

The picture of
Dorian Gray
by
Oscar Wilde
M., 1963
(с.19-263)

**ФАКУЛЬТЕТ ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ
ВГПУ
ВОЛГОГРАД**

Assignment I

Read pages 18-36: the preface and chapter I, give each of them a title.

1. Introduce the characters: Lord Henry Wotton, Basil Hallward, Dorian Gray, Parker.
2. a) words and word combinations to be remembered:
 - full-length portrait (p.19)
 - to gain a reputation (p.20)
 - to put too much of oneself into something (p.21)
 - to fascinate somebody (p.21)
 - to be ashamed of one's virtues (p.23)
 - to be careful in the choice of enemies (p.27)
 - the harmony of soul and body (p.29)
 - to look always delightful (p.23)
 - to shrug one's shoulders (p.24)
 - to argue with somebody (p.33)
 - b) find sentences in chapter I to illustrate the way verbs (to leave- to stay and to come- to go) are used in the text:
 - c) try to remember as many replies as possible from the conversation between Lord Henry and the painter.
3. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What was interesting about the studio of the painter?
 - 2) How did Lord Henry behave himself in company with the painter?
 - 3) Did Basil like the way Lord Henry talked about his married life?
 - 4) What did the painter tell Lord Henry about the sitter?
 - 5) What were Basil's views on art?
4. Practice in reading and translating some sentences:
 - p.24 "Every portrait... now the sitter".
 - p.26 "The reason... my soul".
 - p.29 "How horribly... rather vain".
 - p.35 "Don't look so... your friend".

NB Find a passage of 5-10 lines that you find the most expressive and learn it by heart.
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) Basil Hallward and his friend Lord Henry.
 - 2) Basil Hallward and one of his sitters Dorian Gray.
 - 3) Lady Brandon and some of her guests.

Assignment II

Read pages 36-68, chapters II and III, give each of them a suitable title.

1. Introduce the characters: Uncle George, Lady Agatha, Sir Thomas Burdon, Mr. Erskina.
2. a) words and word combinations to be remembered:
 - make a wry face (p.55)
 - invent a facile excuse (p.61)
 - an old gentleman of considerable charm and culture (p.63)
 - to be absolutely reasonable
 - to sympathise with everything except suffering (p.64)
 - to play with the idea (p.66)
 - to bid good-bye to smb (p.68)
 - to take a fancy to smb (p.39)b) find sentences in chapters II and III to illustrate the way verbs (to tell- to say and to speak- to talk) are used in the text;
 - c) try to remember as many replies as possible from the conversation between Lord Henry and other guests of his aunt.
3. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) Why did Lord Henry find Dorian Gray fascinating?
 - 2) Had the friendship between Basil Hallward and Dorian Gray altered any of them?
 - 3) How can you prove that Dorian was jealous of the portrait that Basil had painted?
 - 4) What do you know of Lord Henry's uncle Lord Fermor?
 - 5) How can you characterise all those guests at his aunt's place?
4. Practice some sentences in reading and translating:
 - p.59 "So that was... wonder of his face".
 - p.65 "A laugh ran round... for being sober" (p.66)NB. Find some questions in the book that you would like to take into your consideration.
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) The painter and two of his friends appreciating his work..
 - 2) Lord Fermor discussing some problems with his relative Lord Henry.
 - 3) The topic under discussion at the place of Lady Agatha

Assignment III.

Read pages 68-99, chapters IV and V, give each of them a suitable title.

