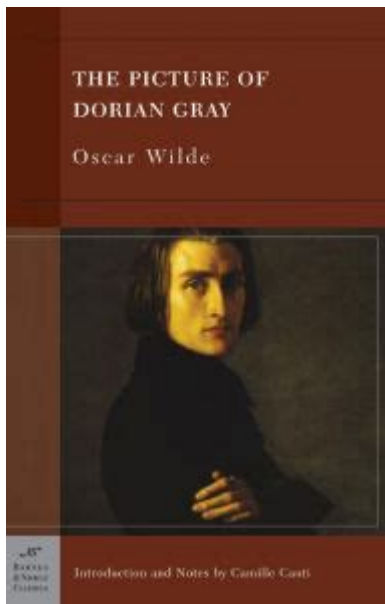


# Sparknotes Picture Of Dorian Gray



## **SparkNotes Picture of Dorian Gray: A Concise Guide to Wilde's Masterpiece**

Are you facing a looming deadline for your English literature class, desperately needing a grasp of Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*? Or perhaps you're simply curious about this captivating gothic novel and want a quick, insightful overview? This comprehensive guide offers a SparkNotes-style breakdown of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, covering key plot points, character analysis, themes, and symbolism. We'll dissect the narrative, explore Wilde's masterful use of language, and help you understand the enduring relevance of this classic work. Let's delve into the beauty and the decay.

### **The Premise: Beauty, Morality, and the Faustian Bargain**

Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* centers on the titular character, a strikingly handsome young man whose portrait ages prematurely while he remains eternally youthful. This is achieved through a Faustian bargain – Dorian wishes his portrait would age instead of himself. The novel explores the consequences of this selfish desire, examining the themes of beauty, morality, decadence, and the corrupting influence of hedonism. It's a tale of artistic creation, societal hypocrisy, and the ultimate price of unchecked ambition.

## Key Characters: A Cast of Complex Individuals

**Dorian Gray:** The central character, Dorian's initial charm masks a deep narcissism and self-indulgence. His unwavering pursuit of pleasure ultimately leads to his moral ruin, though his outward appearance remains untouched by time.

**Basil Hallward:** A talented artist, Basil is captivated by Dorian's beauty and paints the infamous portrait. He represents artistic integrity and genuine friendship, tragically becoming a victim of Dorian's selfishness.

**Lord Henry Wotton:** A sophisticated and cynical aesthete, Lord Henry acts as Dorian's corrupting influence. His witty epigrams and decadent philosophy shape Dorian's descent into moral depravity. He embodies intellectual and social corruption.

## Plot Summary: A Journey Through Decadence

The novel unfolds chronologically, following Dorian's life from his initial encounter with Lord Henry to his eventual demise. The plot unfolds through several key stages:

**The Wish:** Dorian makes his wish upon seeing his portrait, transferring the effects of aging to the canvas.

**The Descent:** Influenced by Lord Henry, Dorian embraces a life of hedonism, indulging in various vices without consequence. The portrait reflects these sins, becoming increasingly grotesque.

**The Consequences:** Dorian witnesses the decay of his soul reflected in the portrait. His guilt and self-loathing grow but never quite overcome his hedonistic pursuit.

**The Revelation:** The increasingly horrifying nature of the portrait forces Dorian into isolation, driving him further into darkness.

**The Resolution:** Unable to bear the sight of his true self, Dorian destroys the portrait, resulting in his own death and the restoration of the picture to its youthful beauty.

## Themes Explored: Beyond the Surface

**The Nature of Beauty:** The novel questions the superficiality of judging individuals based on physical appearance. Dorian's beauty masks his inner corruption, highlighting the disconnect between outward appearance and inner morality.

**The Dangers of Hedonism:** Wilde explores the detrimental consequences of pursuing pleasure without moral restraint. Dorian's unchecked hedonism leads to his downfall, emphasizing the importance of balance and ethical considerations.

**The Corruption of Influence:** Lord Henry's cynical philosophy acts as a catalyst for Dorian's moral

decay. The novel examines the powerful influence of societal values and individual mentorship on shaping character.

