

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray

****Aestheticism in The Picture of Dorian Gray: Exploring Beauty, Morality, and Art****

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray is a fascinating lens through which to view Oscar Wilde's only novel, a work that both celebrates and critiques the philosophy of art for art's sake. The novel, published in 1890, is often considered a defining text of the Aesthetic movement—an artistic and cultural trend that emphasized beauty and sensory experience over moral or social themes. But Wilde's exploration is far from a simple endorsement. Instead, **The Picture of Dorian Gray** delves into the complex relationship between aestheticism, morality, and identity, making it a rich subject for literary analysis and cultural discussion.

Understanding Aestheticism in The Picture of Dorian Gray

At its core, aestheticism champions the idea that art should be appreciated purely for its beauty and emotional impact, without needing to serve political, moral, or educational purposes. In Wilde's novel, this philosophy is both embodied and problematized through the character of Dorian Gray, a young man whose outer beauty remains untouched even as his portrait ages and records the corruption of his soul.

The Role of Beauty and Art

Beauty is arguably the most important element in **The Picture of Dorian Gray**. Wilde's prose is lush and vivid, mirroring the aesthetic ideal of art that delights the senses. Dorian himself becomes an object of aesthetic admiration, and his physical appearance is treated almost like a living work of art. The novel suggests that beauty has a seductive and dangerous power, capable of influencing behavior and shaping identity.

The portrait, painted by Basil Hallward, acts as a symbol of this aesthetic philosophy. It captures Dorian's essence and becomes a repository for his moral decay, allowing him to live a life of indulgence without visible consequence. This separation of appearance from reality reflects the tension in aestheticism between surface beauty and deeper truth.

Art for Art's Sake vs. Moral Responsibility

While Wilde embraces the idea that art exists for its own sake, **The Picture of Dorian Gray** also questions the ethical implications of detaching art from morality. Dorian's hedonistic lifestyle, guided by Lord Henry Wotton's cynical and provocative views, demonstrates the potential destructiveness of valuing beauty above all else. Lord Henry's aphorisms, dripping with wit and paradox, encourage Dorian to seek pleasure as the highest good, effectively turning aestheticism into a philosophy of self-indulgence.

This moral ambiguity is central to Wilde's critique. Is it possible—or even desirable—to separate art and life so completely? The novel suggests that ignoring the consequences of one's actions in pursuit of beauty can lead to spiritual and societal ruin.

Characters as Embodiments of Aestheticism

Dorian Gray: The Living Work of Art

Dorian represents the ultimate aesthetic ideal: youthful, beautiful, and seemingly untouched by time or suffering. Yet his character also embodies the dangers of aestheticism taken to the extreme. His portrait, which ages and becomes monstrous, reveals the hidden cost of a life devoted solely to pleasure and appearance.

Dorian's journey highlights how aestheticism can become a form of self-deception. By focusing exclusively on external beauty and denying the weight of his actions, he loses his moral compass and ultimately his humanity.

Lord Henry Wotton: The Voice of Aesthetic Philosophy

Lord Henry serves as the mouthpiece for Wilde's exploration of aestheticism. His witty epigrams and philosophical musings challenge Victorian norms and glorify the pursuit of beauty and sensation. He advocates living life as an art form, unbound by conventional morality.

However, Lord Henry's influence is double-edged. His seductive rhetoric blinds Dorian to the ethical consequences of his choices, making him complicit in Dorian's downfall. This relationship illustrates how aesthetic ideology can be both liberating and dangerously misleading.

Basil Hallward: The Moral Counterpoint

Basil, the artist who paints Dorian's portrait, represents the sincere and moral side of art. He believes in the connection between the artist's soul and the artwork, and his affection for Dorian is genuine and protective. Basil's horror at Dorian's corruption and his eventual fate underscores the novel's tension between aesthetic beauty and ethical responsibility.

Basil's character reminds readers that art cannot be completely divorced from the artist's conscience or the society it inhabits.