1. Introduce the characters: Lady Henry, Sibyl Vane, Mrs. Vane, James Vane.
2. a) words and word combinations to be remembered:
 - succeeded in being untidy (p.69)
 - don't think I am likely to marry (p.71)
 - have a curious influence over smb. (p.76)
 - to pay compliments (p.79)
 - to be of no ethical value (p.84)
 - to feel ill at ease (p.89)
 - to be heart-sick at leaving home (p.92)
 - an oath broke from his lips(p.98)b) find sentences in chapters IV and V to illustrate the way verbs (to offer- to suggest, to give, to get) are used in the text;
 - c) try to remember some of the passages given either by Sibyl or her brother James.
3. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What did you get to know about Lord Henry's wife?
 - 2) What aphorisms of Lord Henry did Dorian try to put into practice?
 - 3) Was Dorian an ardent theatre-goer?
 - 4) Why did Mrs. Vane think that Mrs. Isaacs had been most considerate?
 - 5) Where was James invited by his sister?
 - 6) Did James ask his mother any questions before his leaving the flat?
4. Practice some passages in reading and translating:
 - p.75 "But Juliet!...can stir one."
 - p.97 "His mother ..enraged him."
5. Speak on the ? following points:
 - 1) Dorian's illusions as far Sibyl being a genius.
 - 2) The experimental method of Lord Henry.
 - 3) Happiness and unhappiness of Mrs.Vane.
 - 4) Some dreams of James Vane.

Assignment IV.

Read pages 99-121, chapters VI and VII, give each of them a suitable title.

1. Give a summary of chapters I-V.
2. a) words and word combinations to be remembered:
 - to be simply a born actress (p.103)
 - to bring misery upon anyone (p.104)
 - to be divine beyond all living things (p.109)
 - to be horribly disappointed (p.110)
 - to be a complete failure (p.111)
 - to make oneself ridiculous (p.113)
 - to lay eyes upon smb. (p.115)
 - a fit of passionate sobbing choked her (p.116)b) find sentences in chapters VI and VII to illustrate the way verbs (to offer, to expect- to wait) and adjectives (pretty, handsome, charming) are used in the text;
- c) remember some of the passages given by Basil.
3. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What particular problems did Basil and Harry discuss at the Bristol before Dorian's coming?
 - 2) How did Dorian let Basil and Harry know about his engagement?
 - 3) Why do you think Harry get interested in the idea of going to the theatre in company with Dorian and Basil?
 - 4) How did the audience and the actors impress three theatre-goers?
 - 5) Was Sibyl that evening merely a commonplace, a mediocre actress?
 - 6) What changes could Dorian see in the face of the portrait?
4. Practice some passages in reading and translating:
 - p.104-105 "Dorian Gray ... delightful theories".
 - p.118 "Finally he ... some dreadful thing."
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) Some theories of Lord Henry. Comment on them.
 - 2) The way Harry, Dorian and Basil discussed Sibyl's acting when the second act of the performance was over.
 - 3) Prince Charming and his "acting" before Sibyl.
 - 4) Your own assessment of Dorian's behaviour after the performance.

Assignment V

Read pages 121-148, chapters VIII and IX, give each of them a suitable title.

1. Comment on the sentences:
 - a) p. 122 – He seemed to have forgotten all that he had gone through.
 - b) p. 123 - Had the portrait really changed?
 - c) p.125 - ... wrote a passionate letter to the girl he had loved, imploring her forgiveness, ...
 - d) p. 125 – You cut life pieces with your epigrams.
2. Practice some passages in reading and translating:
 - a) p. 128 “Here is the first ... self of her”.
 - b) p. 135 “She had atoned ... was all.”
 - c) p. 141 “Of course I am very ... that was noble”.
 - d) p. 145 –146 “One day ... to be exhibited”.
3. Find as many adjectives in both chapters as possible which characterize Dorian Gray:
selfish – p.128, heartless – p.129, etc.
4. First answer the questions given below, then make up your own questions you would like your group mates to answer:
 - 1) Was Dorian interested in a pile of letters?
 - 2) How did the young man come to the idea of writing a letter to the girl accusing himself of madness?
 - 3) What news about Sibyl Vane did Lord Henry bring to Dorian?
 - 4) How will you comment Dorian’s words? “But we will not talk again of what has happened. It has been a marvellous experience.”
 - 5) Dorian was once the most unspoiled creature in the whole world and then (in Basil’s opinion)?
 - 6) How did Dorian take the idea of his portrait being exhibited in France?
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) D o r i a n – “... a tragedy in which I took a great part, but by which I have not been wounded”. (p.132, etc)
 - 2) H a r r y – “I had buried my romance in a bed of asphodel” (p.131)
 - 3) B a s i l – “... was thunderstruck”. (p.142, etc)

Assignment VI

Read pages 149-180, chapters X, XI, give each chapter a suitable title.