**The Power of Art:** The portrait itself is a crucial element, acting as a reflection of Dorian's soul and a tangible representation of his moral decay. It showcases art's ability to capture and reveal truths about human nature.

## **Symbolism and Literary Devices: Wilde's Artistic Mastery**

Wilde masterfully employs various literary devices, including symbolism and allegory. The portrait acts as a powerful symbol of Dorian's soul, reflecting his moral corruption. The descriptions of beauty and decay serve as allegorical representations of the human condition.

## **Conclusion: A Timeless Exploration of Human Nature**

The Picture of Dorian Gray remains a relevant and thought-provoking novel due to its exploration of timeless themes. Wilde's masterful prose and insightful commentary on beauty, morality, and the human condition continue to captivate readers over a century later. This SparkNotes-style guide provides a foundation for understanding this complex and compelling work. Whether you're tackling it for academic purposes or personal enjoyment, this analysis should equip you to appreciate the intricacies of Wilde's masterpiece.

## **FAQs**

1. What is the significance of the portrait in The Picture of Dorian Gray? The portrait serves as a symbolic representation of Dorian's soul, literally bearing the burden of his sins and moral decay. It's a physical manifestation of his inner corruption.
2. What is Lord Henry's role in the story? Lord Henry acts as a catalyst for Dorian's moral downfall, influencing him with his cynical and hedonistic philosophy. He represents a corrupting intellectual force.
3. How does the novel explore the theme of beauty? The novel challenges the superficiality of valuing beauty solely based on physical appearance. Dorian's unchanging beauty masks his deep moral corruption.
4. What is the significance of the ending? The ending demonstrates the ultimate consequences of

unchecked hedonism and the impossibility of escaping the repercussions of one's actions. Dorian's destruction of the portrait leads to his own demise.

5. Why is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* still relevant today? The novel's exploration of universal themes such as beauty, morality, and the consequences of selfish desires continues to resonate with readers. It offers enduring commentary on human nature and the complexities of the human condition.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** *The Picture of Dorian Gray* Oscar Wilde, 2016-03-24 The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde from Coterie Classics All Coterie Classics have been formatted for ereaders and devices and include a bonus link to the free audio book. "Those who find ugly meanings in beautiful things are corrupt without being charming. This is a fault. Those who find beautiful meanings in beautiful things are the cultivated. For these there is hope. They are the elect to whom beautiful things mean only Beauty. There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all." — Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* A man sells his soul for eternal youth and scandalizes the city in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** *Against the Grain* J. K. Huysmans, 2009-05-01 À rebours, *Against the Grain* or *Against Nature* in English, is an 1884 novel by Joris-Karl Huysmans. Anti-hero Jean Des Esseintes despises the bourgeois society he lives in and withdraws into the aesthetic and artistic ideals that he has created. Believing the novel would be rejected by both critics and public, Huysman declared: It will be the biggest fiasco of the year - but I don't care a damn! It will be something nobody has ever done before, and I shall have said what I want to say... The novel did receive great publicity on its release, but even though it was heavily criticized it also became influential with a new generation of writers and aesthetes.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** *The Haters* Jesse Andrews, 2016-04-05 From Jesse Andrews, author of the New York Times bestselling *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl* and screenwriter of the Sundance award-winning motion picture of the same name, comes a groundbreaking young adult novel about music, love, friendship, and freedom as three young musicians follow a quest to escape the law long enough to play the amazing show they hope (but also doubt) they have in them. For Wes and his best friend, Corey, jazz camp turns out to be lame. It's pretty much all dudes talking in Jazz Voice. But then they jam with Ash, a charismatic girl with an unusual sound, and the three just click. It's three and a half hours of pure musical magic, and Ash makes a decision: They need to hit the road. Because the road, not summer camp, is where bands get good. Before Wes and Corey know it, they're in Ash's SUV heading south, and *The Haters Summer of Hate Tour* has begun. In his second novel, Andrews again brings his brilliant and distinctive voice to YA, in the perfect book for music lovers, fans of *The Commitments* (author Roddy Doyle raves *The Haters* is terrific. It is shocking and funny, unsettling and charming.), and *High Fidelity*, or anyone who has ever loved—and hated—a song or a band. This witty, funny coming-of-age novel is contemporary fiction at its best.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** *The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde, 2014-08-01 Jack Worthing gets antsy living at his country estate. As an excuse, he spins tales of his rowdy brother Earnest living in London. When Jack rushes to the city to confront his brother, he's free to become Earnest and live a different lifestyle. In London, his best friend, Algernon, begins to suspect Earnest is leading a double life. Earnest confesses that his real name is Jack and admits the ruse has become tricky as two women have become enchanted with the idea of marrying Earnest. On a whim, Algernon also pretends to be Earnest and encounters the two women as they meet at the estate. With two Earnests who aren't really earnest and two women in love with little more than a name, this play is a classic comedy of errors. This is an unabridged version of Oscar Wilde's English play, first published in 1899.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** *Esperanza Rising* (Scholastic Gold) Pam Muñoz Ryan,

