

The Pictures of Dorian Gray

The Main Characters:

Dorian Gray – a shy boy who moves to the town of N and suddenly discovers how handsome he is.

Henry Lordson – the school king, able to manipulate people and always ready to show this ability.

Sybil Vane – school's best guitarist, falls in love with Dorian.

Basiline Hallward – school's best and most creative photographer able to take perfect pictures no matter what.

Scene 1. High school somewhere in the town of N. During the break the teacher introduces a new student.

Teacher:

Welcome a newcomer. His name's Dorian Gray. Sit down Dorian.

Dorian is looking for a seat and sits down next to Basiline Hallward, school's best photographer. Students welcome a newcomer, take selfies. Dorian has no idea of that.

Henry:

Hi, I'm Henry Lordson. Are you not on Picturegram?

Dorian:

Nice to meet you. I'm Dorian. What is Picturegram?

Henry:

You have not lived unless you are on Picrutegram. Look, this is where all the nowadays social life takes place. You take a picture, post it there, people like it, you become popular. Give me you phone, I'll help you to start an account.

Dorian:

What if I'm not into selfies and photos at all?

Henry:

Lad, have you not listened to the teacher today? Oscar Wilde wrote a lot about the social life in the 19th century London. People used to care a lot of the public image. Actually, nothing's changed but you're free to do anything as long as people can see the perfect pictures of your life. You know, today being unnoticed is a curse. Give me your phone! Wow, I'm afraid, your phone dates back to those very Oscar Wilde times. The camera is of poor quality. I gotta go...

Sibyl:

Never mind Henry's words. He's not that snobbish as he claims to be. Let me help you. I'm Sibyl Vane. So you need to take a picture, add a hashtag and wait for likes.

Dorian takes his first selfie adding a hashtag #mynewschool, but gets no likes. The bell rings for the lesson.

Teacher:

Our topic today is the moral choice in stories by Oscar Wilde.

The bell rings for the break.

Henry:

How's your Picturegram?

Dorian:

Looks at his photo. *No likes at all, it's not my cup of tea, I'm afraid.*

Basiline:

Don't worry, I'll help you with it. Let me take a picture. Takes some pictures, shows the best one. *Ok, this one is perfect. What do think?*

Dorian is surprised to see his beautiful picture.

Basiline:

Add a #followme hashtag. You'll see.

Henry:

Also looking at the picture. *Well, I'm impressed with Basiline's talent of taking perfect pictures no matter what.*

Dorian:

Still surprised. *I've never known that I could do a good model.*

Basiline:

Also surprised. *I must say, that it's probably the best picture I've ever taken. You inspire me.*

Dorian gets his first likes.

Dorian:

I wish to have a life of that handsome me from this picture!

Henry:

Who cares of your life, idiot? They all want to see your perfect pictures! Pictures have become the life! Wish to have perfect pictures! Just like that! What's the point of a perfect life if you have a bad camera to show it?

Dorian:

Looks at his picture again. *Henry, you're always right. I had no idea of myself until Basiline took the first picture of me. She showed me my true self. And now, I don't care of my life! Regardless of anything in my life, regardless of*

the camera, all I wish is my pictures to become iconic, I wish to look perfect in every picture no matter what!

Basiline:

Dorian are you sure? You're not that kind of person at all.

Dorian:

Don't say that! You hardly even know me. You hardly even know yourself. You're a perfect photographer, but how many followers have you got?

Basiline:

I don't need them.

Dorian:

Oh, you do. But you are afraid to wish for them. Don't worry, I'll tag you as the photographer of my portrait.

Basiline gets offended and goes away together with Henry.

Sibyl:

Your pictures are awesome! Congrats!

Dorian:

Thanks. Do you play the guitar? Play something to me, would you?

Sibyl:

Sure.

Sybil plays some melody. Dorian falls in love with her. He takes a picture adding romantic hashtags.

Sibyl:

We have a show at music school tomorrow. Would you like to come?

Dorian:

I'd love to.

Sybil:

Actually, I gotta go. The rehearsal is in twenty minutes. See you tomorrow.

Dorian:

Sure. I'm impressed. Can't wait to see you on stage.

Scene 2. The classroom. Next day Dorian claims that he dates Sybil.

Dorian:

I'm in love with Sibyl! I've never heard anything more pleasant than her music. She's a genius.

Henry:

No girl is a genius. Women never have anything to say but they say it charmingly. You are too good to date Sibyl. Look around, your pictures get thousands of likes, you are extremely popular. Don't rush with lifetime decisions.

Dorian:

Nonsense! I just follow my heart! I'm in love with her. You need to listen to her playing. You and Basiline must come with me tonight.

Scene 3. School Talent Show.

Show Host:

Thanks Anthony. And now meet Sybil Vane. Give her a warm welcome!

Sybil comes on stage, sees Dorian. Dorian is looking forward to her playing. But Henry has no ear for music and so doesn't like it. Dorian also starts to dislike it. The audience applauds, but not Henry and Dorian.

Show Host:

That was really amazing! But the next on stage is Violet.