1. Words and word combinations to be remembered and reproduced in situations from the book:
 - to have hateful memories of smb. (p.149)
 - to resist smb's influence (p.150)
 - to feel a little annoyed with smb for having done smth. (p.156)
 - under an assumed name (p.160)
 - one's search for sensations (p.164)
 - to turn one's attention to smth/smb (p.170)
 - to discover one's secret (p.175)
 - to love to stroll through (p.176)
2. Give a detailed retelling of chapter X and then answer these questions:
 - About what did Dorian speak to his servant Victor, his house-keeper Mrs. Leaf, the celebrated frame-maker M. Hubbard?
 - What were Dorian's thoughts on entering his former schoolroom, which was secure from prying eyes?
 - What poisonous book fascinated Dorian?
3. Passages for reading and translating (a passage of ten-15 lines is offered to every student):
 - 1) p.160 "He would examine...
 - 2) p.160 "Once or twice every...
 - 3) p.161 "His mode of dressing...
 - 4) p.163 "There are few of...
 - 5) p.164 "It was rumored of...
 - 6) p.166 "He saw that...
 - 7) p.166 "At another...
 - 8) p.167 "On one occasion...
 - 9) p.170 "Then he turned
 - 10) p.172 "He has a special...
 - 11) p.173 "Upon the walls...
 - 12) p.174 "He was quite...
4. Comment on the sentences:
 - p.160 – The more he knew, the more he desired to know.
 - p.175 – ...as though they were determined to discover his secret.
 - p.177 – They seemed to follow him wherever he went.
 - p.180 – There was a horrible fascination in them all.
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) Strange rumours about Dorian's mode of life;
 - 2) Different things Dorian devoted himself entirely;
 - 3) Dorian's extraordinary absences became notorious;
 - 4) The picture gallery of Dorian's country house;
 - 5) The hero of the wonderful novel that had so influenced Dorian's life.

Assignment VII

Read pages 180-211, chapters XII, XIII, XIV, give each chapter a suitable title.

1. Words and word combinations to be remembered and reproduced in situations from the book:
 - to make no sign recognition (p.181)
 - to make smb quite at home (p.182)
 - to be interested in one's good name (p.183)
 - a curl contempt in his lips (p.188)
 - to loath smth/smb (p.193)
 - to brood on what he had gone through (p.197)
 - to decline to be mixed up in one's life (p.203)
 - to speak in an authoritative manner (p.209)
2. Comment on the sentences:
 - p. 182 – I love scandals about your people, but scandals about myself don't interest me.
 - p.185 – One has a right to judge of a man by the effect he has over his friends.
 - p. 191 – This is not even glance at the murdered man.
 - p. 202 – That was the man Dorian Gray was waiting for.
3. Practice some passages in reading and translating:
 - p. 186 "I must speak ... respect you."
 - p.201 "He was an extremely ... conscious of it."
4. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What were Basil Hallward's intentions in going to Paris by the midnight train?
 - 2) Dorian's friendship was fatal to some young people (men and women) In Basil's opinion, wasn't it?
 - 3) How did happen that Basil had missed his train to Paris that night?
 - 4) Why did an exclamation of horror break from the painter's lips as he saw the painting?
 - 5) How did Dorian Gray express the way he loathed Basil Hallward? How did D.Gray and A.Campbell get to know each other?
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) Basil wanted Dorian to have a clear name and a fair record;
 - 2) Basil: "We are both punished";
 - 3) Dorian's actions after locking the door behind him at the top of his house;
 - 4) Alan Campbell was asked to perform a certain scientific experiment.