2012-10-01 A modern classic for our time and for all time-this beloved, award-winning bestseller resonates with fresh meaning for each new generation. Perfect for fans of Kate DiCamillo, Christopher Paul Curtis, and Rita Williams-Garcia. Pura Belpre Award Winner \* Readers will be swept up. -Publishers Weekly, starred review Esperanza thought she'd always live a privileged life on her family's ranch in Mexico. She'd always have fancy dresses, a beautiful home filled with servants, and Mama, Papa, and Abuelita to care for her. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California and settle in a Mexican farm labor camp. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard work, financial struggles brought on by the Great Depression, or lack of acceptance she now faces. When Mama gets sick and a strike for better working conditions threatens to uproot their new life, Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--because Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Out of My Mind** Sharon M. Draper, 2024-10-08 From a multiple Coretta Scott King Award-winning author comes the story of a brilliant girl that no one knows about because she cannot speak or write. If there is one book teens and parents (and everyone else) should read this year, *Out of My Mind* should be it. O--Denver Post.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Loner** Teddy Wayne, 2016-09-13 "Powerful." —Maureen Corrigan, NPR's Fresh Air Named a best book of the year by NPR, Kirkus Reviews, and BookPage David Federman has never felt appreciated. An academically gifted yet painfully forgettable member of his New Jersey high school class, the withdrawn, mild-mannered freshman arrives at Harvard fully expecting to be embraced by a new tribe of high-achieving peers. Initially, however, his social prospects seem unlikely to change, sentencing him to a lifetime of anonymity. Then he meets Veronica Morgan Wells. Struck by her beauty, wit, and sophisticated Manhattan upbringing, David becomes instantly infatuated. Determined to win her attention and an invite into her glamorous world, he begins compromising his moral standards for this one, great shot at happiness. But both Veronica and David, it turns out, are not exactly as they seem. *Loner* turns the traditional campus novel on its head as it explores ambition, class, and gender politics. It is a stunning and timely literary achievement from one of the rising stars of American fiction.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Forever . . .** Judy Blume, 2007-04-24 Two high school seniors believe their love to be so strong that it will last forever.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Go Set a Watchman** Harper Lee, 2015-11-12 Dua puluh tahun lalu, Jean Louise menyaksikan Atticus, sang Ayah, membela Negro di pengadilan Maycomb County. Kini, Jean Louise menyadari bahwa Maycomb dan sang Ayah, ternyata tak seperti yang dia kira selama ini dan dia pun bukan Scout yang polos lagi. *Go Set a Watchman* adalah naskah pertama yang diajukan Harper Lee kepada penerbit sebelum *To Kill a Mockingbird*, yang memenangi Pulitzer. Setelah 60 tahun dianggap hilang, naskah berharga ini ditemukan pada akhir 2014. Terbitnya *Go Set a Watchman* disambut animo luar biasa. Buku ini terjual lebih dari 1,1 juta kopi di minggu pertama, memuncaki daftar bestseller di Amerika selama 5 minggu berturut-turut dalam 1,5 bulan, dan mengalahkan penjualan Harry Potter serta 50 Shades of Grey. *Go Set a Watchman*, warisan berharga Harper Lee, penulis Amerika paling berpengaruh pada abad ke-20. *Go Set a Watchman* mempertanyakan beberapa hal penting yang justru disamarkan dalam *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Menghibur, lucu, tapi lugas dan jujur. -Ursula K. Le Guin, penulis *The Earthsea Cycle* Aset terbesar *Go Set a Watchman* ialah perannya dalam memicu diskusi jujur tentang sejarah gelap Amerika mengenai persamaan ras. -San Francisco Chronicle Luar biasa, sebuah novel yang ditulis lebih dari 50 tahun lalu ternyata masih kontekstual dengan masalah yang kita hadapi sekarang, tentang ras dan ketidakadilan. -Chicago Tribune *Go Set a Watchman* lebih kompleks daripada *To Kill a Mockingbird*, karya klasik Harper Lee. Sebuah novel yang lengkap ... sebuah karya sastra baru yang memuaskan dan autentik. -The Guardian *Go Set a Watchman* memberikan pencerahan tentang kompleksitas dan kecerdasan salah satu penulis Amerika yang paling penting. -USA Today Seperti yang dikemukakan Faulkner, kisah yang bagus adalah kisah manusia yang berkonflik dengan nuraninya. Dan itu adalah ringkasan yang tepat tentang *Go Set a Watchman*. -Daily Beast Kompleksitas karakter Atticus membuat *Go Set a Watchman* pantas dibaca. Dengan *Mockingbird*,

