are no right or wrong answers to these prompts, and there is no one direction in which you must go.

The Preface

1. Oscar Wilde wrote this preface to respond to critics who said that the novel lacked a moral message. How do you generally respond when someone criticizes you? Reflect on a time when you received criticism for something you did or said or wrote. Write a letter in response to your critic either defending yourself or explaining your perspective on the event in question.

2. The Preface is made up of a series of epigrams – short, witty statements that often seek to make their points through contrast – for example, “Crying is the refuge of plain women but the ruin of pretty ones.” Choose one of the epigrams from The Preface with which you strongly agree or disagree. Write a paragraph in which you explain why you agree or disagree with Wilde’s point of view in this epigram.

Chapter 1

3. Lord Henry Wotton's speech is characterized by epigrams. Consider his assertion that "...there is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about." Based on your personal experiences, would you tend to agree or to disagree with Lord Henry? Write an opinion column for your school newspaper in which you explain your perspective. Try to come up with a catchy title for your article.
4. Lord Henry asserts that "it is better not to be different from one's fellows," saying that those who have extraordinary qualities of any kind (good looks, athletic abilities, fame, wealth, intelligence, creativity or artistic expression) will "suffer terribly." Make a list of people you know or know of who fit one of those categories. Then, try to imagine what kind of suffering they might experience as a result of being different – even in a positive way.

People with Extraordinary Characteristics

Possible Suffering

5. "You know we poor artists have to show ourselves in society from time to time, just to remind the public that we are not savages. With an evening coat and a white tie, as you told me once, anybody, even a stock-broker, can gain a reputation for being civilized," Basil explains to Lord Henry. Consider your own life. Write a paragraph about something you have to do – perhaps on a regular basis, even – that you don't want to do or that just isn't "you" in order to please someone else or to appear to be respectable or presentable.

The Picture of Dorian Gray

6. Dorian Gray is merely a very handsome, wealthy young man – no one famous – but when Basil Hallward meets Gray for the first time, Basil explains that “a curious sensation of terror came over” him. He felt that Gray’s personality alone was so fascinating that it could completely “absorb” him.

Who is the most fascinating, non-famous person you have ever met? Write a one-page description of the person, the encounter and what was so fascinating to you. Or, write a one-page description of a non-famous person you would most like to meet and why.

7. Lord Henry asserts that “Genius lasts longer than Beauty.” Would you rather have extraordinary beauty or a kind of genius (intellectual, artistic, musical, athletic, etc.)? Write a response to Lord Henry in which you first, agree or disagree with him and second, explain which you would rather have (genius or beauty) and why.
8. Lord Henry says that “the thoroughly well-informed man” is his society’s “modern ideal.” Imagine that you are applying to be the “modern ideal” of a man or woman in our time. What personality traits, skills, life experiences, education, and employment history would you have to possess?

Write a resume in which you list the qualities you believe an ideal man or woman in our time must have. In the references section, list 2-4 real people whom you consider to be “ideal.”

Chapter II

9. Lord Henry Wotton delights in expressing unconventional, even scandalous viewpoints and in seeing their effect on others around him. His speech is peppered with epigrams: for example, “The bravest man among us is afraid of himself.” Keep a list of the epigrammatic statements Lord Henry makes in this chapter. Then, explain in a few sentences what you think he means by each one.

Lord Henry’s Epigrams

Meanings

10. Dorian is so moved by the beauty of the portrait Basil has painted of him that he cannot stand the reality that he will grow older while the portrait will remain as youthful looking as when it was first painted. It will mock him, he claims, in his old age.

Look at a photo of yourself, your family, or a friend taken several months or years ago. Do you understand at all Dorian’s reaction to his portrait? Do you share any of the same feelings of regret or loss when you look at pictures from the past? Write a paragraph in which you describe your own emotions when you look at your picture.

Chapter III

11. From his Uncle George, Lord Henry discovers the tragic history of Dorian's life. Dorian's extraordinarily beautiful mother could easily have had the most wealthy, prominent, and desirable of suitors, but she chose instead to run away with a penniless soldier. Her father hired a man to kill his new son-in-law just months after the elopement and took his daughter back to live with him. She had a child, Dorian, from this marriage, but died within a year. Dorian was raised by his harsh, distant grandfather and never mentions his mother.

