

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY

- 1 *Dorian Gray has sent for Alan Campbell in order to ask for a favour.*
- 2 "I had intended never to enter your house again, Gray. But you said it was a matter of
3 life and death." His voice was hard and cold. There was a look of contempt in the
4 steady searching gaze that he turned on Dorian.
- 5 "Yes: it is a matter of life and death, Alan, and to more than one person. Sit down."
- 6 Campbell took a chair by the table, and Dorian sat opposite to him. The two
7 men's eyes met. In Dorian's there was infinite pity.
- 8 After a strained moment of silence, he leaned across and said, very quietly, "Alan, in a
9 locked room at the top of this house, a dead man is seated at a table. He has been dead
10 ten hours now. Don't stir, and don't look at me like that. Who the man is, why he died,
11 how he died, are matters that do not concern you. What you have to do is this—"
- 12 "Stop, Gray. I don't want to know anything further. Whether what you have told me is true
13 or not true doesn't concern me. I entirely decline to be mixed up in your life. Keep your
14 horrible secrets to yourself. They don't interest me anymore."
- 15 "Alan, they will have to interest you. This one will have to interest you. I am awfully
16 sorry for you, Alan. But I can't help myself. You are the one man who is able to save me. I
17 have no option. Alan, you know about chemistry and things of that kind. You have made
18 experiments. What you have got to do is to destroy the thing that is upstairs—to destroy
19 it so that not a vestige of it will be left."
- 20 "You are mad, Dorian."
- 21 "Ah! I was waiting for you to call me Dorian."
- 22 "You are mad, I tell you—mad to imagine that I would raise a finger to help you, mad to
23 make this monstrous confession. I will have nothing to do with this matter, whatever it is.
24 Do you think I am going to peril my reputation for you?
- 25 What is it to me what devil's work you are up to?"
- 26 "It was suicide, Alan."
- 27 "I am glad of that. But who drove him to it? You, I should fancy."
- 28 "Do you still refuse to do this for me?"

29 "Of course I refuse. I will have absolutely nothing to do with it. I don't care what
30 shame comes on you. You deserve it all. How dare you ask me, of all men in the world,
31 to mix myself up in this horror? I should have thought you knew more about people's
32 characters. Your friend Lord Henry Wotton can't have taught you much about psychology,
33 whatever else he has taught you. Nothing will induce me to stir a step to help you. Go to
34 some of your friends. Don't come to me."

35 "Alan, it was murder. I killed him. You don't know what he had made me suffer. Whatever
36 my life is, he had more to do with the making or the marring of it than poor Harry has had.
37 He may not have intended it, the result was the same."

38 "Murder! Good God, Dorian, is that what you have come to? I shall not inform upon you.
39 It is not my business. Besides, without my stirring in the matter, you are certain to be
40 arrested. Nobody ever commits a crime without doing something stupid. But I will have
41 nothing to do with it."

42 "Alan, I entreat you. Think of the position I am in. Just before you came I almost fainted
43 with terror. You may know terror yourself some day. No! don't think of that. You don't
44 inquire where the dead things on which you experiment come from. Don't inquire now. I
45 have told you too much as it is. But I beg of you to do this. We were friends once, Alan."

46 "Don't speak about those days, Dorian—they are dead."

47 "The dead linger sometimes. The man upstairs will not go away. He is sitting at the table
48 with bowed head and outstretched arms. Alan! Alan! If you don't come to my assistance,
49 I am ruined. Why, they will hang me, Alan! Don't you understand? They will hang me for
50 what I have done."

51 "There is no good in prolonging this scene. I absolutely refuse to do anything in the
52 matter. It is insane of you to ask me."

53 "You refuse?"

54 "Yes."

55 "I entreat you, Alan."

56 "It is useless."

57 The same look of pity came into Dorian Gray's eyes. Then he stretched out his hand, took
58 a piece of paper, and wrote something on it. He read it over twice, folded it carefully, and
59 pushed it across the table. Having done this, he got up and went over to the window.

60 Campbell looked at him in surprise, and then took up the paper, and opened it. As he
61 read it, his face became ghastly pale and he fell back in his chair. A horrible sense of
62 sickness came over him. He felt as if his heart was beating itself to death in some
63 empty hollow.

64 After two or three minutes of terrible silence, Dorian turned round and came and stood
65 behind him, putting his hand upon his shoulder.

