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## Make-up Thesis Paper #3

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Oscar Wilde

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## The Picture of Dorian Gray

Directions: Choose TWO of the following topics. Then write ONE essay, illustrating your arguments thoroughly with references to the literature. Your job is to show that you have read the novel, that you have understood it, and that you have something intelligent to say about it. Most of your grade will depend on the number, the specificity, and the appropriateness of the examples you include and discuss and on the successfulness with which you blend the two topics into a unified essay.

1. A minor character usually appears in a novel for one of two reasons. Sometimes an author uses such a character simply as a device to keep a plot moving. At other time an author may use a minor character as a foil to reveal to the reader something about a major character. How does Wilde use James Vane for either or both of these purposes?
2. Although Dorian Gray seems to be totally corrupted, he does have a conscience. Using specific references, justify this statement.
3. Compare and contrast Lord Henry Wotton and Basil Hallward as influences on Dorian Gray. Include a discussion of the type of influence each has on him and then support your judgment of whose influence is ultimately the greater.