

the picture of dorian gray analysis

The Picture of Dorian Gray: A Deep Dive Analysis

Introduction:

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* isn't just a gothic novel; it's a multifaceted exploration of beauty, morality, and the corrupting influence of hedonism. This isn't your average book summary; we're diving deep into the symbolism, character analysis, and thematic complexities that make this masterpiece endure. Prepare for a comprehensive analysis that unpacks the novel's enduring relevance and its continuing power to fascinate readers over a century later. We'll delve into the significance of the titular portrait, explore the psychological depths of Dorian Gray, and unravel the intricate web of philosophical ideas woven throughout Wilde's narrative. Get ready to see *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in a whole new light.

I. The Faustian Bargain and the Nature of Beauty:

The novel centers on Dorian Gray's wish to remain eternally youthful while his portrait bears the burden of his aging and moral decay. This immediately establishes a Faustian bargain, echoing the legendary pact with the devil. Dorian's desire isn't simply for vanity; it represents a deeper yearning for the preservation of beauty and youth, both highly valued in Victorian society. The portrait acts as a visual manifestation of his soul, a mirror reflecting his inner corruption as he indulges in a life of hedonistic pursuits. This dynamic highlights Wilde's commentary on the societal obsession with superficial beauty and its potential to blind individuals to the consequences of their actions. The contrast between Dorian's unchanging outward appearance and the decaying portrait underscores the ephemeral nature of beauty and the lasting impact of moral corruption.

II. Character Analysis: Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward, and Lord Henry Wotton:

Dorian Gray: He is the epitome of youthful beauty and naivete, easily swayed by Lord Henry's cynical philosophy. His character arc illustrates the destructive power of unchecked desire and the self-destructive nature of prioritizing aesthetic pleasure above moral integrity. Dorian's transformation from innocent youth to depraved hedonist isn't a sudden shift, but a gradual descent fueled by his self-obsession and the intoxicating influence of Lord Henry's hedonistic ideals.

Basil Hallward: The artist who paints the portrait, Basil represents the idealist who sees only beauty in Dorian. His innocence and artistic sensitivity highlight the contrast between pure appreciation and the corrupting influence of unchecked desire. Basil's murder underscores the devastating consequences of Dorian's actions and his ultimate inability to escape the consequences of his Faustian bargain.

Lord Henry Wotton: The novel's catalyst for corruption, Lord Henry is a charismatic and cynical aesthete who champions pleasure and self-indulgence. He represents the seductive power of intellectual nihilism and the corrupting influence of ideas divorced from morality. He serves as a

manipulator, skillfully guiding Dorian towards his downfall. His influence is subtle yet potent, highlighting the impact of persuasive ideas and the dangers of intellectual cynicism.

III. Symbolism and Allegory: Unpacking the Deeper Meanings:

The novel is rich in symbolism, with each element contributing to the overall thematic tapestry. The portrait itself is the most potent symbol, representing Dorian's soul and the consequences of his actions. Other significant symbols include:

The Picture: The physical manifestation of Dorian's moral decay.

Youth and Beauty: Ephemeral ideals that Dorian clings to desperately.

Flowers: Representing both the fleeting nature of beauty and the decay that accompanies it.

Sibyl Vane: A representation of the true and genuine artistic expression that Dorian ultimately destroys.

IV. Thematic Exploration: Morality, Aestheticism, and the Dangers of Hedonism:

The Picture of Dorian Gray is not simply a gothic horror story; it's a profound exploration of morality, the philosophy of aestheticism, and the perils of unchecked hedonism. Wilde challenges Victorian morality through Dorian's actions, suggesting that societal constraints can be stifling and ultimately lead to rebellion. The novel examines the inherent conflict between beauty and morality, questioning whether one can exist without the other. The novel also serves as a critique of the aesthetic movement's emphasis on beauty and pleasure, cautioning against a life solely driven by sensory gratification.

V. Conclusion: Enduring Relevance and Legacy:

Wilde's masterpiece transcends its Victorian setting, resonating with contemporary readers through its timeless exploration of human nature and the enduring power of temptation. The themes of beauty, morality, and the corrupting influence of self-obsession remain profoundly relevant today. The novel's enduring legacy lies in its ability to challenge conventional morality, stimulate intellectual discourse, and provoke ongoing interpretations. It compels readers to confront their own values and consider the potential consequences of unchecked desires.