66 "I am so sorry for you, Alan," he murmured, "but you leave me no alternative. I have a
67 letter written already. Here it is. You see the address. If you don't help me, I must send it.
68 If you don't help me, I will send it. But you are going to help me. It is impossible for you to
69 refuse now. I tried to spare you. You will do me the justice to admit that. You were stern,
70 harsh, offensive. You treated me as no man has ever dared to treat me—no living man, at
71 any rate. I bore it all. Now it is for me to dictate terms."



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

- 1** In whose residence does this passage take place?
- A** Dorian Gray's
 - B** Alan Campbell's
 - C** Lord Henry Wotton's
 - D** No one's, it is occurring in public
 - E** It is not mentioned in the text
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- 2** 'There was a look of contempt in the steady searching gaze that he turned on Dorian.' (lines 3-4) Which of the following best describes Alan's initial assessment of Dorian?
- A** He is not familiar with him and is thus curious
 - B** He respects him but isn't particularly interested
 - C** He is wary of him and looking out for danger
 - D** He detests him and wants to turn away from him
 - E** He is scornful and evaluating
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- 3** In line 5, Dorian says, 'it is a matter of life and death, Alan, and to more than one person'. To whom is it a matter of life and death?
- A** His vision was impaired
 - B** To Dorian, because he may be hanged; and to Alan because of the contents of the letter
 - C** To the dead man, because he is the only person who has died
 - D** To Dorian, because he may be hanged; and to the dead man, because he has died
 - E** To Dorian, because he may be hanged; to Alan, because of the contents of the letter; as well as to the dead man, because he has died

4 Campbell took a chair by the table, and Dorian sat opposite to him.' (line 7). Why might the author have decided to use Dorian's given name and not Alan's?

- A** Himself
 - B** The circumstances
 - C** Alan
 - D** The dead man
 - E** We do not find out
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5 Which of the following words is closest in meaning to 'strained' (line 8)?

- A** Filtered
 - B** Pulled
 - C** Forced
 - D** Tense
 - E** Twisted
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6 Why doesn't Dorian finish his sentence in line 11?

- A** He is pausing for thought
- B** He is forcefully interrupted
- C** He is speaking about a difficult subject and cannot go on
- D** He is leaving his request to implication
- E** He stops because of Alan's facial expression

- 7** How did Alan once feel about Dorian's 'horrible secrets' (line 14)?
- A** He thought they were tedious and listened to them grudgingly
 - B** He was not interested in them
 - C** He was interested in them despite finding them scandalous
 - D** He was intrigued but did not want to be involved in Dorian's life
 - E** He was bewildered by them
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- 8** What is the favour Dorian wants from Alan?
- A** To destroy the room upstairs
 - B** To teach him chemistry
 - C** To remove his fingerprints from the scene of the crime
 - D** To help him bury the body upstairs
 - E** To disintegrate the corpse
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- 9** Why does Dorian say, 'I was waiting for you to call me Dorian' (line 21)?
- A** It is the first time Alan has addressed him in this conversation
 - B** Dorian wanted Alan to unintentionally admit their familiarity
 - C** Dorian has been trying to rile Alan up, and he has succeeded, as Alan using his first name is informal and rude
 - D** Dorian is self-centred and simply enjoys hearing his name
 - E** Dorian dislikes his surname
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10 Alan suggests that he would not even 'raise a finger' (line 22). This is an example of...

- A** An idiom
 - B** Personification
 - C** A myth
 - D** A simile
 - E** Onomatopoeia
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11 'monstrous confession' (line 23). What does the word 'monstrous' tell us about Alan's opinion of the confession?

- A** He thinks it horrific
 - B** He feels that it is ridiculous
 - C** He finds it difficult to believe in its validity
 - D** He believes it is an enormous secret
 - E** He thinks it is dangerous
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12 What is meant by 'peril' (line 24)?

