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**УЧЕБНО-МЕТОДИЧЕСКАЯ РАЗРАБОТКА ПО ДОМАШНЕМУ
ЧТЕНИЮ**

О. Уальд «Портрет Дориана Грэя»

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Ионова Е.Н. Учебно-методическая разработка по домашнему чтению по произведению О. Уальда «Портрет Дориана Грэя» для студентов-бакалавров исторического факультета, обучающихся по специальности «История и иностранный язык». – Владимир: ВлГУ, 2014-14 с.

Учебно-методическая разработка по домашнему чтению по роману Ф. С. Фитцджеральда состоит из вокабуляра, подлежащего активному употреблению в соответствии с программой, а также систему учебных заданий по книге.

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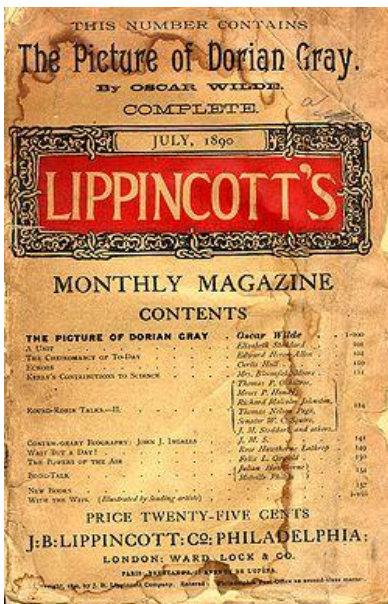
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Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish writer and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s

The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891), by Oscar Wilde, was first published as a serial story in the July 1890 issue of *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*. As submitted by Wilde to the magazine, the editors feared the story was indecent, and deleted five hundred words before publication — without Wilde's knowledge. Despite that censorship, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* offended the moral sensibilities of British book reviewers, some of whom said that Oscar Wilde merited prosecution for violating the laws guarding the public morality.



The only novel written by the playwright Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* exists in two versions, the 1891 book edition and the 1890 magazine edition, the story he submitted for serial publication in *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*. As literature of the 19th century, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is an example of Gothic fiction with strong themes interpreted from the legendary *Faust*.

The characters of the story are

- **Dorian Gray** — a handsome, narcissistic young man enthralled by Lord Henry's "new" hedonism. He indulges in every pleasure (moral and immoral) which life eventually leads to death.
- **Basil Hallward** — a deeply moral man, the painter of the portrait, and infatuated with Dorian, whose patronage realises his potential as an artist. The picture of Dorian Gray is Basil's masterpiece.
- **Lord Henry "Harry" Wotton** — an imperious aristocrat and a decadent dandy who espouses a philosophy of self-indulgent hedonism. Initially Basil's friend, he neglects him for Dorian's beauty. The character of witty Lord Harry is a critique of Victorian culture at the *Fin de siècle* — of Britain at the end of the 19th century. Lord Harry's libertine world view corrupts Dorian, who then

successfully emulates him. To the aristocrat Harry, the observant artist Basil says, "You never say a moral thing, and you never do a wrong thing."

- **Sibyl Vane** — a talented actress and singer, she is the poor, beautiful girl with whom Dorian falls in love. Her love for Dorian ruins her acting ability, because she no longer finds pleasure in portraying fictional love as she is now experiencing real love in her life. She kills herself on learning that Dorian no longer loves her; at that, Lord Henry likens her to Ophelia, in *Hamlet*.
- **James Vane** — Sibyl's brother, a sailor who leaves for Australia. He is very protective of his sister, especially as their mother cares only for Dorian's money. Believing that Dorian means to harm Sybil, James hesitates to leave, and promises vengeance upon Dorian if any harm befalls her. After Sibyl's suicide, James becomes obsessed with killing Dorian, and stalks him, but a hunter accidentally kills James. The brother's pursuit of vengeance upon the lover (Dorian Gray), for the death of the sister (Sybil) parallels that of Laertes vengeance against Prince Hamlet.
- **Alan Campbell** — chemist and one-time friend of Dorian who ended their friendship when Dorian's libertine reputation devalued such a friendship. Dorian blackmails Alan into destroying the body of the murdered Basil Hallward; Campbell later shoots himself dead.
- **Lord Fermor** — Lord Henry's uncle, who tells his nephew, Lord Henry Wotton, about the family lineage of Dorian Gray.
- **Victoria, Lady Wotton** — Lord Henry's wife, whom he treats disdainfully; she divorces him. (По материалам свободной энциклопедии Википедия <http://ru.wikipedia.org>)

