

APPENDICES

Summary of Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray

Dorian Gray is a young orphaned man of great beauty and the heir of an enormous fortune. When Dorian meets Lord Henry Wotton, he is inspired by Lord Wotton with a vision of life in which the pursuit of beauty is treasured above any moral value. In the meantime, an artist named Basil Hallward arouses Dorian's narcissism.

Basil is obsessed with Dorian's beauty and paints a perfect portrait of him. After admiring the splendid picture of himself, Dorian declares that he would give his own soul if he could remain eternally young while Dorian in the painting grows old.

Afterward, Dorian falls in love with a struggling actress named Sibyl Vane. Nevertheless, after seeing Sibyl act poorly on the stage, he leaves her, causing her to commit suicide. After this, he notices that his picture has a laugh of mockery on it, so he locks it in an unused room. Dorian eventually kills Basil for discovering his picture, which holds the secret of staying young.

Feeling guilty over murdering Basil, Dorian begins falling into low society in London to lose himself. Yet, he still gives dinners and musicals for high society. One day, in the opium den, Sibyl's brother tries to kill him, but Dorian manages to escape. Later, the brother is accidentally killed by some hunters.

Dorian, who is fanatical about his picture, is driven to murder and deception though he is actually longing to return to innocence. When he finally decides to make up for the past life and become a new man, he realizes he is just a hypocrite. He stabs his picture but strangely, it looks just as it did when it was first painted. At the same time, Dorian is lying stabbed on the floor, looking ugly and old.

Summary of Will Self's Dorian: An Imitation

Dorian Gray is a handsome and naive young gay man living in London, England. Dorian belongs to a totally new generation, the first gay generation to proclaim its existence.

In 1981, Dorian meets an artist named Baz Hallward. Baz captures Dorian Gray's youth and beauty in a video installation entitled "Cathode Narcissus". Baz, who falls in love with Dorian, produces a nine-channel video of stunning Dorian. Inside the video, Baz captures the forever youthful beauty of Dorian just as what Dorian wishes the first time he watches it. Dorian is willing to sell his soul to evil for an everlasting beauty. Baz then introduces Dorian to Henry Wotton, an upper-class but drug-addicted gay man.

Soon after, Dorian is carried away in a hedonistic life of the 1980s and 1990s. Henry, who later influences much of Dorian's view of life, teaches Dorian of the ways of excessive London living.

Despite all his sexual and narcotic corruption, Dorian remains flawless. Meanwhile, Henry and Baz are infected with AIDS. Dorian is not affected at all and amazingly he stays alive.

More than a decade later, the three of them are HIV-positive; furthermore, Henry and Baz eventually die. Dorian, although infected with AIDS, of course, shows no sign of illness. Dorian ends up aging only on tape, while in real life he stays handsome, young and richer. He develops his own business called 'Gray Organisation' and publishes his video on the website. Ironically, Dorian, who is now an expert of the extravagant life of London, continues to live, while at the same time he makes other people stop living as he goes around infecting all his sex partners with AIDS.

Biography of Oscar Wilde

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, a poet, novelist, and playwright, was born on October 16, 1854, the son of Sir William Wilde, a distinguished doctor, and Jane Francesca Elgee, a poet and journalist. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he was distinguished for his scholarship, wit, and stylish peculiarity in outfit, tastes, and manners. His first published work, Poems (1881), was well received. The next year he lectured in the United States, where his drama Vera (1883) was produced. In 1884, he married Constance Lloyd, and they had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan.

His literary career began with the publication of Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories (1891) and two collections of fairy tales, The Happy Prince (1888) and The House of Pomegranates (1892). In 1891, his novel The Picture of Dorian Gray appeared. Wilde's stories and essays were well received, but his artistic mastermind found its highest expression in his plays, which were

Lady Windermere's Fan (1892), A Woman of No Importance (1893), An Ideal Husband (1895), and his masterpiece, The Importance of Being Earnest (1895).

In 1891, Wilde met and quite soon became intimate with much younger and self-indulgent Lord Alfred Douglas. Soon the Marquess of Queensberry, Douglas's father, began fighting against Wilde and later wrote him a note accusing him of homosexual practices. Unwisely, Wilde confronted Marquess and was charged with homosexual offenses, found guilty and sentenced to prison for two years (1895). His experiences in jail inspired his most famous poem, The Ballad of Reading Gaol (1898), and the apology published as De Profundis (1905). Wilde was released from prison in 1897. Sadly, he found himself a complete social outcast in England. He then moved to France, infected by illness and also bankruptcy. Wilde died alone in France, poor, sick, and under an assumed name.

(Adapted from: The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. (2006). *Oscar Wilde*. Retrieved February 23, 2006 from <http://www.factmonster.com/ce6/people/A0852247.html>)

Biography of Will Self

Will Self is an English novelist, reviewer, journalist, critic, cartoonist, and columnist. He is known for his satirical, grotesque and fantastic novels and short stories.

Self was born in London in 1961, educated in Finchley and at Oxford University. He has published four books of short stories: Dr. Mukti and Other

Tales of Woe, Tough Tough Toys for Tough Tough Boys, Grey Area, and The Quantity Theory of Insanity, and Cock and Bull, a book of two novellas, and a novella, The Sweet Smell of Psychosis. He has also written four novels: My Idea of Fun, Great Apes, How the Dead Live, and most recently Dorian: An Imitation. The critically acclaimed book of short stories, The Quantity Theory of Insanity, won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. How the Dead Live, the sequel of The Quantity Theory of Insanity, was shortlisted for the Whitbread Book of the Year in 2000.

Self loads his fiction with references and allusions to modern cultures. He admires Jonathan Swift, Franz Kafka, Lewis Carroll, Martin Amis, and Joseph Heller as formative influences on his writing style.

Self also has compiled his writings from some newspaper columns, Junk Mail (1996) and Feeding Frenzy (2001), which mix interviews with counter-culture figures, restaurant reviews and literary criticism. He has made several appearances on British television, notably as a contestant on Have I Got News For You and a regular on Shooting Stars. He received a tremendous amount of bad publicity in 1997 when he was sent by the British broadsheet newspaper The Observer to cover the electoral campaign of John Major, and was subsequently fired from the newspaper after taking heroin on the Prime Minister's jet.

(Adapted from: GNU Free Documentation License. (2006). *Will Self*. Retrieved January 3, 2006 from <http://www.answers.com/will%20self>)