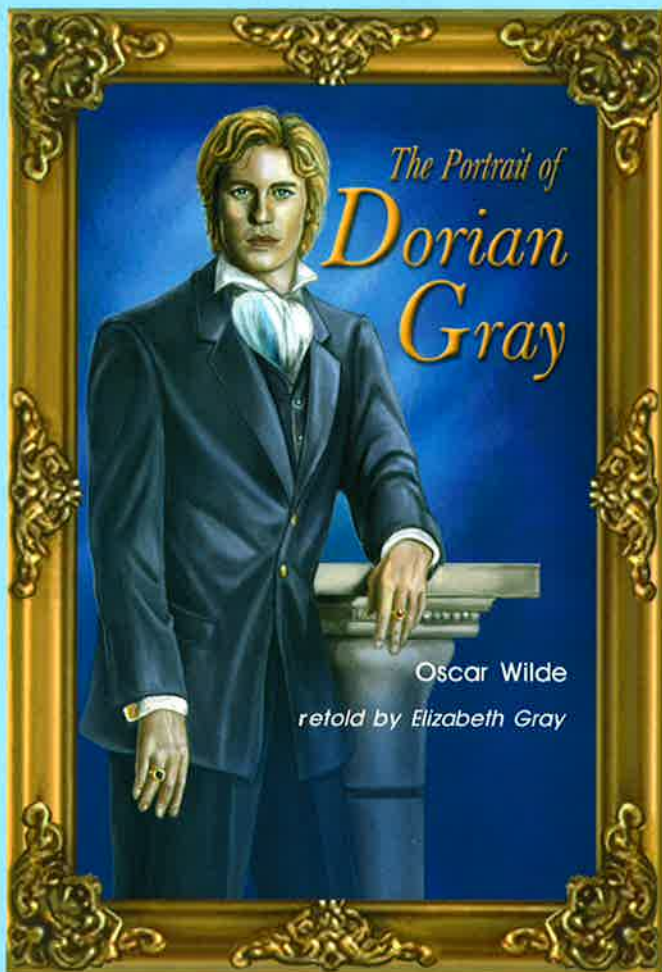


Activity Book



Express Publishing

Introductory Lesson

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Before reading:

- 1 In pairs, look at the cover of the book and give a detailed description of the portrait.
- 2 This is the beginning of chapter one. Read it, try first to guess the meaning of the words in bold and then to predict what happens next.

Dorian Gray, a **handsome** young man with **blond** hair and the face of a **statue**, went to **model** for Basil. There, he met Lord Henry and they talked about the **pleasures** of being young. The **thought** of staying young **excited** Dorian so much that ...
- 3 Now read the blurb on the back cover. What do you think happens in the story?
- 4 Your teacher will give you the headings of the chapters in jumbled order. In pairs, try to put the headings in the correct order and try to guess what happens in each chapter.

- 5 Read the information about Oscar Wilde and answer the questions that follow.

Oscar Wilde



Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1854. He came from a highly educated family; his father was a distinguished surgeon and his mother was a poet.

Oscar Wilde did brilliantly at school, at Trinity College Dublin and finally at Magdalen College Oxford which awarded him a degree with honours.

He distinguished himself as a classical scholar, a poet and a dramatist. He loved beauty and art and thought art was very important in daily life.

The plays 'Lady Windermere's Fan' and 'The Importance of Being Earnest' are two of his masterpieces. 'The Portrait of Dorian Gray', which he wrote in 1890, is his only novel and is considered one of his most brilliant works.

He spent the last years of his life in Paris. He died there in 1900, at the age of 46.

- 1 Where and when was he born?
- 2 Where did he study?
- 3 What did he distinguish himself as?
- 4 What did he think about art?
- 5 Which are his most important plays?
- 6 When did he write 'The Portrait of Dorian Gray'?
- 7 Where and when did he die?

The Portrait

I. Listening



Listen to the cassette and correct the mistakes.

- 1 The boy in that picture is old and handsome. He has dark hair and the face of a statue.
- 2 He is innocent and I don't want you to have a positive effect on him.
- 3 They are afraid to fulfil their thoughts and try new ideas.
- 4 When you are old you will miss that key forever.
- 5 Basil saw the change in his face.

II. Comprehension questions

- 1 Why didn't Basil want to show the portrait in a gallery?
- 2 Why didn't Basil want Harry to see Dorian?
- 3 What did Dorian look like?
- 4 Why did Dorian visit Basil?
- 5 According to Lord Henry what was wrong with people in those days?
- 6 What did Dorian wish for?

III. Topics for discussion

- 1 In what ways could Lord Henry have a negative effect on Dorian?
- 2 Do you agree that young people should not be afraid to fulfil their dreams and try new ideas?
- 3 What are the pleasures of being young compared to those of being old?
- 4 Do you think there are only advantages in staying young and beautiful for ever? Can you think of any disadvantages?

IV. Activities

A Read the following beginnings and decide which:

- sets the scene through the use of senses
- uses Direct Speech
- includes a description of a person
- sets the scene through describing the weather
- uses first person narration
- uses third person narration

1 The rain was coming down heavily now. Jasper turned his headlights on, as it was almost night and visibility was poor. The windscreen wipers worked furiously as the rain beat down. What an evening!

2 I vividly remember my first day at school. I stood there in line with the other children, feeling terrified. The teachers all looked like terrible giants to me. Talk about the best days of your life!

3 "Let me out of here!" he cried, beating on the iron door with his hands. "I'm innocent, I tell you, innocent!" Nobody heard him, though, and he finally sank to the floor of the dungeon in despair.

4 An unusually tall and well-built person in his early forties, Uncle Clarence still kept his youthful appearance. His blue eyes twinkled with amusement whenever he spoke. Life was a huge joke for Uncle Clarence.

5 A light summer wind blew through the open window of Basil Hallward's Studio. It moved the long silk curtains slightly and filled the room with the smell of fresh flowers. Lord Henry Wotton, Basil Hallward's best friend, lay on a couch, smoking, and he and Basil were looking at a picture of a beautiful young man.

6 Peter turned the key in the lock and opened the door. It was then that he saw the letter lying on the floor. With trembling hands, he opened it and began to read...

B Now, using one of the techniques above, write your own beginning to a story entitled: "A big surprise".

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