Harper Lee membuat kita mempertanyakan siapa sebenarnya diri kita dan apa yang sebenarnya kita tahu. Go Set a Watchman meneruskan tradisi mulia ini. -New York Post [Mizan, Mizan Publishing, Novel, Terjemahan, Legendaris, Indonesia]

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Nickel and Dimed** Barbara Ehrenreich, 2010-04-01 The New York Times bestselling work of undercover reportage from our sharpest and most original social critic, with a new foreword by Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted* Millions of Americans work full time, year round, for poverty-level wages. In 1998, Barbara Ehrenreich decided to join them. She was inspired in part by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, which promised that a job—any job—can be the ticket to a better life. But how does anyone survive, let alone prosper, on \$6 an hour? To find out, Ehrenreich left her home, took the cheapest lodgings she could find, and accepted whatever jobs she was offered. Moving from Florida to Maine to Minnesota, she worked as a waitress, a hotel maid, a cleaning woman, a nursing-home aide, and a Wal-Mart sales clerk. She lived in trailer parks and crumbling residential motels. Very quickly, she discovered that no job is truly unskilled, that even the lowliest occupations require exhausting mental and muscular effort. She also learned that one job is not enough; you need at least two if you int to live indoors. *Nickel and Dimed* reveals low-rent America in all its tenacity, anxiety, and surprising generosity—a land of Big Boxes, fast food, and a thousand desperate stratagems for survival. Read it for the smoldering clarity of Ehrenreich's perspective and for a rare view of how prosperity looks from the bottom. And now, in a new foreword, Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, explains why, twenty years on in America, *Nickel and Dimed* is more relevant than ever.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Book Thief** Markus Zusak, 2007-12-18 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • ONE OF TIME MAGAZINE'S 100 BEST YA BOOKS OF ALL TIME The extraordinary, beloved novel about the ability of books to feed the soul even in the darkest of times. When Death has a story to tell, you listen. It is 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier, and will become busier still. Liesel Meminger is a foster girl living outside of Munich, who scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist—books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbors during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement. In superbly crafted writing that burns with intensity, award-winning author Markus Zusak, author of *I Am the Messenger*, has given us one of the most enduring stories of our time. "The kind of book that can be life-changing." —The New York Times "Deserves a place on the same shelf with *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank." —USA Today DON'T MISS BRIDGE OF CLAY, MARKUS ZUSAK'S FIRST NOVEL SINCE THE BOOK THIEF.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Curses** Laure Eve, 2018-12-31 In this sequel to *The Graces*, the youngest witch in the family discovers a secret that has her questioning those closest to her. Now that Wolf is back after his mysterious disappearance, the Grace siblings are determined return to normal—whatever normal is for a family of witches. Except Summer, the youngest Grace. Summer has a knack for discovering the truth—and something is troubling her. But exposing secrets is a dangerous game, and it's not one Summer can win alone. At Summer's behest, the coven comes back together, drawing their erstwhile friend River back into the fold. But as the coven's powers magnify, Wolf's behavior becomes unpredictable—and Summer must question the nature of the friend she loves. This riveting sequel to *The Graces* is saturated with magic, the destructive cost of power, and the nature of forgiveness. Praise for *The Graces*: "Precise, vivid, and immediate. Powerful." ?Kirkus Reviews "The *Graces* demands to be read twice: The first time for the suspense; the second for the subtleties you missed initially." ?New York Times Book Review "Eve conjures up an intriguing vision of small-town mystique." ?Publishers Weekly "An intoxicating blend of magic and mystery." ?Danielle Vega, author of *The Merciless* and *Survive the Night* "Mysterious, beautiful, and unnerving, *The Graces*, like its titular family, will keep you enthralled from beginning to end." ?Samantha Shannon, New York Times bestselling author of *The Bone Season* "Powerful, deadly, chilling, and compelling. It's a masterpiece." ?Melinda Salisbury, author of *The Sin Eater's Daughter*