Imagine that she wrote Dorian a letter when she knew she was not going to live to raise him and hid it in the schoolroom where she hoped one day he would find it. What do you think she would want her son to know about her? His father? His grandfather? About her choices? Her desires for him? Do you think she would have had a resentful or forgiving attitude toward his grandfather (her father)? Assume the mother's persona, and write the letter to Dorian.

12. In this chapter, we see Lord Henry relating to several different people. Fill in the chart below with details of what you learn about Lord Henry through each of the conversations listed. In one conversation Mr. Erskine refers to Lord Henry as "extremely dangerous." Based on your observations in the chart, do you agree or disagree with him? Write a paragraph in which you explain your perspective.

Conversation with...	What you learn about Lord Henry
Uncle George	
Himself	
His aunt	
The Duchess	
Mr. Erskine	
Dorian	

Chapter IV

13. After Dorian leaves him, Lord Henry notices the sunset glowing gold through the upper windows, making the lower panes hot to the touch, and fading into a pale rose color high in the sky. The images make him think of Dorian's lifestyle. Write a paragraph explaining how you think Dorian's lifestyle seems to be "fiery colored" at this point in the story. Then, write another paragraph describing a person you know who has a "fiery colored" life.
14. Dorian is in love for the first time in his life, and he gushes to Lord Henry about Sibyl's voice, beauty, youth, innocence, talents, and all of their effects on him. Lord Henry has a different perspective. Where Dorian is reverent, Lord Henry is skeptical and dismissive.

What is your experience or feeling about new love or crushes? Write a "found" poem about love using only words or phrases from this chapter. Express your opinion through the choices of your words and the arrangement of them. Finally, choose words from the chapter to create a title that reflects the theme of your poem. Remember that poems do not have to rhyme. Here's an example of a "found poem" taken from this chapter:

A nervous laugh
Something seemed to throb in my veins
It became louder; I have seen her die
It depresses me, other people's tragedies.
A psychological phenomenon.
Our future would be the same as our past

Chapter V

15. As he prepares to leave for the military, James Vane worries for his sister. He mistrusts this mysterious “Prince Charming” who is paying her so much attention, and he doubts his mother’s ability to look after and protect Sibyl. Children, the narrator says, “begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them.” James is in the second stage; he is more critical than trusting of his mother.

Reflect on your relationship with your own parents. Write a 1-2 sentence explanation of what you think the narrator means by each stage he describes. Then, write a paragraph in which you explain which stage you think you are in with your parents and why.

16. Both Sibyl and her mother disregard James’ misgivings about this man they know only as “Prince Charming.” They are so taken with his appearance of aristocracy, wealth and beauty, that they assume he is a good, respectable person. James, in typical over-protective brother fashion, seems naturally disposed to assume the worst about this man and his intentions.

Sibyl and her mother dismiss James as paranoid. Sibyl seems to have no close friends to go to for different perspectives. Imagine you are an acquaintance of both Sibyl and Dorian. You have some first-hand knowledge of Dorian’s personality, friends, reputation, choices, etc. What things do you think it would be important for Sibyl to know and consider before becoming more involved with Dorian? Write Sibyl a letter explaining your observations and perspective on Dorian. How would you advise her in this situation?

Chapter VI

17. Basil is shocked at Dorian's engagement announcement. He can't believe that Dorian would jump into something as serious as marriage with a girl he barely knows and who is so far beneath him socially. Lord Henry says that the worst thing Basil could do is to caution Dorian against the marriage because then Dorian's rebellious spirit will cause him to do it for sure.

Reflect on a time in your life when you tried to do something you thought was good or helpful that completely backfired on you, causing, perhaps, the opposite reaction from what you desired and intended. Write a letter to an advice columnist asking for help in fixing the situation. In your letter, describe the situation, what you tried to do, and how it blew up in your face. Create a clever pen name to disguise your true identity. As an extra writing assignment, write the answer an advice columnist might give.