Scene 4. Somewhere in the concert hall. Sybil finds Dorian waiting for compliments. But he is ice-cold with her.

Dorian:

What happened to you? I thought you were a genius. Today I realized that you were just a mediocre musician. I'm disappointed! I am breaking up with you.

Sibyl:

Explaining herself. *I couldn't play right because you were listening and I was thinking about you. Music used to be my life and emotions, but then I met you.*

Dorian:

Maybe I rushed the things up. Henry was so much right.

Sybil runs away. Dorian comes back to his seat. Takes a selfie with a hashtag #againalone. The picture looks a way more beautiful. He is confused.

Scene 5. The classroom. Dorian wants to apologize, but Sybil is absent.

Dorian:

Hi, Basiline! Have you seen Sibyl?

Basiline:

Haven't you heard about her?

Dorian:

Heard what?

Basiline:

Her parents have paid a fortune to teach her music. That's why she was driving miles to our school each day. How could you tell her Henry's words? She left school and moved back to the countryside.

Dorian:

I never wanted it to be like that! I just fell out of love with her.

Basiline:

Anyway, that was rude, Dorian! I thought you were a better person.

Basiline goes away. Dorian is in two minds about the situation. Henry joins him.

Dorian:

How can it happen, that I ruined her life but I cannot feel this tragedy as much as I want to? Am I heartless?

Henry:

You have done too many foolish things so far to call yourself heartless.

Dorian:

And yet I must admit that this thing does not affect me as it should.

Henry:

As Oscar Wilde wrote, "The one charm of the past is that it is the past."

Dorian:

What should I do next?

Henry:

You must keep your good looks. Dress up and come to my party tonight. You haven't posted on Picturegram for a while. People will forget you soon.

Dorian:

You're right as always. I'll be there.

Scene 6. Party. Dorian shows up paying everyone's attention. They take pictures with him. He looks happy, but doesn't feel this way. He looks through his photos, sees Sybil's picture, and leaves the party.

Scene 7. Some years later. The café. Dorian's life is ruined. He has no money even for a coffee.

Barmaid:

I'm sorry, sir. It's not enough for cappuccino.

Dorian:

Check if it's enough for Americano.

Barmaid:

I'm afraid not, sir.

Henry drops by for a coffee.

Henry:

A cappuccino, please.

Henry notices Dorian.

Henry:

Dorian, is that you? Haven't seen you for ages, man. You look shabby. Let's have some coffee.

Dorian:

I'm afraid, I'm broke.

Henry:

To the barmaid. *One more cappuccino for my friend.*

They take a table, start talking.

Dorian:

So, you're a top manager now. You look spick and span. How's Basiline?

Henry:

Basiline has become a photographer. Her works are exhibited in leading galleries. You inspired her, remember?

Dorian:

Glad, that I've done at least one good thing! What I shouldn't have done is registering on Pictogram! It's all your fault Henry! You made me wish to become popular!

Henry:

No, dude! I just wanted to show you some new experience!

Dorian:

Oh, common! Experience is merely the name men give to their mistakes! But you knew that, didn't you? I have read all the immoral books by your favorite Oscar Wilde; I know every line by heart now.

Henry:

So you also must know that the books that the world calls immoral are the books that show the world its own shame. That is all. What's your favorite book, by the way?

Dorian:

My favorite book by him is the one about a corrupted soul of a young man. Reads terribly alike my life.

Henry:

But your pictures, they are exquisite! You look fantastic. Why aren't you a model yet?

Dorian:

Look at me! What can you see? You can see my travels, breakfasts, parties, work days and days-off, but they just look like that. They are just images of what I've never had.

Henry shows Dorian's pictures. Dorian comments on them.

Henry:

Wait, I thought you entered Harvard.

Dorian:

I couldn't pass any of my tests. I failed. But pictures looked different.

Henry:

And what about your travels? You must have been everywhere!

Dorian:

Or I have spent all the summers at my granny's working as a tractor driver, trying to get some money.

Henry:

Why didn't you ask your friends to help you?

Dorian:

Maybe, because I have no friends at all, man.

Henry:

But your birthday party two weeks ago. You looked so happy.

Dorian:

Celebrating all alone with no cake, no presents, no party, no calls at all. I've never been happier, you know?

Henry is shocked.

Henry:

But (makes a pause) who knows and who cares?

Dorian:

Right you are, no one! They can't see the true me behind these bloody images! I want to change!

Henry:

Change is but an illusion!

Dorian:

My whole life is an illusion! Remember you said, "What's the point of a perfect life if you have a bad camera to show it?" If I really had a perfect life I would never need to show it to anyone. I would never need to get likes for it!

Dorian deletes his account and calls Sybil

Dorian:

Hey Sybil. I guess we need to talk. Is there any chance that you can forgive me for what I said to you a while ago? How can I make it up for you?

Sybil:

Meet me at 7 p.m.

Scene 8. Dorian meets Sybil. She wants to take a picture of them both, but he puts away her phone.

Dorian:

Don't. I have already shown too much...