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Old Man and the Sea** Ernest Hemingway,

2022-08-01 DigiCat Publishing presents to you this special edition of *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. DigiCat Publishing considers every written word to be a legacy of humankind. Every DigiCat book has been carefully reproduced for republishing in a new modern format. The books are available in print, as well as ebooks. DigiCat hopes you will treat this work with the acknowledgment and passion it deserves as a classic of world literature.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Ready Player One** Ernest Cline, 2011-08-16 #1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • Now a major motion picture directed by Steven Spielberg.

"Enchanting . . . Willy Wonka meets The Matrix."—USA Today • "As one adventure leads expertly to the next, time simply evaporates."—Entertainment Weekly A world at stake. A quest for the ultimate prize. Are you ready? In the year 2045, reality is an ugly place. The only time Wade Watts really feels alive is when he's jacked into the OASIS, a vast virtual world where most of humanity spends their days. When the eccentric creator of the OASIS dies, he leaves behind a series of fiendish puzzles, based on his obsession with the pop culture of decades past. Whoever is first to solve them will inherit his vast fortune—and control of the OASIS itself. Then Wade cracks the first clue. Suddenly he's beset by rivals who'll kill to take this prize. The race is on—and the only way to survive is to win. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY Entertainment Weekly • San Francisco Chronicle • Village Voice • Chicago Sun-Times • iO9 • The AV Club "Delightful . . . the grown-up's Harry Potter."—HuffPost "An addictive read . . . part intergalactic scavenger hunt, part romance, and all heart."—CNN "A most excellent ride . . . Cline stuffs his novel with a cornucopia of pop culture, as if to wink to the reader."—Boston Globe "Ridiculously fun and large-hearted . . . Cline is that rare writer who can translate his own dorky enthusiasms into prose that's both hilarious and compassionate."—NPR "[A] fantastic page-turner . . . starts out like a simple bit of fun and winds up feeling like a rich and plausible picture of future friendships in a world not too distant from our own."—iO9

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: For Whom the Bell Tolls** Ernest Hemingway, 2014-05-22 In 1937 Ernest Hemingway traveled to Spain to cover the civil war there for the North American Newspaper Alliance. Three years later he completed the greatest novel to emerge from "the good fight," *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. The story of Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain, it tells of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal. In his portrayal of Jordan's love for the beautiful Maria and his superb account of El Sordo's last stand, in his brilliant travesty of *La Pasionaria* and his unwillingness to believe in blind faith, Hemingway surpasses his achievement in *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms* to create a work at once rare and beautiful, strong and brutal, compassionate, moving, and wise. "If the function of a writer is to reveal reality," Maxwell Perkins wrote to Hemingway after reading the manuscript, "no one ever so completely performed it." Greater in power, broader in scope, and more intensely emotional than any of the author's previous works, it stands as one of the best war novels of all time.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Bluest Eye** Toni Morrison, 2007-05-08 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • From the acclaimed Nobel Prize winner—a powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity that asks questions about race, class, and gender with characteristic subtlety and grace. In Morrison's acclaimed first novel, *Pecola Breedlove*—an 11-year-old Black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment. Here, Morrison's writing is "so precise, so faithful to speech and so charged with pain and wonder that the novel becomes poetry" (*The New York Times*).