ASSIGNMENT No 1

Chapter 1

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1.to give rise to something
- 2.to gain the reputation
- 3.to be vain
- 4.to shrug one's shoulders
- 5.to be one's own master
6. to be on the verge (brink) of something
7. to be inevitable
- 8.to bare one's soul to somebody
- 9.scrupulous
- 10.to take pains to do something

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1.Describe the studio of Basil Hall-ward, what can you say about a person through whose eyes the readers see and admire it?
- 2.What picture Lord Henry and Basil are talking about? Why doesn't Basil want to show it to the public?
- 3.Comment upon Lord Henry's philosophy of real beauty. Do you agree that intellect spoils the harmony of any face?
- 4.What do you think about Basil's words: "The ugly and the stupid have the best in this world. Can his theory be justified?"
- 5.Basil tries to explain why he doesn't want to exhibit the portrait of Dorian Gray. Do you support his idea of portrait painting?
- 6.How and when did Basil meet Dorian Gray? Why did he think that their meeting was inevitable?
7. Why did the artist get so much attached to Dorian Gray and didn't want to share him with anybody else? Comment upon the words of Lord Henry: "the worst of having a romance of any kind is that it leaves one so unromantic."

ASSIGNMENT No2

Chapters № 2-3

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1.to be in sulky moods; to sulk
- 2.charity, charitable
- 3.to resist the temptation
- 4.to pay somebody a compliment

- 5. to be haunted by something
- 7. Speak on the episode with Dorian's portrait. What changes have taken place in it?
- 6. to lose one's good looks
- 7. to derive benefit from somebody or something
- 8. mediocrity
- 9. to be vexed with something or somebody
- 10. to be under a spell

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1. Speak on Lord Henry's theory of the influence over other people. What is rather cynical about it?
- 2. Describe Dorian's sensations caused by Lord Henry's words. Why was he so much stirred and fascinated by what Lord Henry had told him?
- 3. Comment upon Lord Henry words: "But what the gods give they quickly take away". What did he mean? Wasn't it rather cruel on his part to warn Dorian about the brevity of his youth and beauty?
- 4. Speak on Dorian's reaction when he saw his own portrait. Was the sense of his own beauty like a revelation to him? What did he want to give his soul for?
- 5. Why did Basil Hallward want to destroy his picture? Do you think he really wanted to do it?
- 6. Speak on Dorian Gray's family story.
- 7. Comment upon the attitude of Englishmen towards Americans. Do you think it is the backbone of the English nation? Isn't it a bit arrogant?

ASSIGNMENT No3

Chapters 4-5

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1. exquisite
- 2. to be beyond one's means
- 3. to see better days
- 4. hectic
- 5. a philistine
- 6. subtle
- 7. to be of no value
- 8. sin, sinful
- 9. to be destined, destiny
- 10. to make a scene

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. Dorian Gray meets Lord Henry's wife. Do you feel her irony when she speaks about her husband?
2. Comment upon Lord Henry's opinion about women. How did it affect Dorian? Did he support the theory of his friend?
3. How and when did Dorian meet Sibyl Vane? What was it about the girl who moved and impressed the young man so deeply?
4. How did Lord Henry take the news about Dorian's being so passionately in love? Comment upon his thought that "to a large extent the lad was his own creation".
5. Prove that in many ways Dorian Gray was no longer his own master. Why do you think Lord Henry's influence upon him was great?