VI. Outline of a Detailed Analysis:

Title: A Comprehensive Analysis of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

I. Introduction:

Briefly introduce Oscar Wilde and the novel.

State the purpose of the analysis (exploring key themes, characters, symbolism).

Outline the structure of the analysis.

II. Plot Summary and Setting:

Concisely summarize the key events of the novel.

Discuss the significance of the Victorian setting and its impact on the narrative.

III. Character Analysis:

In-depth analysis of Dorian Gray, Basil Hallward, and Lord Henry Wotton.
Explore their motivations, relationships, and transformations.

IV. Symbolism and Allegory:

Analyze the symbolic significance of the portrait, flowers, and other key objects.
Discuss the use of allegory in representing larger thematic concerns.

V. Thematic Exploration:

Deep dive into the novel's major themes: beauty, morality, hedonism, and aestheticism.
Examine Wilde's critique of Victorian society and his philosophical viewpoints.

VI. Literary Style and Techniques:

Analyze Wilde's use of wit, irony, and satire.
Discuss the narrative structure and its effectiveness.

VII. Critical Reception and Legacy:

Examine the critical response to the novel throughout history.
Discuss its enduring popularity and lasting cultural impact.

VIII. Conclusion:

Summarize the key findings of the analysis.
Offer final thoughts on the novel's significance and enduring relevance.

(The following sections would then elaborate on each point of the outline above, providing detailed analysis as described in the previous sections of this blog post.)

FAQs:

1. What is the central theme of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*? The central theme is the corrupting influence of unchecked hedonism and the pursuit of eternal youth and beauty at the expense of morality.
1. What is the significance of the portrait? The portrait acts as a visual representation of Dorian's soul, reflecting his moral decay while his physical appearance remains unchanged.
1. What role does Lord Henry Wotton play in the novel? Lord Henry serves as a catalyst for Dorian's corruption, influencing him with his cynical philosophy and hedonistic ideals.
1. How does the novel critique Victorian society? Wilde critiques Victorian society's obsession

with appearances and its restrictive moral codes, highlighting the hypocrisy and stifling nature of such constraints.

1. What is the significance of Sibyl Vane's character? Sibyl represents genuine artistic expression and the tragic consequences of Dorian's self-obsession and lack of empathy.
1. What is the philosophical underpinning of the novel? The novel explores the philosophies of aestheticism and hedonism, questioning their implications and potential dangers.
1. How does Wilde use symbolism in the novel? Wilde employs rich symbolism, using objects and imagery to represent abstract concepts and deeper meanings.
1. What is the ending of The Picture of Dorian Gray? The ending depicts Dorian's ultimate destruction, with his physical form reflecting the decades of moral decay captured in the portrait.
1. Why is The Picture of Dorian Gray still relevant today? The novel's exploration of timeless themes like beauty, morality, and self-destruction continues to resonate with contemporary readers, making it a relevant and thought-provoking work.

Related Articles:

1. Oscar Wilde's Life and Works: A biographical overview of Wilde's life and his contributions to literature.
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7. Victorian Morality and its Critics: A discussion of Victorian moral codes and their critics.
8. The Role of Art in The Picture of Dorian Gray: An examination of the artistic themes in the novel.
9. Comparing The Picture of Dorian Gray to other Gothic Novels: A comparative analysis of The Picture of Dorian Gray with other classic gothic novels.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2016-03-24
The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde from Coterie Classics All Coterie Classics have been formatted for ereaders and devices and include a bonus link to the free audio book. "Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault. Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only Beauty. There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all." — Oscar Wilde, The Picture of Dorian Gray A man sells his soul for eternal youth and scandalizes the city in Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Turn of the Key Ruth Ware, 2020-05-12 INSTANT NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER "A superb suspense writer...Brava, Ruth Ware. I daresay even Henry James would be impressed." —Maureen Corrigan, author of So We Read On "This appropriately twisty Turn of the Screw update finds the Woman in Cabin 10 author in her most menacing mode, unfurling a shocking saga of murder and deception." —Entertainment Weekly From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Lying Game and The Death of Mrs. Westaway comes this thrilling novel that explores the dark side of technology. When she stumbles across the ad, she's looking for something else completely. But it seems like too good an opportunity to miss—a live-in nannying post, with a staggeringly generous salary. And when Rowan Caine arrives at Heatherbrae House, she is smitten—by the luxurious "smart" home fitted out with all modern conveniences, by the beautiful Scottish Highlands, and by this picture-perfect family. What she doesn't know is that she's stepping into a nightmare—one that will end with a child dead and herself in prison awaiting trial for murder. Writing to her lawyer from prison, she struggles to explain the events that led to her incarceration. It wasn't just the constant surveillance from the home's cameras, or the malfunctioning technology that woke the household with booming music, or turned the lights off at the worst possible time. It wasn't just the girls, who turned out to be a far cry from the immaculately behaved model children she met at her interview. It wasn't even the way she was left alone for weeks at a time, with no adults around apart from the enigmatic handyman. It was everything. She knows she's made mistakes. She admits that she lied to obtain the post, and that her behavior toward the children wasn't always ideal. She's not innocent, by any means. But, she maintains, she's not guilty—at least not of murder—but somebody is. Full of spellbinding menace and told in Ruth Ware's signature suspenseful style, The Turn of the Key is an unputdownable thriller from the Agatha Christie of our time.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Uncensored Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2020-08-29 Over 120 years after Oscar Wilde submitted The Picture of Dorian Gray for publication, the uncensored version of his novel appears here for the first time in a paperback edition. This volume restores material, including instances of graphic homosexual content, removed by the novel's first editor, who feared it would be offensive to Victorians.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2010-02

