

I HAVE TO PUT TOO MUCH OF MYSELF INTO IT

The extract consists of the description of Basil's studio and the introduction of few characters: Dorian, Basil, Harry. The style adopted by Wilde reflects his aestheticist ideas: Oscar Wilde in fact paid great attention to language. In the first part the author uses sensorial language to give a better description of the place, he uses mostly adjective and words that recall ~~the~~ the sense of smell and sight. Language is sophisticated and rich of thoughtful imagery, descriptions are composed by detailed and carefully selected phrases.

The extract then continues with a dialogue between Basil and his friend Harry, who tries to convince Basil to expose the portrait. Harry introduces one of the concepts on Estheticism: "Art Beauty ends where an intellectual expression begins". This concept is well explained in the preface of the novel, elected as Manifesto of Estheticism.

ALL ART IS QUITE USELESS

In the preface of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" Oscar Wilde expose his most important ideas about art, the figure of the artist and the critic.

In Wilde's opinion the artist is the one who creates beautiful things and the critic is the one who can translate artistic language (or his impression of it).

The art is considered "art for art sake", it can not be moral or immoral. All art is quite useless because, criticizing utilitarian ideas, art is meant to express beauty.