Chapter VII

18. Dorian goes to the Theater and is upset and "bored" at Sybil's performance. He claims not to love her anymore.

Almost all of us have been rejected—in sports, in love, and in friendship. Write Sybil's diary entry for that night. Do not use more than fifty words, so choose them carefully, making sure to convey her emotions.

Chapter VIII

19. Though Dorian thinks he has seen a touch of cruelty in the mouth of the portrait, he remains hopefully unconvinced. His feelings are an uncomfortable mixture of anxiety to know for sure and desire not to know because it could confirm his worst fears. The length of Dorian's wait for the answer is entirely up to him; he can choose to look at the portrait at any time. Make a list of things you do when you have a lot of time on your hands and are just waiting. You might be waiting for a doctor's appointment, a test, a date, a television show, etc.

20. Dorian can't believe what he thinks he sees in the portrait. Could it be changing? He must look several times before he is convinced and then it is horror, not joy, he feels at this mysterious granting of his wish. You've probably heard people caution, "Be careful what you wish for – you just might get it." Do you identify with the truth of that warning at all? Write a one-page description of something you wished for or desired that turned out to be very different than you thought it would be.

21. In his desire to turn away from the cruel path his life is heading down, Dorian writes a lengthy letter apologizing to Sibyl. Even the simple act of writing out his apology makes him feel better. Write your own letter of apology to someone you feel the need to apologize to.

Response Journal

22. Lord Henry sends Dorian a letter early the morning after Sibyl's terrible performance to tell Dorian that Sibyl is dead. When it becomes apparent that Dorian hasn't read the letter, Lord Henry breaks the news to him in person. Reflect on a time when you received very bad or very painful news. How was it delivered? Did the method make it any harder or easier to hear?

Imagine that you are writing a chapter in a How-To manual for yourself. Entitle your chapter "How to Give (insert your name) Bad News." In one or two paragraphs, explain your preferences for receiving bad news: what would make it easier, or at the least, what would not make it harder for you to hear? Offer at least three specific suggestions you would like someone to follow, and warn the reader of the one or two things that he or she should definitely avoid, when giving you bad news.

23. The morning after his horrible treatment of Sibyl at the theater, Dorian is so disturbed by the change in the portrait that he decides to alter his course of increasing cruelty and carelessness and to renew his proposal of marriage to Sibyl. He regrets his actions, and though he doesn't love her as he thought he did, he wants to make up for his actions by keeping his promise to her.

The news of Sibyl's death stuns him. He cannot now take back or make up for what he has done. It is too late. Do you identify with Dorian at all? What advice would you give Dorian in coping with this situation? Write him a letter offering him some type of solution to the way he feels.

OR

Write a letter to him explaining how you feel about his behavior and treatment of Sybil.

Chapter IX

24. When Dorian responds coldly to Basil's words of comfort about Sibyl, Basil laments the changes in Dorian, saying that he's gone from being "simple, natural and affectionate" to having "no heart, no pity." Basil blames Lord Henry's influence for the undesirable changes in Dorian's behavior and attitude.

Think about an influential event in your life or the life of someone you know. It could be a move, a death or serious injury or illness, a divorce, the loss of a friendship, or meeting a person for the first time, etc. Fill in the chart below with examples of the changes due to this event.

Before the Event

After the Event

25. Dorian compares Basil to Lord Henry, saying that Basil is "better" than Lord Henry – "not stronger" and "too much afraid of life," but better. Explain this comment to a classmate who doesn't understand what Dorian means.

Response Journal

26. In their discussion of the portrait, Basil and Dorian talk about seeing something subtle in it that was not immediately noticeable but that revealed itself after closer observation. Dorian knows that the something else he sees is a suggestion of his soul – his inner qualities and nature. He believes he sees this in the lines at his mouth that give him a hint of cruelty or harshness.

Do you think a portrait or photograph is capable of reflecting anything other than physical characteristics? Consider photos of your family, friends, or of yourself. Choose one you think reveals something about the person's nature or personality. Write a paragraph explaining what it reveals and how you think it does this.