Assignment VIII

Read pages 211-231, chapters XV, XVI, give each chapter a suitable title.

1. Words and word combinations to be remembered and reproduced in situations from the book:
 - to feel wildly excited (p.211)
 - a tedious party (p.212)
 - to seem rather of out sorts at dinner (p.217)
 - a crooked smile writhed across the face (p.226)
 - to grow sick with fear (p.228)
 - to commit a terrible crime (p.229)
 - to set smb on the wrong track (p.229)
2. Comment on the sentences:
 - p.211 – "... and for a moment felt keenly the terrible pleasure of a double life."
 - p.219 – "You are not yourself to-night".
 - p.222 – "His throat burned and his delicate hands twitched nervously together".
 - p.230 – "He was trembling from head to foot".
3. Practice some passages in reading and translating:
 - p.220 "His breath quickened ... glanced at the dock".
 - p.229 "James Vane hesitated ... destroyed her life".
4. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What do you know about Lady Narborough and her quests?
 - 2) What was the topic under discussion when Lord Henry joined in?
 - 3) Why did the presence of Adrian Singleton trouble Dorian Gray?
 - 4) Why did the drowsy sailor look wildly round when he heard the woman's words "Prince Charming"?
 - 5) How did Sibyl's brother get to know that he was deceived?
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) The ladies' opinions on the problem of love, marriage?
 - 2) Lord Henry's casual questions to Dorian Gray.
 - 3) Dorian in a hansom a good horse on the way to opiumdens.
 - 4) The way Dorian got rid of James Vane.

Assignment IX

Read pages 231-248, chapters XVII, XVIII, give each chapter a suitable title.

1. Words and word combinations to be remembered and reproduced in situations from the book:
 - a jaded- looking of sixty p.231
 - to be annoyed with smth p.234
 - to get annoyed with smb. about smth p.234
 - to search for happiness (peace, pleasure) p.235-236
 - to look round with dazed expression p.237
 - a wild recklessness of gaiety in his manner p.237
 - to prowl round the house p.238
 - he looks as if he had been a sort of sailor p.247
 - to heave a sigh of relief p.234
2. Comment on the sentences:
 - p.234 – Years ago he was christened Prince Charming.
 - p.238 - ... and horror seemed once more to lay its hand upon his heart.
 - p.241 – The head-keeper came running up with a stick in his hand.
 - p.244 – It is a hideous subject.
 - p.247 – A terrible hope fluttered past him.
3. Practice some passages in reading and translating, choose one of them for learning by heart:
 - p.237 “Everybody started ... overtired yourself.”
 - p.239 “and yet ... will break”.
 - p.243 “I wish I could love ... one is safe.”
4. Answer the following questions:
 - 1) What questions did Harry and Gladys discuss at the party?
 - 2) What's your opinion about Harry's cousin and her views on life?
 - 3) Why did a thrill of terror run through Dorian when he was carried from the conservatory?
 - 4) Why didn't Dorian venture to go out for some days?
 - 5) What unfortunate accident upset Dorian?
 - 6) Why did a cry of joy break from Dorian's lips when he saw the dead body of James Vane?
5. Speak on the following points:
 - 1) The quests of Dorian Gray at Selby Royal;
 - 2) The conversation of the Duchess with her cousin Harry and her favourite Dorian Gray;
 - 3) Dorian was found lying face downwards on the floor in a death-like swoon.

4) The shooting party.

Assignment X.

Read pages 243-264, chapters XIX, XX, give each chapter a suitable title.

