The Portrait of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

retold by Elizabeth Gray

Express Publishing

Sybil Cannot Act

Dorian Gray asked Sybil Vane to marry him before Basil and Lord Henry had seen her. Dorian had only known her for three weeks, but he was sure that he loved her. He took Basil and Lord Henry with him to see her play the part of Juliet in "*Romeo and Juliet*."

"When you see her act, you will forget that you are in London. People in this theatre know nothing about acting, but even they change when she comes on stage."

The theatre was especially crowded and hot that night. Basil, Lord Henry and Dorian sat in the balcony, while rough-looking young men and women who laughed too loudly sat near the front of the stage below them. There was a bar at the back of the theatre, and they could hear bottles opening and glasses clinking.

The lights went down, and the curtain rose. Sybil Vane walked out on stage, and Lord Henry watched her closely.

"She is beautiful."

But something was wrong when she spoke, there was no emotion in her voice. She did not act like she had on other nights, and Dorian felt ill. His friends said nothing, but there was loud talking in the audience, and men began to whistle. When the curtain fell for intermission, Lord Henry stood up and put on his coat.

"She's very beautiful, Dorian, but she cannot act. Let's go."

For Review Only

"I'm sorry, Harry. I don't know what's wrong."

"Perhaps she's ill, Dorian. We'll come back another time."

"Besides, who cares if your wife can't act. She's beautiful. That's enough."

"Go away, I want to be alone. Can't you see my heart is breaking?"

Dorian hid his face in his hands. His friends left quietly. After the play, Dorian walked quickly back behind the stage to the dressing room. There he found Sybil. Her eyes were shining, and her face was filled with joy.

"Oh, Dorian, wasn't I horrible?"

"Yes, you were. Were you ill? You made me look like a fool in front of my friends."

"Oh, Dorian, you don't understand. I cannot act any more, because I have found true love. How can I act like Juliet when I do not feel her love? I only feel my love for you, Dorian."

Dorian turned away from her.

"You have killed my love for you. I loved you because I thought you were a great actress. I thought you would be famous and have my name. Now, I see that you are nothing but a pretty face."

Sybil's face turned white. She walked up to Dorian and tried to touch his arm.

"Dorian, you can't be serious."

"Don't touch me. You are not who I thought you were. I'm leaving."

Sybil fell to the floor as if she had been hit. A painful cry escaped from her lips. She held her hands out towards the dressing room door, but it was too late. Dorian had gone.

For Review Only

For Review Only

For Review Only

The Portrait of Dorian Gray

Dorian remembered the wish he had made at Basil's. He had said that he wished the picture would grow old and ugly while he remained young and beautiful. But could such things come true? Dorian didn't think so. But what about the picture? It had changed.

COMPONENTS:

