

## Dorian Gray Questions

1. Who is Dorian? Can we define his true nature as either good or evil? When Basil says that the painting is the "real Dorian," is that true? How might Dorian have turned out if he had not met Lord Henry?
  - The protagonist of the story. Dorian Gray enters the story as a young man. He is handsome, naive, and innocent. He was raised by an abusive grandfather and has inherited the entire estate on the death of the old man. Dorian moves to London where he meets an artist (Basil) and a rich socialite (Lord Henry) whose friendships have a radical impact on his life & future. We see that due to the meeting between Henry and Dorian, the latter becomes much more intellectual, seeking meaning behind all that he sees. Henry's impact on Dorian creates a whole new personality for the character. I believe that Henry is one of the reasons for Dorian killing Sibyl. It is he who proclaims their love to be pointless and un-meaningful; therefore, changing Dorian's opinion on her completely.
2. What role does art play in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*? What are each of the three main characters' attitudes towards art? How do they think art functions in society?
  - At the time Art had no philosophy, as Wilde stated in the preface of his copy of *Dorian Gray*. Due to the fact that the author gave the art no context and meaning, this created a more eerie feeling to the novel and its motif of art. Evidently, Basil does not agree with Wilde's interpretation of art: nor do the other two. From the beginning we see a fantasized image surrounding it: from Basil, Dorian and Henry. I believe that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and Wilde's novel, art is portrayed as the truth and a means of communicating one's feelings for another. Although unanimously all enjoy art, we see that Basil, being a painter, puts full emotion and feelings into his work: for the appreciation of Dorian. Art as a Mirror. This theme is exemplified by the titular portrait. Dorian Gray's image reflects his conscience and his true self, and serves as a mirror of his soul. This fact echoes Wilde's statement (found in the preface) that "It is the spectator...that art really mirrors". Basil "He is all my art to me now" We see that the painter becomes overwhelmed with emotions for Dorian, showing this through his art work. Although a different work of art, we see Lord Henry give Dorian a different piece of art, the yellow book.
3. What does Sibyl represent to Dorian? Does he really love her? Why does he leave her?
  - Her acting, but at a closer look, it's revealed that Dorian didn't fall in love with the person Sibyl but with her talents as an actress. He was in love with her talent and acting ability: therefore, he was in love with Juliet. He leaves her due to the fact that she wants to give up her career in acting. He proclaims that she "killed [his] love" due to how badly she acted the role of Juliet. He finds her "shallow and stupid" because of how poor her work was in her many roles. However, Sibyl does not see her relationship with Dorian in a mature way due to the fact that she is so young, I believe that she does not see the relationship between her and Dorian in a mature nature, only one of sudden love at such a young age. She represents a vision of beauty portrayed through her acting. A