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|  | Oscar Wilde |
|  | The Picture of Dorian Gray |
|  | Outline/Study Guide |

## Chapter 1

PLOT: The artist Basil HALLWARD tells his friend Lord Henry WOTTON that he will not exhibit his latest work, a portrait Dorian Gray, a young man of exceptional physical beauty.

IDEAS: Beauty, art, intellect and their interrelationships

CHARACTERS:

Basil HALLWARD

Lord Henry WOTTON

Dorian GRAY (in reference)

KEY LINES:

1. There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about. (6) (Wotton)
2. Beauty, real beauty, ends where an intellectual expression begins. (6) (Wotton)
3. It is better not to be different from one’s fellows. The ugly and the stupid have the best of it in this world. They can sit at their ease and gape at the play. (7) (Hallward)
4. We shall all suffer for what the gods have given us, suffer terribly. (7) (Hallward)
5. The commonest thing is delightful if one only hides it. (7) (Hallward)
6. “You never say a moral thing, and you never do a wrong thing. Your cynicism is simply a pose.” (8) (Hallward to Wotton)
7. 7. I can believe anything, provided that it is quite incredible. (9) (Wotton)
8. Conscience and cowardice are really the same things.... Conscience is the trade name of the firm. That is all. (9) (Wotton)
9. “You like everyone; that is to say, you are indifferent to every one.” (11) (Hallward to Wotton)
10. I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good characters, and my enemies for their good intellects. (11) (Wotton)
11. None of us can stand other people having the same faults as ourselves. (11) (Wotton)
12. The value of an idea has nothing whatsoever to do with the sincerity of the man who expresses it. (12) (Wotton)
13. Nowadays a broken heart will run to many editions. (13) (Wotton)

## CHAPTER 2

PLOT: Hallward introduces Wotton to Gray. While Gray sits as Hallward finishes the picture, Wotton lectures Gray on beauty and tragedy. They continue the conversation in the garden, and Wotton and Gray plan to go to the theater that evening.

IDEAS:

CHARACTERS: Dorian GRAY (appears)

KEY LINES:

1. To influence a person is to give him one’s own soul. He does not think his natural thoughts, or burn with his natural passions. His virtues are not real to him. His sins, if there are such things as sins, are borrowed. (18) Wotton
2. The aim of life is self‑development. To realize one’s nature perfectly ‑‑ that is what each of us is here for. (18) Wotton
3. Every impulse that we strive to strangle broods in the mind, and poisons us. (19) Wotton
4. The way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it. (19) Wotton
5. The great events of the world take place in the brain. It is in the brain, and the brain only, that the great sins of the world take place also. (19) Wotton
6. Beauty is a form of Genius ‑‑ is higher, indeed, than Genius, as it needs no explanation. (22) Wotton
7. Always! That is a dreadful word. It makes me shudder when I hear it. Women are so fond of using it. They spoil every romance by trying to make it last for ever. It is a meaningless word, too. The only difference between a caprice and a lifelong passion is that the caprice lasts a little longer. (24) Wotton
8. How sad it is! I shall grow old, and horrible, and dreadful. But this picture will remain always young. (25) Gray
9. When I find that I am growing old, I shall kill myself. (26) Gray
10. I adore simple pleasures; they are the last refuge of the complex. (27) Wotton
11. Young men want to be faithful and are not; old men want to be faithless, and cannot. (29) Wotton