ASSIGNMENT No 4

Chapters 5-7

I. Vocabulary List:

1. to sweep over somebody (about feelings, emotions)
2. to be worthy of somebody
3. to feel humble (to eat one's humble pie)
4. vanity
5. to brood on something
6. moral prejudices
7. to bring misery upon somebody
8. to bear the burden of something
9. to commit a sin
10. to resist temptation

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. Speak on Sibyl's feeling of happiness. Why didn't her mother share the joy of the girl. Comment on the phrase: "The joy of a caged bird was in her voice".
2. Sum up Mrs. Vane. Prove that the woman has lost the feeling of real life, the difference between the real world and the world of make believe,
3. What was Jim Vane's reaction to his sister's elated state of mind? Why did he have a strong sense of danger of Sibyl's position?
4. Lord Henry's theory of what is to be "good". Don't you think that his statement; "To be good is to be in harmony with one's self¹ is a pure egotism of the man?
5. Describe the scene at the theatre. What was wrong with Sibyl Vane's acting, why was Dorian so much depressed?

6. Speak on the scene which took place after the performance. Why do you think Dorian was so callous and unjust when talking to Sibyl? Did he love the girl or the parts she played?

ASSIGNMENT No 5

Chapters 8-9

I. Vocabulary List:

1. to walk on tiptoe
2. to confess, confession
3. a touch of something (cruelty, grief)
4. to waste one's tears over something or somebody
5. vice, vicious
6. to be heart-broken
7. to be in the mercy of something, somebody
9. to sit to somebody
10. a turning-point

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. Dorian examines his portrait again. What did it make him conscious of? Was he afraid of the changes in the portrait reflecting the cruel changes of his soul?
2. Comment upon the phrase: "There is a luxury in self-reproach. When we blame ourselves we feel that no one has a right to blame us." Did he come and console Dorian?
3. The death of Sibyl Vane. How did Dorian take the news?
4. What was really dangerous in Lord Henry's speculations about the death of the girl? Comment on the phrase: "The girl never really lived, and so she has never really died."
5. What do you think about Dorian's words: "It has been a marvelous experience". Was it the manifestation of his innate cruelty or was it due to the influence of Lord Henry?
6. Speak on Basil's visit to Dorian's place. What was the purpose of it? Was Basil afraid of the changes that had taken place in the young man?
7. Prove that Dorian Gray has become utterly different under the influence of Lord Henry's philosophy of life.
8. Why did Dorian refuse to show Basil his portrait and didn't allow it to be exhibited in Paris?
9. Speak on the confession Basil made to Dorian.

ASSIGNMENT No6

Chapters 10-11

I. Vocabulary List:

1. to be on one's guard
2. to blackmail in something
4. medieval
5. rumors
6. to be haunted by something
7. to be incompatible with something or somebody
8. to escape from something
9. to endure something
10. to take up something or doing something

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. Speak on Dorian's decision to put away his portrait up to the top of house. Why did he want the picture to be concealed from other people?
2. What kind of book did Lord Henry give Dorian to read? Why couldn't Dorian free himself from the influence of this book for years?
3. Can you say that the beauty of his face and body and the corruption of his soul has become a sort of obsession with Dorian Gray? What feeling did sweep over him when he stood in front of his portrait?
4. Speak on the mode of life of Dorian Gray in London. Was he content with his role of the man of the world or did his ambitions go further?
5. What do you know about Hedonism? What is the aim of this ethical trend? Who is the mouthpiece of this philosophy in the book?
6. Speak on Dorian Gray's experimenting with life and its different ramifications. Was it the real life he studied or just the decoration of it? Prove that all his collections were just "means of forgetfulness for him."
7. What was Dorian's position in the society? What rumors was his notoriety faced on?