the picture of dorian gray analysis: To Paradise Hanya Yanagihara, 2022-01-11 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER • From the award-winning, best-selling author of the classic *A Little Life*—a bold, brilliant novel spanning three centuries and three different versions of the American experiment, about lovers, family, loss and the elusive promise of utopia. A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR: VOGUE • ESQUIRE • NPR • GOODREADS *To Paradise* is a fin de siècle novel of marvelous literary effect, but above all it is a work of emotional genius. The great power of this remarkable novel is driven by Yanagihara's understanding of the aching desire to protect those we love—partners, lovers, children, friends, family, and even our fellow citizens—and the pain that ensues when we cannot. In an alternate version of 1893 America, New York is part of the Free States, where people may live and love whomever they please (or so it seems). The fragile young scion of a distinguished family resists betrothal to a worthy suitor, drawn to a charming music teacher of no means. In a 1993 Manhattan besieged by the AIDS epidemic, a young Hawaiian man lives with his much older, wealthier partner, hiding his troubled childhood and the fate of his father. And in 2093, in a world riven by plagues and governed by totalitarian rule, a powerful scientist's damaged granddaughter tries to navigate life without him—and solve the mystery of her husband's disappearances. These three sections comprise an ingenious symphony, as recurring notes and themes deepen and enrich one another: A townhouse in Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village; illness, and treatments that come at a terrible cost; wealth and squalor; the weak and the strong; race; the definition of family, and of nationhood; the dangerous righteousness of the powerful, and of revolutionaries; the longing to find a place in an earthly paradise, and the gradual realization that it can't exist. What unites not just the characters, but these Americas, are their reckonings with the qualities that make us human: Fear. Love. Shame. Need. Loneliness.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Strange Science Lara Pauline Karpenko, Shalyn Rae Claggett, 2017 A fascinating look at scientific inquiry during the Victorian period and the shifting boundary between mainstream and unorthodox sciences of the time

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *Against the Grain* J. K. Huysmans, 2009-05-01 À rebours, *Against the Grain* or *Against Nature* in English, is an 1884 novel by Joris-Karl Huysmans. Anti-hero Jean Des Esseintes despises the bourgeois society he lives in and withdraws into the aesthetic and artistic ideals that he has created. Believing the novel would be rejected by both critics and public, Huysman declared: It will be the biggest fiasco of the year - but I don't care a damn! It will be something nobody has ever done before, and I shall have said what I want to say... The novel did receive great publicity on its release, but even though it was heavily criticized it also became influential with a new generation of writers and aesthetes.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2011-04-11 The *Picture of Dorian Gray* altered the way Victorians understood the world they inhabited, heralding the end of a repressive era. Now, more than 120 years after Wilde handed it over to his publisher, Wilde's uncensored typescript is published here for the first time, in an annotated, extensively illustrated edition.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Dorian Will Self, 2003-06-26 Takes both subject and style seriously. This title features the locations, characters, plot and epigrams transposed from the 1890s to the 1990s.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Art and the Handicraftsman Oscar Wilde, 2017-06-23 The fragments of which this lecture is composed are taken entirely from the original manuscripts which have but recently been discovered. It is not certain that they all belong to the same lecture, nor that all were written at the same period. Some portions were written in Philadelphia in 1882.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Goats Brock Cole, 2010-06-22 Harmless camp pranks can quickly spiral out of control, but they also provide a perfect opportunity for two social outcasts to overcome and triumph. A boy and a girl are stripped and marooned on a small island for the night. They are the goats. The kids at camp think it's a great joke, just a harmless old tradition. But the goats don't see it that way. Instead of trying to get back to camp, they decide to call home.