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: A Long Walk to Water** Linda Sue Park, 2010 When the Sudanese civil war reaches his village in 1985, 11-year-old Salva becomes separated from his family and must walk with other Dinka tribe members through southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya in search of safe haven. Based on the life of Salva Dut, who, after emigrating to America in 1996, began a project to dig water wells in Sudan. By a Newbery Medal-winning author.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** Farewell to Manzanar Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, James D. Houston, 2002 A true story of Japanese American experience during and after the World War internment.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Heart of Darkness ,**

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: A Small Place** Jamaica Kincaid, 2000-04-28 A brilliant look at colonialism and its effects in Antigua--by the author of Annie John If you go to Antigua as a tourist, this is what you will see. If you come by aeroplane, you will land at the V. C. Bird International Airport. Vere Cornwall (V. C.) Bird is the Prime Minister of Antigua. You may be the sort of tourist who would wonder why a Prime Minister would want an airport named after him--why not a school, why not a hospital, why not some great public monument. You are a tourist and you have not yet seen . . . So begins Jamaica Kincaid's expansive essay, which shows us what we have not yet seen of the ten-by-twelve-mile island in the British West Indies where she grew up. Lyrical, sardonic, and forthright by turns, in a Swiftian mode, A Small Place cannot help but amplify our vision of one small place and all that it signifies.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Never Let Me Go** Sachin Garg, 2012

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Nineteen eighty-four** George Orwell, 2022-11-22 This is a dystopian social science fiction novel and morality tale. The novel is set in the year 1984, a fictional future in which most of the world has been destroyed by unending war, constant government monitoring, historical revisionism, and propaganda. The totalitarian superstate Oceania, ruled by the Party and known as Airstrip One, now includes Great Britain as a province. The Party uses the Thought Police to repress individuality and critical thought. Big Brother, the tyrannical ruler of Oceania, enjoys a strong personality cult that was created by the party's overzealous brainwashing methods. Winston Smith, the main character, is a hard-working and skilled member of the Ministry of Truth's Outer Party who secretly despises the Party and harbors rebellious fantasies.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Silas Marner Illustrated** George Eliot, 2021-05-06 Silas Marner: The Weaver of Raveloe is the third novel by Mary Ann Evans. It was published in 1861. An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, it is notable for its strong realism and its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from religion to industrialisation to community.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: A Gathering of Old Men** Ernest J. Gaines, 2012-10-31 A powerful depiction of racial tensions arising over the death of a Cajun farmer at the hands of a black man--set on a Louisiana sugarcane plantation in the 1970s. The Village Voice called A Gathering of Old Men "the best-written novel on Southern race relations in over a decade."

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Quiet American** Graham Greene, 2018-03-13 A "masterful . . . brilliantly constructed novel" of love and chaos in 1950s Vietnam (Zadie Smith, The Guardian). It's 1955 and British journalist Thomas Fowler has been in Vietnam for two years covering the insurgency against French colonial rule. But it's not just a political tangle that's kept him tethered to the country. There's also his lover, Phuong, a young Vietnamese woman who clings to Fowler for protection. Then comes Alden Pyle, an idealistic American working in service of the CIA. Devotedly, disastrously patriotic, he believes neither communism nor colonialism is what's best for Southeast Asia, but rather a "Third Force": American democracy by any means necessary. His ideas of conquest include Phuong, to whom he promises a sweet life in the states. But as Pyle's blind moral conviction wreaks havoc upon innocent lives, it's ultimately his romantic compulsions that will play a role in his own undoing. Although criticized upon publication as anti-American, Graham Greene's "complex but compelling story of intrigue and counter-intrigue" would, in a few short years, prove prescient in its own condemnation of American interventionism (The New York Times).