27. At the end of the chapter, after narrowly preventing Basil from seeing the portrait, Dorian resolves to move it to a room where his friends will be less likely to inquire about it or to see it. Earlier in the chapter, he describes it as a mirror of sorts in which he sees his soul's reflection. Consider your personal possessions – the things you value. Which one of them do you think reveals the most about who you are at the center? Imagine you are the curator of a museum dedicated to your life and possessions. Write part of a tour speech in which you explain the significance of this item to visitors of your museum. Describe the item and explain what it reveals about who you are in essence.

Chapter X

28. Dorian decides to hide the portrait in the old schoolroom where he played and studied as a child – a room he has not entered since his grandfather’s death more than four years earlier. The room is just as he remembered it and, “every moment of his lonely childhood came back to him as he looked around.”

Reflect on a time you re-visited a place from your past that once was a big part of your life – a house, classroom, gymnasium, camp cabin, playground, etc. Did it seem just as you remembered it, or had it changed considerably? Write a letter to someone who also knew of and experienced that place with you (a parent, sibling, friend, teacher, coach, counselor, etc.) telling him or her what you saw, what changes or similarities you noticed, what you remembered and how it all made you feel. Reminisce with him or her about the past. Begin your letter

Dear (insert name),

Yesterday I went back to...

29. Dorian is so fascinated by the book Lord Henry sends him that he reads on, completely absorbed, ignoring his valet’s reminders of the time, until he is late for his dinner with Lord Henry. What’s the most enjoyable book you have ever read, the one that totally absorbed you? Across from the title, write a few sentences that express why that particular book was so meaningful that you didn’t want it to end.
30. Lord Henry and Dorian agree that there is a “great difference” between being fascinated by something and liking it. Dorian says that he is fascinated by the book, but that he doesn’t necessarily like it. Reflect on your own interests and preferences, considering especially literature, television, music, or other media. Write a movie review about the last film you saw.

Chapter XI

31. The book Lord Henry gives to Dorian affects his life tremendously. He even begins to feel that it is the story of his own life. What story (book, television, movie, etc.) has had the most impact on your life? Write an email to the author or creator explaining your feelings about his or her story and why it is so important to you.
32. Dorian pursues several different hobbies and interests including perfumes, musical instruments, jewels, textiles, and “ecclesiastical vestments” as a way to escape the reality of the aging, corrupted portrait. How do you unplug from the stress and difficulties of life? Make a list of your hobbies likes, interests, and preferences (try to list at least 6). Write one sentence for each one describing what there is about it that you like the most.
33. For Dorian, money does not seem to be a barrier to doing or possessing anything he desires. Although he may hesitate to send his bills to his guardians, he is basically left alone to spend his money the way he chooses. If money were not an obstacle, how would you want your life to be different? In a paragraph, describe how you would like to live and spend your time and what you would collect or own if you had unlimited financial resources.

The Picture of Dorian Gray

34. The textbooks, curricula, and standardized tests that make up so much of your formal education consist of a broad sample of knowledge that educators and other field experts believe is most important or beneficial for you to study and to know. Dorian, however, has the leisure to absorb himself in the study of things that deeply interest him.

If you had the opportunity to choose the path of your own education, what one thing would you want to study? What fascinates or interests you the most? Write a proposal to your parents to take a year off school and focus your studies on this area of your choosing. Be sure to describe in detail the reasons you desire to study this subject and the way it will be valuable to your education.

35. In all of his studies of finery and wealth, Dorian concludes that life had once been “exquisite.” He found it to be wonderful “even to read of the luxury of the dead.” Consider what you know about the history of the world – all cultures and countries from the beginning of time to the present. If you could choose another time and/or place in which to live, what would it be? Write a one page description and explanation of your choice.
36. Dorian laments the way physical and material things wear out. He longs to have seen some of the celebrated treasures of early ages, but they are no longer in existence – time, use and abuse have completely destroyed them. Think about material objects from your own life. Of all the things you have lost, broken, had taken from you, or which simply have worn out, what is the one thing you would most like to have back? Why?

Or

Of all the treasures of history, what one thing would you most like to have seen or preserved to the present time? Why?