But no one can come and get them. So they're on their own, wandering through a small town trying to find clothing, food, and shelter, all while avoiding suspicious adults—especially the police. The boy and the girl find they rather like life on their own. If their parents ever do show up to rescue them, the boy and the girl might be long gone. . . . The Goats is a 1987 New York Times Book Review Notable Children's Book of the Year.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray Michael Patrick Gillespie, 1995 Written in an easy-to-read, accessible style by teachers with years of classroom experience, Masterwork Studies are guides to the literary works most frequently studied in high school. Presenting ideas that spark imaginations, these books help students to gain background knowledge on great literature useful for papers and exams. The goal of each study is to encourage creative thinking by presenting engaging information about each work and its author. This approach allows students to arrive at sound analyses of their own, based on in-depth studies of popular literature. Each volume: -- Illuminates themes and concepts of a classic text-- Uses clear, conversational language-- Is an accessible, manageable length from 140 to 170 pages-- Includes a chronology of the author's life and era-- Provides an overview of the historical context-- Offers a summary of its critical reception-- Lists primary and secondary sources and index Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Art and Morality Oscar Wilde, Stuart Mason, 2013-08-16 Art and Morality A Defence of the Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde Edited by Stuart Mason On the whole, an artist in England gains something by being attacked. His individuality is intensified. He becomes more completely himself. Of course, the attacks are very gross, very impertinent, and very contemptible. But then no artist expects grace from the vulgar mind, or style from the suburban intellect.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 2021-04-20 One of the greatest books ever written. A splendid masterpiece...

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Writings of Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 1907

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Essays Oscar Wilde, 1972

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Oscar Wilde in Context Kerry Powell, Peter Raby, 2013-12-12 Concise and illuminating articles explore Oscar Wilde's life and work in the context of the turbulent landscape of his time.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Enamels and Cameos and Other Poems Theophile Gautier, 2015-05-01 A creative innovator who boldly traversed traditional boundaries separating different genres and schools, French poet Theophile Gautier was extremely influential, playing a role in shaping the styles of poets from T. S. Elliot to Ezra Pound. In this, his most acclaimed collection of verse, Gautier offers his philosophical ponderings and lyrical musings.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture of Dorian Gray and Other Writings Oscar Wilde, 2012-05-09 Flamboyant and controversial, Oscar Wilde was a dazzling personality, a master of wit, and a dramatic genius whose sparkling comedies contain some of the most brilliant dialogue ever written for the English stage. Here in one volume are his immensely popular novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*; his last literary work, "The Ballad of Reading Gaol," a product of his own prison experience; and four complete plays: *Lady Windermere's Fan*, his first dramatic success, *An Ideal Husband*, which pokes fun at conventional morality, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, his finest comedy, and *Salomé*, a portrait of uncontrollable love originally written in French and faithfully translated by Richard Ellmann. Every selection appears in its entirety—a marvelous collection of outstanding works by the incomparable Oscar Wilde, who's been aptly called "a lord of language" by Max Beerbohm.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Oscar Wilde and the Radical Politics of the Fin de Siècle Deaglán Ó Donghaile, 2020 This book reads Oscar Wilde's literary texts in relation to his open support for revolutionaries, along with his expressions of solidarity with Irish republicans, anarchists, workers and migrants.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Picture Of Dorain Gray ,

the picture of dorian gray analysis: North and South Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, 1855 When her father leaves the Church in a crisis of conscience, Margaret Hale is uprooted from her comfortable home in Hampshire to move with her family to the north of England. Initially repulsed by the ugliness of her new surroundings in the industrial town of Milton, Margaret becomes aware of the poverty and suffering of the local mill workers and develops a passionate sense of social justice. This is intensified by her tempestuous relationship with the mill-owner and self-made man, John Thornton, as their fierce opposition over his treatment of his employees masks a deeper attraction. In *North and South*, Elizabeth Gaskell skillfully fuses individual feeling with social concern, and in Margaret Hale creates one of the most original heroines of Victorian literature.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* Oscar Wilde, 1928