ASSIGNMENT №7

Chapters No 12-14

I. Vocabulary List:

1. to be broken with something
2. to make somebody's name a by-word
3. to have a clean name and a fair record
4. hypocrite, hypocrisy

- 5.to be vain of something
- 6.to set one's heart on doing something
- 7.to become agitated
- 8.to endure somebody to do something

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1.Speak on Basil's visit to Dorian's house. What did he want to talk to him about? What did Basil accuse Dorian of?
- 2.Why do you think Dorian decided to show his portrait to Basil? Was it an act of despair or a kind of revenge on his part?
3. Describe the sensations of Basil Hallward after he saw the portrait which once he had created himself?
4. Speak on the tragic accident which took place in the room upstairs. Why do you think Dorian murdered Basil Hallward? Was the crime really suggested by the image on the portrait?
5. What do you think about Dorian's behavior the next morning after the murder? Was it easy for him not to think about Alan Campbell? Why did Dorian want to see him so much?
7. What did Dorian force Alan Campbell to do? What do you think about it? Alan Campbell agreed to destroy the body of Basil, why?

ASSIGNMENT №8

Chapters 15-17

I. Vocabulary List:

- 1.to be at one's ease
- 2.to say things against somebody behind one's back
- 3.tedious
- 4.to be over-dressed
- 5.to be not oneself
- 6.to loose one's nerve
- 7.oblivion
- 8.a pet name
- 9.to call a spade
- 10.a label, to label somebody

II. Questions and Tasks:

- 1.Describe the party at Lady Narborough's house. Point out the cases of irony when the author describes the guests at the party through whose perception is the description

given?

2. What was going on in the soul and mind of Dorian Gray? How did he want "to buy oblivion", "to cure his soul"?

3. Describe the place Dorian visited that night. Whom did he meet there? Comment upon the description of the people Dorian saw at the opium-den. What is meant by the words "strange heavens" and "dull hells"?

4. Don't you think that Adrian Singleton is one of the victims of Prince Charming? Did Dorian feel any kind of remorse for having ruined life of the young man?

5. Speak on the episode which took place after Dorian left the place. How did he manage to escape the punishment for Sibyl Vane's death?

6. Comment upon the conversation among Lord Henry, Dorian and Duchess of Monmouth. Was it just a small talk or can we trace the principle of their life credos. What was the reason for Dorian's sudden fainting?

ASSIGNMENT № 9

Chapters 18-20

I. Vocabulary List:

1. a phantom
2. vengeance
3. to venture to do something
4. terror-stricken panic-stricken
5. to plunge into something, or doing something
6. an omen (bad or good)
7. ill-omened
8. renunciation
9. superstition
10. irretrievable

II. Questions and Tasks:

1. How did the author describe Dorian's fearful phantoms of being killed for his sins? Was it becoming a kind of mania with him?

2. Describe the tragic episode during the shooting party. Why was Dorian so much sure that the death of a beater was a bad omen?

3. Do you think Dorian was really safe after the death of Sibyl's brother? Was it the solution of all his problems?

4. Dorian and Lord Henry are discussing Basil's disappearance. Why do you think Lord Henry didn't believe that Dorian could have murdered the painter?

5. What do you think about Dorian's intentions to start a new life, to become good? Did

Lord Henry support him in his intentions?

6. What was it that Lord envied Dorian so much? Comment upon Lord Henry's words addressed to Dorian "Life has been your art".

7. Why did Dorian decide to destroy his portrait? Do you think that it is possible "to kill the pat"? Was such a terrible end of Dorian's life logical? Why didn't the author give Dorian a chance to alter, to become good?

ASSIGNMENTN №10

Topics for General Discussion:

1. Speak on the main conflict of the novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde.

2. Trace the features of aesthetics propagandized by Oscar Wilde in his book "The Picture of Dorian Gray",

3. Lord Henry as the mouthpiece of the author in the novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray".

4. Dorian Gray - Prince charming or Prince Evil?

5. Speak on the symbolic meaning of the marks of degeneration mysteriously appeared upon the portrait of Dorian Gray.

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