Symbolism and Themes Related to Aestheticism

The Portrait as a Symbol

The portrait is the novel's most powerful symbol of aestheticism's promises and perils. It allows Dorian to indulge in a life of excess without visible consequence, reflecting the superficiality of a culture obsessed with appearance. The grotesque transformation of the painting reveals the hidden moral decay beneath the surface.

This duality between appearance and reality invites readers to consider the limits of aestheticism and the dangers of valuing beauty over substance.

Hedonism and the Pursuit of Pleasure

Aestheticism in **The Picture of Dorian Gray** is closely linked to hedonism—the pursuit of pleasure as the highest good. The novel explores how this pursuit, when unrestrained by ethical considerations, can lead to self-destruction and harm to others.

Through Dorian's experiences, Wilde critiques the shallow gratification that aestheticism sometimes promotes, suggesting that true fulfillment requires more than mere sensory enjoyment.

The Conflict Between Art and Life

Wilde's novel blurs the lines between art and life, showing how aesthetic ideals influence behavior and identity. Dorian's life becomes a performance, shaped by aesthetic principles but ultimately unsustainable.

The novel asks important questions about whether art should imitate life or exist apart from it, and what happens when aestheticism becomes a way of escaping reality rather than engaging with it.

The Historical Context of Aestheticism in The Picture of Dorian Gray

Understanding the cultural background of the Aesthetic movement enriches the reading of Wilde's novel. Emerging in the late 19th century, aestheticism was a reaction against the utilitarianism and moral earnestness of Victorian society. Advocates like Wilde, Walter Pater, and James McNeill Whistler promoted the idea that art should be appreciated for its own sake and that beauty was a supreme value.

However, this movement was controversial, often accused of promoting decadence and immorality. **The Picture of Dorian Gray** reflects these tensions, both embracing the ideals of aestheticism and exposing its potential pitfalls.

How Aestheticism Influences Modern Interpretations of The Picture of Dorian Gray

Today, readers and scholars continue to grapple with the themes of aestheticism in Wilde's novel. The story resonates with contemporary debates about the role of beauty, art, and morality in culture. Issues such as the obsession with youth and appearance, the impact of art on identity, and the ethics of self-expression are as relevant now as they were in Wilde's time.

Tips for Readers to Appreciate Aestheticism in the Novel

- ****Pay attention to Wilde's language:**** His use of epigrams and vivid descriptions enhances the novel's aesthetic quality and reflects its themes.
- ****Consider the characters' philosophies:**** Understanding Lord Henry's views helps clarify the novel's exploration of aestheticism.
- ****Reflect on symbolism:**** The portrait is a key to unlocking the novel's deeper meanings about beauty and morality.
- ****Think about historical context:**** Knowing about the Aesthetic movement enriches your appreciation of Wilde's critique and celebration of art.

Delving into *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with an eye on aestheticism not only reveals the novel's rich literary artistry but also invites readers to reflect on the enduring relationship between beauty, art, and ethics in their own lives.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is aestheticism in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray'?

Aestheticism in 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' refers to the philosophy that art and beauty are the highest values in life, emphasizing sensory experiences and the pursuit of pleasure over moral or social concerns.

How does Oscar Wilde portray aestheticism through Dorian Gray?

Oscar Wilde portrays aestheticism through Dorian Gray by showing his obsession with youth, beauty, and pleasure, and how this pursuit ultimately leads to his moral decay and downfall.

What role does the portrait play in expressing aestheticism?

The portrait symbolizes the separation of appearance from reality, embodying the aesthetic ideal by remaining beautiful while hiding the corruption and ugliness of Dorian's soul.

How does Lord Henry influence the theme of aestheticism in the novel?

Lord Henry advocates for a life devoted to beauty and sensual pleasures without regard to morality, influencing Dorian to adopt an aesthetic worldview that prioritizes personal gratification above all else.

Is 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' a critique of aestheticism?

Yes, the novel critiques aestheticism by illustrating the dangers of valuing beauty and pleasure above ethics, showing that such a lifestyle can lead to destruction and loss of humanity.