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde, 2014-08-01 Jack Worthing gets antsy living at his country estate. As an excuse, he spins tales of his rowdy brother Earnest living in London. When Jack rushes to the city to confront his brother, he's free to become Earnest and live a different lifestyle. In London, his best friend, Algernon, begins to suspect Earnest is leading a double life. Earnest confesses that his real name is Jack and admits the ruse has become tricky as two women have become enchanted with the idea of marrying Earnest. On a whim, Algernon also pretends to be Earnest and encounters the two women as they meet at the estate. With two Earnests who aren't really earnest and two women in love with little more than a name, this play is a classic comedy of errors. This is an unabridged version of Oscar Wilde's English play, first published in 1899.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *Mary Barton* Elizabeth Gaskell, 1849

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *The Devil Next Door* Vera B. Profit, 2014-08-15 Rather than theoretical or abstract, above all else, this monograph endeavors to serve as a practical guide, a handbook for helping us navigate a dark terrain. It neither presumes to examine the sources of evil nor suggest radical cures. These pages strive only to continue the process of naming the signs of individual evil that we might recognize these persons before they inflict even more damage. Scott Peck says it best. "If evil were easy to recognize, identify, and manage, there would be no need for this book." Of course, he was referring to his own pioneering treatise; given the realities of our day, the need remains as great as ever. Vera B. Profit is Professor of German and Comparative Literature, University of Notre Dame. Previous monographs include: *Interpretations of Iwan Goll's late Poetry with a comprehensive and annotated Bibliography of the Writings by and about Iwan Goll*, *Ein Porträt meiner Selbst: Karl Krolow's Autobiographical Poems (1945-1958) and Their French Sources*, *Menschlich: Gespräche mit Karl Krolow*. She earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (French and German) at the University of Rochester, NY, and spent two years studying abroad: one at the University of Vienna, the other at the Sorbonne.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray Ian Edginton, Oscar Wilde, 2008 One of the most revered classics of modern literature brought to life in Manga form.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *A Woman of No Importance* Oscar Wilde, 2022-06-02 *A Woman of No Importance* is a play by Oscar Wilde, which became a phenomenon of its time. Like Wilde's other society plays, *A Woman of No Importance* satirizes the English upper-class society. The plot centers around the revelation of Mrs. Arbuthnot's long-concealed secret. As the events develop, the author casts light on the perversions in Victorian upper-class society's morals, hypocritical conventions, and general views and conduct.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *Lady Windermere's Fan* Oscar Wilde, 1893 *Lady Windermere's Fan*, A Play About a Good Woman is a four-act comedy by Oscar Wilde, first produced 22 February 1892 at the St James's Theatre in London. The play was first published in 1893. Like many of Wilde's comedies, it bitingly satirizes the morals of society. The story concerns Lady Windermere, who suspects that her husband is having an affair with another woman. She confronts him with it but although he denies it, he invites the other woman, Mrs Erlynne, to his wife's birthday ball. Angered by her husband's supposed unfaithfulness, Lady Windermere decides to leave her

husband for another lover. After discovering what has transpired, Mrs Erlynne follows Lady Windermere and attempts to persuade her to return to her husband and in the course of this, Mrs Erlynne is discovered in a compromising position. It is then revealed Mrs Erlynne is Lady Windermere's mother, who abandoned her family twenty years before the time the play is set. Mrs Erlynne sacrifices herself and her reputation to save her daughter's marriage. The best known line of the play sums up the central theme.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Selfish Giant Oscar Wilde, 2019-10-15 The Selfish Giant is a short fantasy story for children by the Irish author Oscar Wilde. The story's plot revolves around a giant who builds a wall to keep children out of his garden, but learns compassion from the innocence of the children. The short story contains significant religious imagery. The Selfish Giant owns a beautiful garden which has 12 peach trees and lovely fragrant flowers, in which children love to play after returning from the school. The Giant put a notice board TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED. The garden falls into perpetual winter. One day, the giant is awakened by a linnet, and discovers that spring has returned to the garden, as the children have found a way in through a gap in the wall... It was first published in 1888 in the anthology *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, which, in addition to its title story, also includes *The Nightingale and the Rose*, "The Happy Prince", *The Devoted Friend* and *The Remarkable Rocket*.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (Book Analysis) Bright Summaries, 2016-02-26 Unlock the more straightforward side of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde, a fascinating novel in which a beautiful young man, under the poisonous influence of an older dandy, makes a bargain with the devil, according to which he stays young and charming while his portrait becomes a reflection of his conscience. When first written, the story was considered indecent and was heavily censored. Despite this, it quickly gained a large readership, and continues to enjoy success today; it has been adapted for the screen and stage many times, as well as inspiring various characters and even a medical syndrome. It is Wilde's only novel, and the author spent more time writing plays and epigrams up until his tragic early death. Find out everything you need to know about *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you in your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