- A** Danger
- B** Hazardous
- C** Risk
- D** Ruin
- E** Bet

- 13** Why does Alan say, 'How dare you ask me, of all men in the world' (lines 30)?
- A** He is astonished that Dorian would ask a stranger instead of a friend for such a favour
 - B** He is dumbfounded that he was chosen when there are so many other people who might be more knowledgeable
 - C** He is angry that Dorian would ask him for something so difficult
 - D** He is admiring Dorian's bravery
 - E** He is insulted that Dorian believes Alan would ever aid him in any way
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- 14** What does Alan think when Dorian tells him, 'It was suicide' (line 26)?
- A** It is good that the man has died
 - B** Dorian helped the man commit suicide
 - C** Dorian tormented the man in life
 - D** Dorian is lying to cover up the fact that he murdered the man
 - E** Dorian was uninvolved and is telling the truth
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- 15** Dorian says, 'Whatever my life is, he had more to do with the making or the marring of it than poor Harry has had.' (lines 35-36) What does the word 'marring' suggest about Lord Henry Wotton's influence?
- A** It has been positive
 - B** It has been negative
 - C** It has been educational
 - D** It has deformed Dorian's appearance
 - E** Nothing, Lord Wotton has not been mentioned by Dorian
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16 Why is Alan certain that Dorian will be arrested?

- A** Dorian is already a suspect
 - B** He believes Dorian is incompetent
 - C** The man who Dorian has killed is well known
 - D** Alan intends to inform the police
 - E** Alan is certain that Dorian has left evidence of his crime
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17 What type of words are the following? intended (line 4), stir (line 10), decline (line 13), induce (line 33), hang (line 49)

- A** Nouns
 - B** Verbs
 - C** Adjectives
 - D** Adverbs
 - E** Prepositions
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18 In lines 57-59 Dorian carefully writes down what he wants to say instead of speaking and then walks over to the window. Why does he choose to do this?

- A** He has grown tired of the conversation
 - B** He is afraid someone will overhear what he is about to say and walks to the window to check for eavesdroppers
 - C** He believes it will be faster and wants to check outside for police
 - D** He feels guilty about what he is about to do and cannot bear to see Alan's expression
 - E** He is composing the letter that he plans to send and walks away to give Alan time to read it
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19 What type of words are the following? searching (line 4), infinite (line 7), mad (line 20), bowed (line 48), pale (line 61)

- A** Noun
 - B** Verbs
 - C** Adjectives
 - D** Adverbs
 - E** Prepositions
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20 What type of word is 'hollow' (line 63)?

- A** Noun
 - B** Verbs
 - C** Adjectives
 - D** Adverbs
 - E** Preposition
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21 How many verbs can you count in the sentence beginning on line 64: 'After two or three minutes of terrible silence, ...'?

- A** 1
- B** 2
- C** 3
- D** 4
- E** 5

22 Which word might equally convey the meaning of 'alternative' (line 66)?

- A** Noun
- B** Unorthodox
- C** Optional
- D** Spare
- E** Adjustment

23 Dorian says, 'If you don't help me, I will send it. But you are going to help me. It is impossible for you to refuse now. I tried to spare you.' (lines 68-69). What do these statements suggest?

- A** Dorian has just discovered a way to ensure Alan's compliance
- B** Dorian tried to spare Alan from helping him do this favour
- C** Dorian is yet uncertain whether Alan will help him
- D** Dorian knew from the beginning of the conversation that Alan would help him.
- E** Alan is going to help Dorian

24 Dorian tells many lies while trying to convince Alan to help him. Which of the following, from the information provided in the passage, are we certain is **TRUE**?

- A** Dorian murdered the man upstairs
- B** Dorian and Alan were friends in the past
- C** Alan is a biologist
- D** Dorian will be hung if he is caught
- E** The man upstairs had made Dorian suffer greatly

25 Despite the grave situation, Dorian frequently makes witty remarks in the conversation. Which of the following is a display of wit?

- 1) It is a matter of life and death, Alan, and to more than one person. (line 5)
- 2) Alan, you know about chemistry and things like that kind. You have made experiments. (lines 17-18)
- 3) Just before you came I almost fainted with terror (lines 42-43)
- 4) The dead linger sometimes. The man upstairs will not go away. (line 47)
- 5) You treated me as no man has ever dared to treat me—no living man, at any rate. (lines 60-71)

- A** All of the above
 - B** (1)
 - C** (1) and (2)
 - D** (1), (3) and (5)
 - E** (1), (4) and (5)
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26 Which of the following is closest in meaning to 'dictate' (line 71)?

- A** Behest
 - B** Question
 - C** Announce
 - D** Determine
 - E** Read
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