



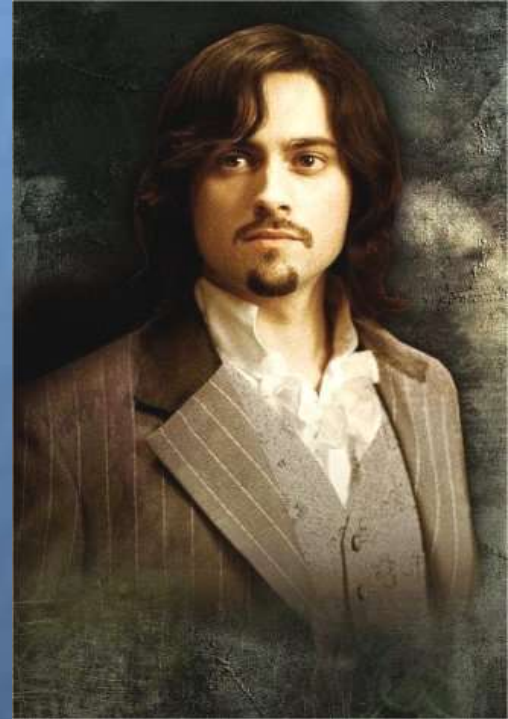
Oscar Wilde

(1854-1898)

Everything I write is extraordinary. I do not pose as being ordinary, great heavens!"

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

- ★ Introduction.
- ★ Oscar Wilde Personally.
- ★ Wilde's Style Of Writing.
- ★ Victorian Era.
- ★ Major Works.
- ★ The Picture Of Dorian Gray.
- ★ The Importance Of Being Earnest.



★ Introduction:

✧ Birth name:

✚ Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde

✧ Birth date:

✚ October 16, 1854 Ireland

✚ Mother was a poet/journalist

✚ Father was a doctor

✧ Death date:

✚ November 30, 1900

✚ Died penniless and alone of meningitis in Paris

✚ Married with two children



★ Oscar Wilde Personally:

✧ Occupation:

✠ Writer (1880-1898)

✠ Lecturer (1881-1884)

✧ Language: English, French

✧ Nationality: Irish

✧ Education:

✠ Trinity College (1871-1874)

✠ Magdalen College, Oxford (1874-1878)

✧ Period: Victorian era

✧ Genres: Drama, short story, dialogue, journalism

✧ Notable work: The Importance of Being Earnest, The Picture of Dorian Gray

✧ Spouse: Constance Lloyd (1884–1898)

✧ Children: Cyril Holland, Vyvyan Holland



★ Wilde's Style Of Writing

- ✱ Oscar Wilde's style of writing is, in many ways, just as important and rich as the content.
- ✱ Elements such as tone, diction, imagery, irony, allusion, symbolism, metaphor, personification, etc. are always a part of his writings.
- ✱ His writings had a very witty and pointed but easy-to-read style.
- ✱ He's known for his clever curt and sly sayings, sometimes self-deprecating irony.
- ✱ Mocked Victorian notions about moral seriousness of great art
- ✱ Treated art as the "supreme reality" and treated life as "fiction"

★ Victorian Period (1832-1900)

- ✱ Queen Victoria took throne in 1837 (at 18)
- ✱ New ideas discussed & debated by large segment of society
 - ✚ Voracious readers
 - ✚ Intellectual growth, change and adjustment
- ✱ Decorum & Authority – Victorians saw themselves progressing morally & intellectually
- ✱ Powerful middle-class obsessed with “gentility, decorum”

★ Victorian Period

- ✱ Censorship of writers: no mention of “sex, birth, or death”
- ✱ Materialism, secularism, vulgarity, and sheer waste that accompanied Victorian progress led some writers to wonder if their culture was really advancing by any measure.
- ✱ Victorian writing reflects the dangers and benefits to rapid industrialization, while encouraging readers to examine closely their own understanding of the era’s progress.

★ Oscar Wilde And The Victorian Era

- ★ Student of “aesthetic movement” – which rejected older Victorian insistence on moral purposed of art
- ★ Celebrated value of “art for art’s sake
- ★ Settled in London
- ★ Mocked Victorian notions about moral seriousness of great art
- ★ Treated art as the “supreme reality” and treated life as “fiction”