1. Words and word combinations to be remembered and reproduced in situations from the book:

to sound vain (p.249)

to have a wonderful genius for painting (p.252)

to cease to be great friend,

to cease to be a great artist (p.253-254)

to bear the burden of one's life (p.260)

the thing was still loathsome(p.262)

to suffer public shame(p.263)

2. Comment on the sentences:

p.252 – The house is rather lonely without her.

p.253 – During the last ten years his painting had gone off very much.

p.258 – Art has no influence upon action.

p.262 – It was the living death of his own soul that troubled him.

3. Practice same passages in reading and translating choose one of them for learning by heart:

p.250 – “It can't bear this ... for days”.

p.255-256 “Play me something ... latest wonder”

p.260 “was it really ... hope for him?”

p.265 “When they ... who it was”.

4. Answer the following questions:

1) What were Dorian's good actions in the country?

2) What was Harry's opinion of Basil as a man and as a painter?

3) What secret did Lord Henry want to hear from Dorian?

4) Where was Dorian invited by Lord Henry?

5) How did Dorian come to think of destroying the picture?

5. Retell the most exciting episode in a detailed way.

6. Speak on the following points:

1) A village girl Hetty Merton with no disgrace upon her from Dorian;

2) Lord Henry's walk with Dorian in the music-room;

3) Some extravagant things Harry told Dorian after a piece of music;

4) Dorian's thoughts about his life, sins and the way to become better.

5) Dorian's decision to kill the past.

Assignment XI- Final Lesson.

1. Prepare a summary of every chapter. Make use of the phrases from every assignment.
2. Learn by heart any dialogue or monologue you like best in the play and recite it in class (alone, in pairs).
3. Write out some paradoxes from the book you have read and get ready to discuss them in class.
4. O. Wilde's literary manner. Describe the means and devices the author uses to increase the tension of the novel, to arouse the reader's interest. Speak on the dynamism of the verbal activity, on the dialogues and paradoxes.
5. Talk on one of the following items and summarize your observations of the expressive means employed by the author:
 - 1) The biography of O. Wilde. (Speak on his life and literary career. Give a brief analysis of his principal words.
 - 2) "The Art for Art's Sake" doctrine as it reflected in O. Wilde's novel.
 - 3) The main characters of the book:
 - Lord Henry's views on life; some of his relatives;
 - Dorian Gray's views on life; some of his relatives;
 - Sibyl Vane's views on life; some of her relatives;
 - Basil Hallward's views on art, love, beauty, friendship;
 - London society as it is presented in the book (ladies and gentlemen who attended parties, clubs, theatres; note their appearance, manners, way of living, interests, views, etc.)
 - Victims of Dorian Gray; a lot of pleasant things at Dorian's place and the way he got interested in life around him;
 - Lord Henry (speak on his interests, what you think of the friendship between Lord Henry and Dorian Gray, the things in the character of Lord Henry which you can't sympathize with);
 - 4) The author's attitude towards his characters. Motivate your answer.
6. English painters and some of their works.
7. Discuss the following problems:
 - 1) What do you think – Has O. Wilde solved the problems of the book "The Picture of Dorian Gray"?
 - 2) What do you like or dislike in the book by O. Wilde?

Active vocabulary

on the look by O.Wilde "The Picture of Dorian Gray"

1. to gain a reputation
2. to fascinate somebody
3. to be ashamed of one's virtues
4. to look always delightful
5. to argue with somebody
6. to invent a facile excuse
7. to sympathize with everything except
8. to play with the idea
9. to bid good-bye to smb. (bade/bidden; bid, bid)
10. to take a fancy to smb
 11. to pay compliments
 12. to be of no ethical value
 13. to feel ill at ease
 14. to be heart-sick at leaving home
 15. an oath broke from his lips.
 16. to bring misery upon somebody.
 17. to be horribly disappointed.
 18. to be a complete failure.
 19. to make oneself ridiculous.
 20. to lay eyes upon smb.
21. to have hateful memories of smb.
22. to resist smb's influence.
23. under an assumed name.
24. in disguise.
25. to turn one's attention to smb/smith
26. to discover one's secret
27. to make smb. quite at home
28. to loath smb/smith
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30. to speak in an authoritative manner
 31. to feel wildly excited
 32. to seem rather out of sorts at dinner
 33. to grow sick with fear
 34. to commit a terrible crime
 35. to set smb. on the wrong track
 36. to be annoyed with smith
 37. to search for happiness
 38. to look round with dazed expression
 39. to cease to be great friends
 40. to suffer public shame