Response Journal

37. Dorian collects many different things. What is the most unusual collection or museum you have ever heard of or seen? Write an advertisement inviting other people to view this collection. Be sure to describe it thoroughly and to explain in appealing terms why your audience should want to see it.
38. Dorian searches pictures of his ancestors for hints of the origins of his personality traits, passions, character, and physical appearance. Think back through your own relatives and family tree – their physical appearances, careers, reputations, personalities, etc. Make a chart of relatives and the traits you think you could have inherited from them. Then, write 1-2 sentences explaining how you think you manifest that trait.

Relative	Trait	Explanation
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39. The narrator asserts that people have “literary ancestors” as well as physical ancestors. Dorian identifies so strongly with the main character of the poisonous book that he begins to think of the plot as the story of his own life. What character do you most identify with? The person can be real or fictional. Make a list of traits that you share and a list of ones that are dissimilar.

Chapter XII

40. Approximately thirteen years pass between the action of chapter XI and chapter XII. When they happen to run into each other on the street, Basil and Dorian do not seem to have the same closeness of relationship that they have enjoyed in the past. Dorian does not know about Basil's plans to work in Paris for several months and marvels that he's not seen Basil for "ages." In fact, he'd been trying to avoid speaking to Basil at all, pretending that he hadn't seen his old friend in the fog.

Consider your friends. Thirteen years from now, with which of them, if any, do you think you will still have relationships? Your thirteen-year-old self would probably have some advice to give you about friendships. Do you feel that you have important insight or advice on friendships that could help someone younger than you? Write a letter to someone several years younger than you giving him or her advice and perspective about friendships.

Chapter XIII

41. When Basil tries to get Dorian to pray with him and to “repent” from his “sins,” Dorian says, through tears, that it’s too late for him. He believes that he cannot at this point in his life change his behavior and path. How do you feel about his perception? Is it ever too late to change the course of your life? If so, what one thing would you want to change before it was too late? Write one paragraph in which you explain your thoughts on whether it’s ever “too late” to change. Then, write a second paragraph explaining the one thing you would change and why you would want to change it before it was “too late.”
42. When Dorian reveals to Basil the corrupted portrait, he reflects on the early days of their friendship years before, claiming that Basil flattered him, taught him to be vain, revealed to him the “wonder of beauty,” and introduced him to Lord Henry Wotton who explained to Dorian the “wonder of youth.” Dorian reviews this progression to illustrate the reasons he is the person he is today.

Who have been the most influential people in your life so far? Imagine that you are receiving a prestigious award. Who would you need to thank for helping you become who you are? Write your acceptance speech for this award, listing the most influential people in your life and explaining how they helped you become who you are and accomplish all that you have.

43. Basil cannot believe that the grotesque portrait before him is the same one that he painted or that it could be the reflection of such a beautiful, innocent soul that he once “worshipped” in Dorian. Dorian claims, however, that “each of us has Heaven and Hell in him.” What is your opinion on the nature of people? Are people basically good, bad or a mixture of the two, as Dorian suggests? Pick someone you know personally, have seen in movies or television, or have read about who has both good and bad within. List both sets of traits and pick one or two that need praise or correction. Write and e-mail to the person detailing what you like or dislike about some of the traits.

Chapter XIV

44. When Alan Campbell hears Dorian's confession of having murdered Basil, Campbell says that it's none of his business and that he will not turn Dorian in to the police. Do you agree or disagree with Alan's choice? Respond to Alan's perspective in one of the following ways:
- Write an editorial in which you argue persuasively for or against Alan's point of view. Do people have an obligation to society to report crime no matter who the criminal is? Be sure to create a clever title for your article.
 - Imagine your best friend has confessed to you a horrible crime he or she has committed. Write a dialogue between you and your friend based on how you think you'd respond in such a situation. Use this dialogue as a beginning, if necessary.
- Friend: Do you have a minute?
You: Sure. What's up?
Friend: Well, I really don't know where to begin.
You: Begin about what?
Friend: Can you keep a secret?
You: Of course I can. I'm your best friend.
Friend: This is a pretty big one...
45. Even after Dorian passes Alan the blackmail note suggesting how he could ruin Alan's life if he didn't cooperate, the chemist tries to protest that he just can't do what Dorian is asking of him. Once Dorian tells Alan that he has no choice but to help him dispose of Basil's body Alan gives in, sending back to his laboratory for the necessary chemicals. It takes him several hours, but Alan gets rid of the body. Is it a simple black and white issue: either help Dorian or have some horrible secret exposed? Brainstorm other choices for Alan. Make a list of at least five other options Alan has in this situation. Then, write a sentence or two explaining which of the choices you think is the best.

