



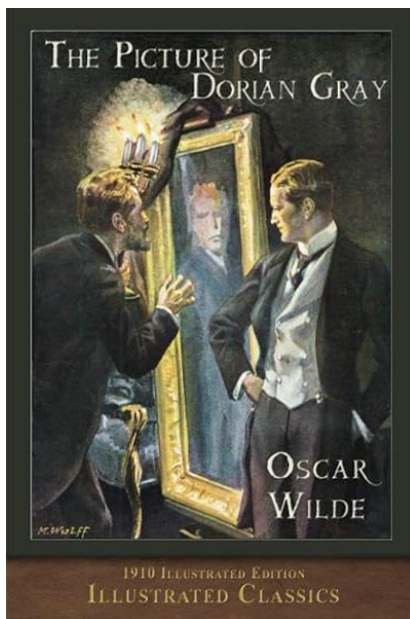
Prison Reading Groups
25 years
1999-2024

Book Talk

The Picture of Dorian Gray

By Oscar Wilde

Number of pages: 256 pages



The Picture of Dorian Gray is a spooky classic novel about a young man who, enthralled by his own appearance, sells his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Dorian lives a double life, appearing as a perfect gentleman in the eyes of polite Victorian society, but indulging in his hedonistic and sinful desires in private. It is a novel about influence, narcissism, intellectualism, seduction, and secrets.

'There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.'

We recommend this book if you enjoyed *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, or *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Discussion Questions:

1. In what way does Lord Henry affect Dorian's character?
2. What do you think Dorian fears most?
3. What does Sibyl Vane represent to Dorian? Why does he leave her? Did he really love her?
4. Do you agree with Wilde's statement in the preface that 'there is no such thing as a moral or immoral book'? Why/why not?
5. What did you think of the ending? What do you think it means?
6. Henry says 'Youth is the one thing worth having'. Why does he say this and do you agree with this statement?

Thank you to Megan for choosing this title and creating this resource.