How does Wilde use language to convey aestheticism in the novel?

Wilde uses lush, descriptive, and poetic language to celebrate beauty and art, reflecting the ideals of aestheticism and immersing the reader in a world where appearance and sensation dominate.

What is the connection between aestheticism and morality in the novel?

The novel explores the tension between aestheticism and morality, suggesting that a life focused solely on beauty and pleasure can lead to moral corruption and consequences.

How does Dorian Gray's character development reflect the dangers of aestheticism?

Dorian's gradual moral decline and increasing cruelty demonstrate how the unrestrained pursuit of aestheticism, without accountability, results in the destruction of character and soul.

Why is 'The Picture of Dorian Gray' considered a key work in the aestheticism movement?

It is considered a key work because it embodies the movement's ideals through its focus on beauty, art, and sensory experience, while also providing a complex critique of their potential excesses and consequences.

Additional Resources

****Aestheticism in The Picture of Dorian Gray: An In-Depth Exploration****

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray serves as a compelling lens through which Oscar Wilde's only novel is widely analyzed. This philosophical and artistic movement, emphasizing beauty and sensory experiences over moral or social themes, is intricately woven into the fabric of Wilde's narrative. The novel not only explores aestheticism as an artistic ideal but also critically examines its impact on human behavior, morality, and identity. By delving into the role of aestheticism in *The

Picture of Dorian Gray*, readers gain insight into the complex interplay between art, beauty, and ethical consequence, making the novel a cornerstone in the study of Victorian literature and the aesthetic movement.

The Foundations of Aestheticism in The Picture of Dorian Gray

Aestheticism, as a cultural phenomenon, originated in the late 19th century and championed the idea that art exists for art's sake. This movement rejected the notion that art must serve didactic or moral purposes and instead celebrated beauty, form, and sensory pleasure. Wilde, a prominent figure in this movement, infused *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with these ideals, challenging traditional Victorian values that prioritized morality and social propriety.

In the novel, aestheticism manifests through the protagonist, Dorian Gray, and his obsession with youth, beauty, and sensory indulgence. The portrait, which ages and bears the scars of his immoral acts while Dorian himself remains physically unblemished, symbolizes the separation of appearance from reality—a key aesthetic concept. Wilde's narrative interrogates the consequences of prioritizing surface beauty and aesthetic pleasure over inner virtue.

The Role of Lord Henry Wotton as the Embodiment of Aesthetic Philosophy

Lord Henry Wotton functions as the mouthpiece for Wilde's aestheticism within the story. His witty aphorisms and provocative ideas about life, beauty, and pleasure deeply influence Dorian Gray. Lord Henry's philosophy dismisses traditional morality and encourages Hedonism—living for pleasure alone. His reflections echo the core of aestheticism, where the pursuit of beauty and experience outweighs ethical considerations.

For example, Lord Henry's assertion that "the only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it" epitomizes the novel's challenge to Victorian restraint. Through this character, Wilde explores how aestheticism can seduce and corrupt, blurring the lines between art, life, and morality.

Visual Symbolism and the Portrait as an Aesthetic Device

Central to the novel's aesthetic exploration is the portrait of Dorian Gray itself, a powerful symbol that encapsulates the tension between external beauty and internal decay. The painting's supernatural ability to bear the marks of Dorian's sins allows Wilde to dramatize the consequences of a life devoted solely to aesthetic pleasure.

The portrait serves multiple functions:

- **Allegory of aestheticism:** The physical separation between Dorian's immaculate appearance and the corrupted image reflects the dangers of valuing beauty above substance.
- **Critique of superficiality:** It exposes the hypocrisy of society's obsession with outward appearances, a key Victorian concern.
- **Visual metaphor:** It represents the duality of human nature, highlighting the conflict between the self and the mask presented to the world.

Wilde's innovative use of the portrait as a narrative device elevates the novel beyond a mere Gothic tale into a sophisticated meditation on art and ethics.