Chapter XV

46. With the help of Alan Campbell, Dorian has been successful in ridding his house of the body of Basil Hallward. He has information about Alan that will prevent the chemist from revealing Dorian's secret. Dorian puts on a collected, serene appearance and goes to dinner. Though he is struggling to feel at ease, he is able to act normal enough that only Lord Henry suspects that something may be amiss. Finally, he destroys the last of the evidence, burning Basil's coat and bag in the fireplace. Since Basil is supposed to be in Paris for six months it will be a long time before he is discovered to be missing. It seems like the perfect cover-up.

This scheme is part of the plot of many books and movies. List as many things as you can think of that are wrong with the plan and why it may not work.

Chapter XVI

47. James Vane has searched eighteen years for the "Prince Charming" who was responsible for Sibyl's suicide. He has dedicated his life to revenge for himself and his family. Do you identify with carrying a grudge for a very long time? Did you desire revenge? If so, describe a situation in which you still desire revenge. If not, describe a situation in which you were wronged and how you were able to let go of the desire for revenge.

Chapter XVII

48. After more than fifteen chapters, you must have an opinion of Dorian Gray. Write him a note in the form of a psychologist's evaluation of his personality. The note does not have to be long; just make sure to detail some of his emotional and mental difficulties.

Chapter XVIII

49. Dorian refuses to leave his room the day after his vision of James Vane at the window. The narrator suggests that it was all in Dorian's imagination, saying that "in the common world of fact, the wicked were not punished, nor the good rewarded. Success was given to the strong, failure thrust upon the weak. Do you agree with this observation of life? Write a paragraph in which you explain why or why not. Try to use specific, detailed examples to support your opinion.
50. Dorian is convinced that something bad is going to happen to him. Lord Henry, however, says that he does not believe in omens. Do you agree or disagree with Lord Henry? Have you ever had a premonition about something that later happened? Write an editorial with one of the following titles: "There are No Such Things as Omens" or "Destiny Sends Us Heralds."
51. After seeing James Vane at the window, Dorian is in so much misery that he claims he would gladly change places with anyone – even a dead peasant – rather than live in the terror of the approaching death he fears. If you could change places with anyone in history and live out his or her life, who would it be? Make a list explaining why you would choose this person.

Chapter XIX

52. When Lord Henry asks Dorian what happened to the portrait, Dorian says that he never really liked it. He explains that it reminded him of a quote from Shakespeare's play *Hamlet*: "Like a painting of a sorrow, A face without a heart." He repeats this quote again, lost in thought, as he plays on the piano. In a paragraph, explain to a friend what you think the quote means. How does it relate to the portrait? Why do you think it speaks so strongly to Dorian?
53. Lord Henry attacks Dorian's expression of certainty about the soul, saying that "the things one feels absolutely certain about are never true." What is one thing about which you feel absolutely certain at this point in your life? Can you fathom that you will ever believe differently? What would have to happen to change your belief?
54. Though he is nearly forty years old, Dorian still looks as youthful, beautiful and strong as he did at nineteen. His physical appearance has not changed at all. Marveling at Dorian's perpetually youthful appearance, Lord Henry claims that he would do anything to get his own youth back except "exercise, get up early, or be respectable." What is a goal you are intent on achieving in your own life? Using the chart that follows as a template, create a chart with details of what you are willing and not willing to do to achieve your goal.

I want to _____ (describe your goal here) _____. To achieve this goal,

I definitely will

I will consider

I will absolutely not

55. Many people say that wisdom comes with age, but Lord Henry says that it is only those younger than himself who are worth listening to because their perspectives are fresh and current. Who is the wisest person you know? Write him or her a letter detailing the person's qualities of wisdom.

Chapter XX

56. Throughout the novel, Dorian has blamed many things for the destruction of his character – Basil’s praise, Lord Henry’s ideas and encouragement, the poisonous book Lord Henry gave him, Dorian’s own rash wish, his deceptive beauty, and in this chapter, the shallowness and inexperience of youth. Is youth as bad as Dorian believes? On the chart that follows, list as many benefits as you can for youth, and then do the same for age.