- **Reader**
- **Activity Book**
- **Teacher's Book**
- **Audio CD**

Level 1 Level 2 Level 3 Level 4 Level 5

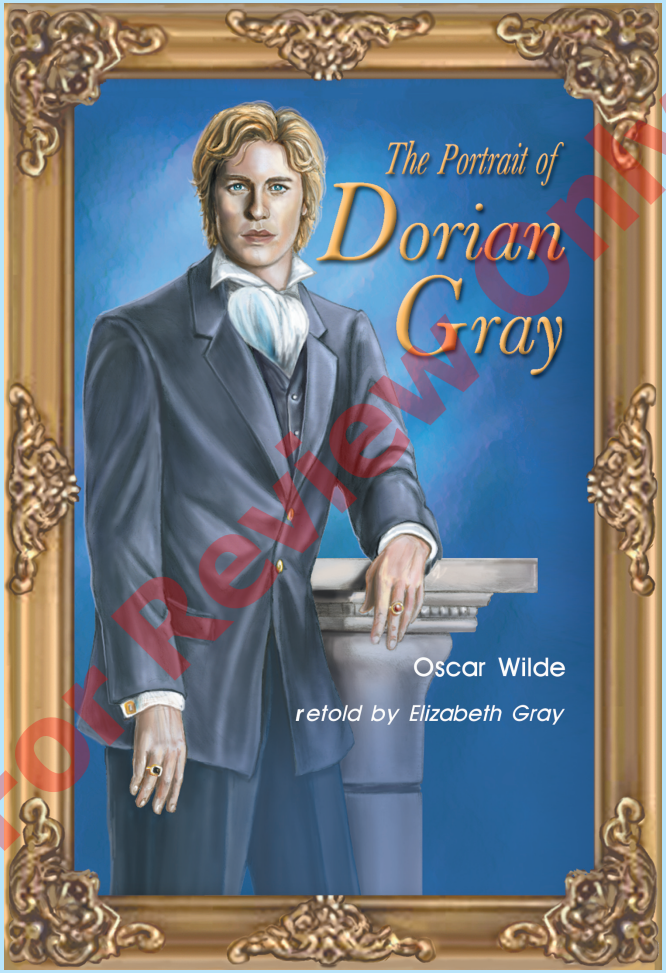
For Review Only

ISBN 978-1-84216-384-9

9 781842 163849

Express Publishing

Activity Book



For Review Only

Express Publishing

Lesson 5
Chapter 5

Basil wants to see the portrait

I. Listening

Listen to the recording and tick (✓) True or False.

	TRUE	FALSE
1 Dorian did not go to the opera.		
2 Dorian had put a screen in front of the portrait.		
3 Basil liked Dorian's face very much.		
4 Basil finally saw Dorian's character in the portrait.		
5 Dorian locked the portrait at the top of his house.		

II. Comprehension questions

1 Why didn't Basil believe that Dorian went to the opera?
2 Why did Dorian decide to go to the opera despite Sybil's death?
3 What did Basil think when he first saw Dorian?
4 Why did Basil feel embarrassed about his painting?
5 What did Dorian do with the picture after Basil left his house?

For Review Only

III. Topics for discussion

1 Do you think that Dorian's secret about his portrait will ever be discovered?

2 Do you agree with Dorian that we should not regret the past and only live for pleasure?

IV. Activities

A *Use the adjectives in the box below to complete the character descriptions.*

sensitive	**rude**	**sociable**	**helpful**
reserved	**shy**	**selfish**	**stubborn**

1 Mark is very ..... . He never changes his mind even if he is wrong.

2 Mary is extremely ..... . She always gives me a hand when I am very busy with the housework.

3 Jim is extremely ..... . He often says offensive things to people.

4 My little sister is very ..... . She never talks to strangers and blushes easily.

5 Ann is a ..... person. She doesn't like talking about herself and never shows her feelings.

6 Jenny is a ..... person who gets hurt very easily.

7 Jeff is very ..... . He loves meeting people and makes friends easily.

8 Bill is ..... as he only thinks about himself and doesn't care about anyone else.

For Review Only

B *Here is a table listing character qualities. Put a tick in the box if you think each character possesses any of these qualities.*

Qualities	Dorian	Sybil	Basil	Henry
sensitive				
kind				
rude				
inconsiderate				
innocent				
tactless				
loving				
friendly				
irresponsible				
polite				
short-tempered				
vain				
selfish				

C *Write a short paragraph for one of these people describing their character and justify their qualities.*

For Review Only

Vocabulary Exercises

I. What's the word?

1 You feel like this when you have nothing to do. .....
2 When we are frightened it beats fast. .....
3 We do this when we lie down. .....
4 When we die, it goes to heaven. .....
5 That describes that we respect God. .....

II. Fill in the gaps with the correct form of the verbs below.

look up:	to direct one's eyes upwards
live for:	to have as a reason for living
turn away (from):	to move in a direction away from sth or sb
look out (of):	to direct one's eyes outside
find out:	to discover sth

1 I ..... the window and saw that it was raining.
2 I hope mother won't ..... that her favourite vase is broken.
3 I ..... and saw a flock of birds flying in the sky.
4 She couldn't stand looking at him, so she ..... her eyes ..... him.
5 Laura ..... the summer when she spends time by the sea.

For Review Only

For Review Only

Express Publishing

ISBN 978-1-84216-385-6