the picture of dorian gray analysis: *The Year of Reading Dangerously* Andy Miller, 2014-12-09 "[A] fanciful, endearing account of his experiences tackling classic works of fiction. . . . There is plenty of hilarity in [this] intimate literary memoir." —Publishers Weekly Nearing his fortieth birthday, author and critic Andy Miller realized he's not nearly as well read as he'd like to be. A devout book lover who somehow fell out of the habit of reading, he began to ponder the power of books to change an individual life—including his own—and to define the sort of person he would like to be. Beginning with a copy of Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita*, he embarks on a literary odyssey of mindful reading and wry introspection. From *Middlemarch* to *Anna Karenina* to *A Confederacy of Dunces*, these are books Miller felt he should read; books he'd always wanted to read; books he'd previously started but hadn't finished; and books he'd lied about having read to impress people. Combining memoir and literary criticism, *The Year of Reading Dangerously* is Miller's heartfelt, humorous examination of what it means to be a reader. Passionately believing that books deserve to be read, enjoyed, and debated in the real world, Miller documents his reading experiences and how they resonated in his daily life and ultimately his very sense of self. The result is a witty and insightful journey of discovery and soul-searching that celebrates the abiding miracle of the power of reading. "An affecting tale of the rediscovery of great books . . . [by] a friendly, funny Brit." —Boston Globe "Funny and engaging." —Kirkus Reviews "Amiable, circumstantial, amusing,

charming. . . . [Miller's] style owes something . . . to Joe Brainard and David Foster Wallace." —The Times (London)

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Simply a Shell? a Literary Analysis of the Protagonist in Oscar Wilde's the Picture of Dorian Gray Media Esfarjani, 2017-06-14 Seminar paper from the year 2016 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,3, University of Frankfurt (Main) (Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik), course: English Decadence and Aestheticism, language: English, abstract: This term paper examines the Protagonist of Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture Of Dorian Gray and his journey to accomplish his desire of becoming beautiful and leading an aesthetically fulfilling life. Therefore the paper will firstly take a closer look at the role of hedonism, as it not only heavily influences Dorian's lifestyle, but literally his fate. Afterwards, Dorian's idea of beauty will be exhibited while the concepts of art and morality in the novel will be considered. Before the paper comes to its conclusion, Dorian's relationship to the portrait and the pact which causes the division of body and soul will be examined. As Basil and Henry may be regarded as representatives of these aspects, the paper also partly lays the focus on their characters in the above mentioned contexts.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Julius Caesar William Shakespeare, 1957

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Gashmu Saith It Douglas Wilson, 2021-11-30 As Nehemiah rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem, Gashmu and the enemies of Israel mocked him: It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel... (Neh. 6:6). Too many Christians building communities today take the taunts of every modern-day Gashmu seriously. Community is a buzzword, and it turns out there's a lot of bad advice about how to build one. In Gashmu Saith It, Douglas Wilson includes forty years of experience for Christians wanting to build robust communities without retreat or compromise on the foundation of the Gospel. This book is full of wisdom: Get calluses. Be loyal. Fight sin. Build walls on the outside and a church in the middle.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Scarlet Soul Mark Valentine, 2017