Benefits of Youth

Benefits of Age

57. Imagine that you are a reporter who has heard about the strange noises coming from Dorian Gray’s house. You have gone there to investigate and have managed to interview several of Dorian’s servants and a couple of his friends or acquaintances. Based solely on the information these sources could supply you, how would you report the mystery of Dorian Gray’s life and death? Reflect on what Dorian’s friends and servants knew of the man. Write a newspaper article about the mysterious death. What questions would remain unanswered?

Wrap Up

58. For which character in the novel do you feel the most pity? Why? Write a paragraph in which you explain who you think deserves the most empathy. Use specific examples from the story to support your opinion.
59. Dorian blames many events and people, including himself, for the ruin of his character. Who or what do you think is most to blame? Imagine you are called as a witness into an inquisition about Dorian's mysterious death. Write a statement explaining whom or what you think is most responsible for the quality of his life and consequently, for his death.
60. When it first appeared, many critics claimed that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was without a moral message. Now that you have completed the novel, list three main ideas or themes you believe Wilde is relaying through it. For each theme, list examples and evidence from the text. Then, write a paragraph in which you agree or disagree with his critics. Does *The Picture of Dorian Gray* have a moral message?

Themes

Examples

The Picture of Dorian Gray

61. Dorian accuses himself of many horrible things – ruining people’s reputations, being a destructive influence in the lives of his friends, murder, etc. Imagine that you are a detective investigating Dorian’s life. Write a warrant for his arrest based on the worst thing of which you think Dorian is guilty. Support your thoughts with specific examples from the novel.
62. *The Portrait of Dorian Gray* reflects the importance of one’s friends and personal influences. If you could choose the perfect friend for yourself, what qualities would that person have? How would he or she relate to you? What would he or she definitely not do or be? Write a want ad for the perfect friend. Be sure to create a clever title for your advertisement.

NOTES

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Test

1. Basil Hallward
 - A. is distracted by the slightest noise when he is painting.
 - B. cannot bear to have anyone else in the room but his subject when he is painting.
 - C. never says a word when he is painting.
 - D. prefers to paint to background music.

2. From his uncle George, Lord Henry learns that
 - A. Dorian is penniless.
 - B. Dorian's mother completely supports him.
 - C. Dorian's grandfather had Dorian's father killed.
 - D. Dorian's mother had to put Dorian up for adoption when she became pregnant as a teenager.

3. Lord Henry Wotton
 - A. is quick to agree with everyone.
 - B. finds joy in manipulating people.
 - C. tries to encourage Dorian to think for himself.
 - D. seems uncertain and insecure.

4. Sibyl Vane
 - A. wants to marry Dorian for his money.
 - B. calls Basil Hallward her "Prince Charming."
 - C. does not take her brother or his threats seriously.
 - D. has no mother to look out for her and protect her from predators like "Prince Charming."

5. Sibyl acts badly the night "Prince Charming" brings his friends to see her because
 - A. she is tired of playing the same parts over and over.
 - B. she is not feeling well.
 - C. she is nervous that so many "aristocrats" are there.
 - D. she now knows true love and doesn't want to pretend anymore.

Response Journal

6. Once he is convinced that the portrait is changing, Dorian prevents others from knowing his terrible secret by
 - A. destroying the portrait.
 - B. hanging the portrait in his old schoolroom.
 - C. trying to move the portrait to Selby where it is stolen or misplaced.
 - D. covering the portrait with a screen.

7. After reading the book Lord Henry sends him, Dorian realizes
 - A. there is a difference between liking something and being fascinated by it.
 - B. he was never truly in love with Sibyl Vane.
 - C. it is never too late to change the course of one's life.
 - D. Lord Henry is trying to manipulate him.

8. Dorian studies or collects all of the following **except**
 - A. tapestries.
 - B. perfumes.
 - C. jewels.
 - D. books.

9. Dorian's reputation declines, but he gets away with the things he does because
 - A. his accusers are too afraid to confront him.
 - B. he bribes his accusers for their silence.
 - C. Basil and Lord Henry come to his defense.
 - D. he appears to be so good and charming.

