

**Pine View School
Summer Reading
Students Entering English Honors III
2014-2015**

The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde

Summer Reading Instructions: There are three parts to the assignments for *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Please bring all assignments ready to turn in on the first day of class. You will be using your reading and information from the assignments below for discussion during the first few days of school. Expect a reading check test on the novel in the first week, too. Enjoy reading and writing! I look forward to reading and hearing your ideas.

USE MLA typed format and respond in well-written paragraphs to all questions in all three parts of this assignment. Do NOT copy any answers from other sources.

Part I: Learning about the author

- Part of understanding a novel is learning background information about the author.
- Conduct research on the author, Oscar Wilde, and write a summary from your experience. Look for information related to his birth and death, childhood, education, occupation(s), historical and literary time period, contemporaries, social influences, awards, and famous works.
- After reading the novel, write a paragraph about how the author's background may have contributed to this novel.
- Include a bibliography as a separate page.

Part II: Close reading and reflection on the novel

Answer each question thoroughly. Reference textual evidence with page numbers to support your answers. Use references from throughout the book for all of the questions.

1. Make a list of the main characters. Include descriptions that highlight internal thoughts and feelings, as well as appearance and personality.
2. How does Dorian Gray change throughout the novel? What is his perception of himself?
3. Find and support several examples of foreshadowing.
4. Find and support any allusions or comparisons to other pieces of literature with which you are familiar.
5. Find and support possible symbolic elements that appear in the plot of the novel. Be certain to describe and support their significance.
6. Describe the tone of the novel in the beginning, middle, and end. Discuss any changes in tone and how they occur.
7. What is Oscar Wilde trying to tell the reader? Select and support at least two possible themes for this novel.
8. What relationship to the human soul does this book emphasize? Do any of the characters make a pact with the devil? Can you recall any other pieces of literature where a character makes a pact with the devil? Research this theme and find at least two examples.
9. What is the climax of this book and how do you know? How does the story change after this part?
10. Find textual quotes where the color of white is emphasized. Discuss the significance of the use of the color white.

Part III: Thinking about how this book relates to real life

Answer each question thoroughly. Reference textual evidence with page numbers to support your answers. Use references from throughout the book for all of the questions.

1. How are art and the purpose of art important elements for this novel?
2. What social and emotional issues are presented in this novel?
3. Beauty and youth remain of utmost importance in this novel. What does the novel suggest about the perception of beauty and youth?
4. Discuss the importance of perspective and different ways of seeing the world. How is this theme emphasized in this novel?
5. How or why is this book still relevant in modern society?