Oscar Wilde

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills was born on October 15, 1856 and was the son of a well-known Irish doctor and scientist. His mother was a very educated woman, a poetess who published many poems and other works, among them *Legends of Ireland*.

Oscar Wilde received a very good education. He began his education at Trinity College in Dublin and graduated from Oxford in 1878.

Oscar Wilde wrote many poems, fairy tales, plays, critical essays and a novel. He is a master of witty paradox and of picturesque descriptions. His works are never very deep, but always very clever and vivid in style.

While still at Oxford, Oscar Wilde became known as the apostle of the decadent doctrine of "Art for Art's Sake", fashionable in the eighties and the early nineties.

The aesthetic movement was originally a protest against bourgeois bigotry, hypocrisy and narrowness as impeding the development of human personality against the monotony and the baseness of life in capitalist society. That protest was, however, ineffectual as the decadents turned their backs on all social ethical values. It led to a flight from all practical issues: the subject of art was declared too immaterial; art itself, useless. Aesthetism was essentially a crisis of bourgeois art, for it cultivated individualism, put form before matter and opened the way to all kinds of reactionary ideas.

Oscar Wilde's novel "The Picture of Dorian Gray" (1891) was also devoted to the propaganda of aestheticism and is a typical piece of decadent writing. It is centered round problems of relationship between art and reality. This novel is a fantastic story about Dorian Gray, a handsome and gentle young man, who expressed one day a wish that he might not grow older or uglier with age and experience and his picture painted by a friend of his, should do this for him, i.e. become old and careworn. His wish was fulfilled, and all his cares, vices and even crimes did not affect his beauty, but left ugly wrinkle, spots and grimaces upon the face of his portrait.

In 1882 Oscar Wilde went to America where he delivered lectures. He also visited France and got acquainted with Victor Hugo.

Oscar Wilde wrote only one novel and then he turned to drama and wrote several comedies of fashionable life:

Lady Windermere's Fan (1892)

A Woman of No Importance (1893)

The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)

An Ideal Husband (1896)

His last works were "The Ballad of Reading Goal" (1898) and "De Profundis" (published in 1905).

Oscar Wilde's name rests chiefly on his comedies, the sparkling wit and vivacity of which helped them to keep the stage for more than half a century. They are still attractive to numerous theatre-goers because of their brilliancy of dialogue and entertaining plot. Among the best fairy tales written by Oscar Wilde are *The Selfish Giant*, *The Happy Prince*, *The Nightingale* and *the Rose*. The

Birthday of the Infanta and some other fairy tales schoolchildren read with great interest.

The work of Oscar Wilde was a reflection of the degradation of bourgeois culture with the beginning of the epoch of imperialism. Much in his writing is not realistic, but we value that he spoke about love, friendship, devotion and honesty with such feeling and that he condemned egoism, cruelty and falsehood in many of his works.

In 1895, following a notorious trial, Wilde was sentenced to two years in jail.

He died in poverty and obscurity in Paris and he is buried there.

Note:

Paradox – a statement which because of its seemingly contradictory nature, appears absurd, but which is really well-founded. By expressing his facts in such an unexpected way a writer adds strength to his language and drives his point very forcibly.

Quotations from “Lady Windermere’s Fan”: A moment may ruin a life; What a pity that in life we only get our lessons when they are of no use to us!; In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it.