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Little Prince** Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, 2021-08-31 The Little Prince and nbsp;(French: and nbsp;Le Petit Prince) is a and nbsp;novella and nbsp;by French aristocrat, writer, and aviator and nbsp;Antoine de Saint-Exupéry. It was first published in English and French in the US by and nbsp;Reynal and amp; Hitchcock and nbsp;in April 1943, and posthumously in France following the and nbsp;liberation of France and nbsp;as Saint-Exupéry's works had been banned by the and nbsp;Vichy Regime. The story follows a young prince who visits



various planets in space, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. Despite its style as a children's book, and *The Little Prince* makes observations about life, adults and human nature. *The Little Prince* became Saint-Exupéry's most successful work, selling an estimated 140 million copies worldwide, which makes it one of the best-selling and most translated books ever published. It has been translated into 301 languages and dialects. *The Little Prince* has been adapted to numerous art forms and media, including audio recordings, radio plays, live stage, film, television, ballet, and opera.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Into the Wild** Jon Krakauer, 2009-09-22 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • In April 1992 a young man from a well-to-do family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. This is the unforgettable story of how Christopher Johnson McCandless came to die. It may be nonfiction, but *Into the Wild* is a mystery of the highest order. —Entertainment Weekly McCandless had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Not long after, he was dead. *Into the Wild* is the mesmerizing, heartbreaking tale of an enigmatic young man who goes missing in the wild and whose story captured the world's attention. Immediately after graduating from college in 1991, McCandless had roamed through the West and Southwest on a vision quest like those made by his heroes Jack London and John Muir. In the Mojave Desert he abandoned his car, stripped it of its license plates, and burned all of his cash. He would give himself a new name, Alexander Supertramp, and, unencumbered by money and belongings, he would be free to wallow in the raw, unfiltered experiences that nature presented. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw the maps away. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild. Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the drives and desires that propelled McCandless. When McCandless's innocent mistakes turn out to be irreversible and fatal, he becomes the stuff of tabloid headlines and is dismissed for his naiveté, pretensions, and hubris. He is said to have had a death wish but wanting to die is a very different thing from being compelled to look over the edge. Krakauer brings McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows, and the peril, adversity, and renunciation sought by this enigmatic young man are illuminated with a rare understanding—and not an ounce of sentimentality. *Into the Wild* is a tour de force. The power and luminosity of Jon Krakauer's storytelling blaze through every page.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Anthem** Ayn Rand, 2021-07-07 About this Edition This 2021-2022 Digital Student Edition of Ayn Rand's *Anthem* was created for teachers and students receiving free novels from the Ayn Rand Institute, and includes a historic Q&A with Ayn Rand that cannot be found in any other edition of *Anthem*. In this Q&A from 1979, Rand responds to questions about *Anthem* sent to her by a high school classroom. About *Anthem* *Anthem* is Ayn Rand's "hymn to man's ego." It is the story of one man's rebellion against a totalitarian, collectivist society. Equality 7-2521 is a young man who yearns to understand "the Science of Things." But he lives in a bleak, dystopian future where independent thought is a crime and where science and technology have regressed to primitive levels. All expressions of individualism have been suppressed in the world of *Anthem*; personal possessions are nonexistent, individual preferences are condemned as sinful and romantic love is forbidden. Obedience to the collective is so deeply ingrained that the very word "I" has been erased from the language. In pursuit of his quest for knowledge, Equality 7-2521 struggles to answer the questions that burn within him — questions that ultimately lead him to uncover the mystery behind his society's downfall and to find the key to a future of freedom and progress. *Anthem* anticipates the theme of Rand's first best seller, *The Fountainhead*, which she stated as "individualism versus collectivism, not in politics, but in man's soul."

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Looking Backward, 2000-1887** Edward Bellamy, 1970

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Things They Carried** Tim O'Brien, 2009-10-13 A

classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company: Jimmy Cross, Henry Dobbins, Rat Kiley, Mitchell Sanders, Norman Bowker, Kiowa, and the character Tim O'Brien, who has survived his tour in Vietnam to become a father and writer at the age of forty-three. Taught everywhere—from high school classrooms to graduate seminars in creative writing—it has become required reading for any American and continues to challenge readers in their perceptions of fact and fiction, war and peace, courage and fear and longing. *The Things They Carried* won France's prestigious Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger and the Chicago Tribune Heartland Prize; it was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Bean Trees** Barbara Kingsolver, 2009-03-17 "The Bean Trees is the work of a visionary. . . . It leaves you open-mouthed and smiling." — Los Angeles Times A bestseller that has come to be regarded as an American classic, *The Bean Trees* is the novel that launched Barbara Kingsolver's remarkable literary career. It is the charming, engrossing tale of rural Kentucky native Taylor Greer, who only wants to get away from her roots and avoid getting pregnant. She succeeds, but inherits a three-year-old Native American girl named Turtle along the way, and together, from Oklahoma to Arizona, half-Cherokee Taylor and her charge search for a new life in the West. Hers is a story about love and friendship, abandonment and belonging, and the discovery of surprising resources in seemingly empty places. This edition includes a P.S. section with additional insights from the author, background material, suggestions for further reading, and more.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Heart is a Lonely Hunter** Carson McCullers, 1961 When she was only twenty-three, Carson McCullers's first novel created a literary sensation. She was very special, one of America's superlative writers who conjures up a vision of existence as terrible as it is real, who takes us on shattering voyages into the depths of the spiritual isolation that underlies the human condition. This novel is the work of a supreme artist, Carson McCullers's enduring masterpiece. The heroine is the strange young girl, Mick Kelly. The setting is a small Southern town, the cosmos universal and eternal. The characters are the damned, the voiceless, the rejected. Some fight their loneliness with violence and depravity, Some with sex or drink, and some -- like Mick -- with a quiet, intensely personal search for beauty. From the Paperback edition.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The History of Tom Jones, a Foundling** Henry Fielding, 1982

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Penguin Readers Level 4: The Boy in Striped Pyjamas (ELT Graded Reader)** John Boyne, 2020-11-05 Penguin Readers is an ELT graded reader series. Please note that the eBook edition does NOT include access to the audio edition and digital book. Written for learners of English as a foreign language, each title includes carefully adapted text, new illustrations and language learning exercises. Titles include popular classics, exciting contemporary fiction, and thought-provoking non-fiction, introducing language learners to bestselling authors and compelling content. The eight levels of Penguin Readers follow the Common European Framework of Reference for language learning (CEFR). Exercises at the back of each Reader help language learners to practise grammar, vocabulary, and key exam skills. Before, during and after-reading questions test readers' story comprehension and develop vocabulary. The Boy in Striped Pyjamas, a Level 4 Reader, is A2+ in the CEFR framework. The text is made up of sentences with up to three clauses, introducing more complex uses of present perfect simple, passives, phrasal verbs and simple relative clauses. It is well supported by illustrations, which appear regularly. One day, Bruno's father gets a new job, and the family have to move from Berlin, Germany, to a new place. There is a strange camp at the end of the garden. Bruno is very unhappy and bored until he meets Shmuel. The two boys become very good friends. But why is Shmuel in the camp? And why is he wearing striped pyjamas? Visit the Penguin Readers website Register to access online resources including tests, worksheets and answer keys. Exclusively with the print edition, readers can unlock a digital book and audio edition (not available with the eBook).

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray:** Number the Stars Lois Lowry, 2011 In Nazi-occupied Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen is called upon for a selfless act of bravery to help save her best friend from a terrible fate. Winner of the Newbery Medal, newly reissued in the Essential Modern Classics range. They plan to arrest all the Danish Jews. They plan to take them away. And we have been told that they may come tonight. It is 1943 and life in Copenhagen is becoming complicated for Annemarie. There are food shortages and curfews, and soldiers on every corner. But it is even worse for her Jewish best friend, Ellen, as the Nazis continue their brutal campaign. With Ellen's life in danger, Annemarie must summon all her courage to help stage a daring escape. Inspired by true events of the Second World War, this gripping novel brings the past vividly to life for today's readers.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Kite Runner** Khaled Hosseini, 2007 Traces the unlikely friendship of a wealthy Afghan youth and a servant's son in a tale that spans the final days of Afghanistan's monarchy through the atrocities of the present day.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: Invisible Man** Ralph Ellison, 2014 The invisible man is the unnamed narrator of this impassioned novel of black lives in 1940s America. Embittered by a country which treats him as a non-being he retreats to an underground cell.

**sparknotes picture of dorian gray: The Picture of Dorian Gray** Oscar Wilde, 2010-02

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