10. Lord Henry Wotton
 - A. remains essentially unchanged throughout the novel.
 - B. is strongly impacted by the life and death of Dorian Gray.
 - C. regrets his blatant attempts to mold and manipulate Dorian.
 - D. blames himself for the death of Basil Hallward.

The Picture of Dorian Gray

11. Basil says that he will never exhibit this painting because
- A. the art world is no longer interested in pastoral settings.
 - B. he feels that he has produced greater paintings in the past.
 - C. he has put too much of himself into the painting.
 - D. he will be leaving the country shortly and does not have time for an exhibit.
12. The painting belongs to
- A. Basil Hallward.
 - B. Lord Henry Wotton.
 - C. Dorian Gray.
 - D. an English art museum.
13. Dorian Gray's first romantic love relationship is with
- A. Henry Wotton's sister.
 - B. Margaret Devereaux.
 - C. Sibyl Vane.
 - D. the Duchess.
14. Sibyl Vane commits suicide because
- A. her brother tells her the truth: her father never married her mother.
 - B. the owner of the theater will not release her from her contract.
 - C. Dorian rejects her and calls her stupid and shallow.
 - D. Both A and B.
15. The character(s) who tries to influence Dorian Gray's good side is/are
- A. Lord Henry Wotton.
 - B. Basil Hallward.
 - C. Alan Campbell.
 - D. Both A and B.

Response Journal

16. The character(s) who tries to influence the darker side of Dorian Gray is/are
- A. Lord Henry Wotton.
 - B. Basil Hallward.
 - C. Alan Campbell.
 - D. Both A and B.
17. As the novel progresses, the portrait of Dorian Gray
- A. remains unchanged and is the essence of beauty and innocence.
 - B. becomes ugly and distorted.
 - C. fades until the figure can hardly be seen.
 - D. is gradually destroyed by Basil Hallward.
18. Dorian Gray kills Basil Hallward because
- A. Basil threatens to go to the police and turn Dorian in for opium use.
 - B. Dorian is overcome by a passionate feeling of hatred for Basil.
 - C. Lord Henry has told Dorian that Basil is in the way.
 - D. A, B, and C are correct.
19. Alan Campbell destroys Basil's body because
- A. he has been experimenting with various potions and wants to try one out.
 - B. he still retains a strong bond of friendship and wishes to help Dorian.
 - C. Dorian threatens him with blackmail.
 - D. Both A and B.
20. The character(s) that frequently speaks in cynical epigrams is/are
- A. Basil Hallward.
 - B. Lord Henry Wotton.
 - C. Dorian Gray.
 - D. Both B and C.

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Test
Student Answer Sheet

Name: _____

1. _____ 11. _____

2. _____ 12. _____

3. _____ 13. _____

4. _____ 14. _____

5. _____ 15. _____

6. _____ 16. _____

7. _____ 17. _____

8. _____ 18. _____

9. _____ 19. _____

10. _____ 20. _____

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The Picture of Dorian Gray

Test
Answer Key

1. ___C___

2. ___C___

3. ___B___

4. ___C___

5. ___D___

6. ___B___

7. ___A___

8. ___D___

9. ___D___

10. ___A___

11. ___C___

12. ___C___

13. ___C___

14. ___C___

15. ___B___

16. ___A___

17. ___B___

18. ___B___

19. ___C___

20. ___D___

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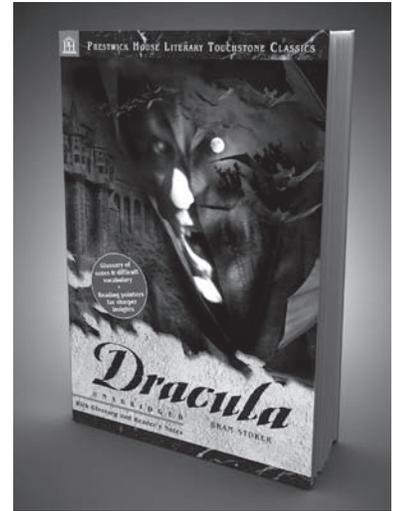
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