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Autobiography of Oscar Wilde Oscar Wilde, 2017-01-10 Oscar Wilde never wrote an autobiography. From his correspondence and his conversation, however, it has proven possible to piece one together. Constructed after the manner of Ruth Scurr's John Aubrey, this is his own story, in his own inimitable words. PRAISE FOR OSCAR WILDEReading and rereading Wilde throughout the years, I notice a fact that people who praise him apparently haven't in the very least: the basic and verifiable fact that Wilde is almost always right.--Jorge Luis BorgesThough the Philistines may jostleYou will rank as an apostleIn the high aesthetic band,As you walk down PiccadillyWith a poppy or a lilyIn your mediaeval hand.--Arthur SullivanHe made dying Victorianism laugh at itself, and it may be said to have died of the laughter.--Richard Le GallienneI have had the privilege of listening also to many other masters of table talk--Meredith and Swinburne, Edmund Gosse and Henry James, Augustine Birrell and Arthur Balfour, Gilbert Chesterton and Desmond MacCarthy and Hilaire Belloc, all of them splendid in their own way--but assuredly Oscar in his own way was the greatest of them all: the most spontaneous and yet the most polished, the most soothing and yet the most surprising.--Max BeerbohmOscar Wilde said that sunsets were not valued because we could not pay for sunsets. But Oscar Wilde was wrong; we can pay for sunsets. We can pay for them by not being Oscar Wilde.--GK ChestertonOscar turned his words into gems and flung them to the moon!--Herbert Beerbohm TreeWhat a tiresome, affected sod.--Noel CowardRather like Gore Vidal in our time, Wilde was able to be mordant and witty because he was, deep down and on the surface, un homme serieux. May his memory stay carnation-green. May he ever encourage us to think that the bores and the bullies and the literal minds need not always win. May he induce us to rise from our semi-recumbent postures.--Christopher HitchensNo, I've never cared for his work. Too scented.--Rudyard KiplingWhat has Oscar in common with Art?--except that he dines at our tables and picks from our platter the plums for the puddings he peddles in the provinces. Oscar--the amiable, irresponsible, esurient Oscar--with no more sense of a picture than of the fit of a coat, has the courage of the

opinions--of others!--James McNeill WhistlerThe dinner table was Wilde's event and made him the greatest talker of his time.--WB Yeats

the picture of dorian gray analysis: Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray". An analysis with Christopher Booker's "Seven Basic Plots" , 2016-07-13 Essay from the year 2015 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0, Ruhr-University of Bochum (Philologie), course: Academic skills, language: English, abstract: Christopher Booker argues in his book The Seven Basic Plots - Why we tell stories that "there is a number of plots which are fundamental to the way we tell stories" (Booker 6) and that every single storyline is constructed of one of the seven predetermined plot developments. Booker characterizes each of the possible plots roughly and then states that there cannot be any story that differs from one of these patterns. The author then goes even further. He states that every plot actually runs through the same five stages, which he calls "meta-plot" (Booker 157). In other words C. Booker demonstrates how to analyze the plot of a story by classifying it into the category it fits in and then subdividing its different stages. But does his concept really work for any story? Is it possible to categorize a book into one of Booker's seven plots and to subdivide its plot into the five stages of Booker's meta-plot afterwards? In order to question whether his theory works for different stories this work deals with the analysis of the novel The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde according to C. Booker's scheme of the Seven Basic Plots.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Initial Reception of the Novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" Through the Victorian Public. An Analysis of the Standards of the Literary Critic Dominik Wohlfarth, 2008-02 Seminar paper from the year 2003 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2,3 (B), University of Freiburg (English Faculty), course: Oscar Wilde Proseminar, 13 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: This paper will be separated into three main parts. The first examines late-Victorian moral values, literary standards as well as Oscar Wilde's view of art and its criticism. The second part explores reactions of the audience, especially the press, to Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray.. The third part then critically analyses these arguments and explains the role Victorian values and the resulting literary expectation played in the criticism.

the picture of dorian gray analysis: The Act of Reading "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde Cristina Pascual Aransáez, 2018-11-26 Research Paper (postgraduate) from the year 1999 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, , course: Third-Cycle Education / Tercer Ciclo, language: English, abstract: This study analyses the act of reading The Picture of Dorian Gray from the perspective of Reception Theory. In his critical writings, Oscar Wilde asserts that the receiver of a work of art must play a dynamic role in the construction of its meaning, and the analysis of his only novel shows that Wilde encourages the reader to participate actively in its production in order to be able to find out the lesson which is inherent in it. As a result, the research shows that The Picture of Dorian Gray is representative of Wilde's aesthetic principles not only because it promotes the individuality of the reader but also because the moral in it is subordinated to its artistic effects.

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