

THE COSTUME OF DORIAN GRAY

The Picture of Dorian Gray is set in the Victorian Era of England, a time in which ideas like elegance, love, and beauty were nurtured and explored. Dorian Gray is from the aristocracy, so he comes from a more wealthy background and wears a formal, dignified suit with puff neckwear characteristic of the time period. Gray's youthfulness and beauty exudes a sense of innocence and purity, so Gray wears a white dress shirt. However, Gray's fixation on his youth causes his soul to deteriorate into that of a murderer. Thus, his neckwear is crimson red to represent the death of Gray's inner soul and the blood Gray has spilt in his pursuit of surface-level aesthetics and status. While Gray's exterior may be youthful, each selfish and destructive action pushes his portrait towards aging and deterioration. Thus, Gray has a streaks of blood dripping from his hands (just like the portrait after Gray killed Basil Hallward), an expression of his true nature as a cruel murderer.