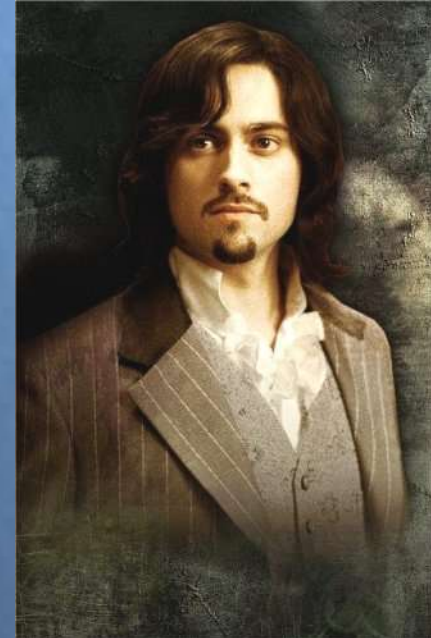


★ Oscar Wilde Major Works

- ✧ Vera (1880)
- ✧ The Duchess of Padua (1883)
- ✧ Salomé (1883)
- ✧ The Happy Prince and Other Stories (1888)
- ✧ The Picture of Dorian Gray (1890)
- ✧ Intentions (1891)
- ✧ Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories (1891)
- ✧ A House of Pomegranates (1891)
- ✧ Lady Windermere's Fan (1892)
- ✧ A Woman of No Importance (1893)
- ✧ An Ideal Husband (1895)
- ✧ The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)
- ✧ "The Ballad of Reading Gaol "(1898)

★ Dorian Gray

- ✱ This was Wilde's first and only novel.
- ✱ It was written over 100 years ago (1895)
- ✱ Opened to much criticism
- ✱ Ultimately, was very successful
- ✱ The novel raised quite a blizzard of scandal in its day, and had critics denouncing Wilde for what they perceived to be his own innate immorality



★ Basic Synopsis

- ✱ The story of three friends: Basil, Lord Henry, and Dorian Gray
- ✱ The soul is a blank canvas
- ✱ Basil-angel
- ✱ Lord Henry- Devil
- ✱ Dorian Gray- a clean slate
- ✱ Id, ego, superego
- ✱ Semi-autobiographical



★ Major Theme

✱ Hedonism: Is the Major Theme.

✚ (The devotion to pleasure as a way of life; one's sole priority is to seek pleasure/happiness without regard for others.)

✱ The Other themes:

✚ Sin and redemption

✚ Love and marriage

✚ Friendship

✚ Youth and beauty

✚ Gossip

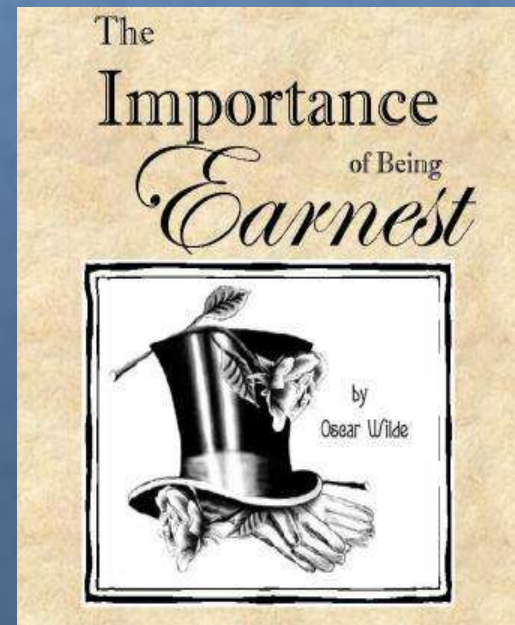
✚ Influence/manipulation

✚ Art

✚ Based on revelations about evil in humanity, pleasures of evil and destructiveness of evil

★ The Importance Of Being Earnest

- ✱ The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde's last and most famous play.
- ✱ It's a satire of the Victorian era.
- ✱ The Importance of Being Earnest is funny all the time
- ✱ Genre of the play:
 - ⚔ Social comedy
 - ⚔ Comedy of manners
 - ⚔ Satire
 - ⚔ Intellectual farce




★ Literary Device

- ✱ Paradox: seems contradictory but presents truth
- ✱ Inverted logic: words/phrases turned upside down reversing our expectations
- ✱ Pun: play on words using word or phrase that has two meanings Epigram: brief, witty, cleverly-expressed statement
- ✱ Parody: humorous mocking imitation of literary work
- ✱ Satire: ridicules through humor
- ✱ Irony: something you don't expect to happen
- ✱ Foreshadowing: creates suspense through hints to the ending

★ The Important Themes

- ✱ Lies and deceit
- ✱ Marriage
- ✱ Respect and reputation
- ✱ Society and class
- ✱ Gender
- ✱ Versions of Reality: Romance
- ✱ Love
- ✱ Foolishness and folly



A person wearing a dark, long coat and a hat stands on the left side of the image. The background is a warm, yellowish-gold wooden plank wall. The person's face is partially visible, looking towards the camera.

Thank you
FYBA – A

*We are all in the gutter, but some of us are
looking at the stars. - Oscar Wilde*