Aestheticism and Moral Ambiguity

While *The Picture of Dorian Gray* celebrates aestheticism, it also critiques its excesses. The novel portrays the seductive allure of beauty and pleasure but does not shy away from the destructive consequences of their unchecked pursuit. Dorian's moral degradation, despite his outward perfection, raises questions about the sustainability of aestheticism divorced from ethical responsibility.

Wilde's narrative suggests that aestheticism, when taken to extremes, can lead to nihilism and self-destruction. This duality makes the novel a nuanced exploration rather than a straightforward endorsement of the aesthetic movement, positioning it as a cautionary tale about the limits of prioritizing form over content.

The Influence of Victorian Society and Aestheticism's Controversial Reception

Understanding the novel's historical and cultural context deepens appreciation for its thematic complexity. Victorian society was marked by rigid moral codes and a strong emphasis on social duty. Wilde's championing of aestheticism, with its rejection of conventional morality, was both revolutionary and scandalous.

The publication of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* in 1890 sparked controversy, largely due to its perceived immorality and decadent themes. Critics accused Wilde of promoting a lifestyle that was antithetical to Victorian values. This backlash highlights the tension between the aesthetic movement and the prevailing social norms of the time.

The novel's reception underscores aestheticism's broader cultural impact: it challenged entrenched ideas about art, morality, and identity, forcing society to confront uncomfortable questions about the value and purpose of beauty.

Comparisons with Other Aesthetic Works

When compared to other key works of aestheticism, such as Walter Pater's essays or the poetry of Algernon Charles Swinburne, Wilde's novel stands out for its narrative complexity and moral inquiry. While many aesthetic texts focus solely on the celebration of beauty, **The Picture of Dorian Gray** intertwines aestheticism with psychological depth and ethical ambiguity.

This fusion enriches the novel's appeal, allowing it to resonate not only as a piece of aesthetic literature but also as a profound psychological and philosophical study. Wilde's ability to blend art with narrative drama distinguishes his work within the aesthetic movement and contributes to its enduring relevance.

The Enduring Legacy of Aestheticism in Wilde's Novel

The aestheticism in **The Picture of Dorian Gray** continues to influence contemporary discussions on art, beauty, and ethics. In modern literary criticism, the novel is often cited as a prime example of the risks and rewards of aesthetic philosophy. Its exploration of vanity, identity, and the human psyche remains pertinent in an age increasingly dominated by image and appearance.

Moreover, the novel's themes have been adapted and reinterpreted across various media, from film to theater, demonstrating the lasting power of Wilde's aesthetic vision. The tension between external allure and internal truth remains a universal concern, making the novel a timeless study of the human condition.

By dissecting the layers of aestheticism within **The Picture of Dorian Gray**, readers and scholars alike gain a deeper understanding of how art and life intersect, and how beauty, when divorced from morality, can both enchant and imperil. Wilde's work invites ongoing reflection on the delicate balance between appearance and essence in the pursuit of a meaningful existence.

Aestheticism In The Picture Of Dorian Gray

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde's "The Picture of Dorian Gray" Jannis Rudzki-Weise, 2010-12-07 Seminar paper from the year 2010 in the subject American Studies - Literature, grade: 2.0, University of Kassel, course: Anglo-American Literature, language: English, abstract: Oscar Wilde's only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, can be considered a revolutionary piece of literature not only because it broke out of the traditional value and belief pattern of the Victorian society but also because it replaced the traditional pattern with new concepts coined by Wilde and his former tutors. Several themes such as homoeroticism, an aesthetic lifestyle or influence and corruption, were issues that many had been afraid to address in the time before Wilde. In this research paper, I will place my main focus on the matter of aestheticism, the causes that it has and the consequences that result from an aesthetic lifestyle. In order to analyze these aspects, it is inevitable to have a closer look at Oscar Wilde's beliefs about art and morality which serve as a basis for understanding the main character's behavior in the novel. To begin my paper, I will outline Wilde's thoughts on art and aestheticism as presented in his famous selection, *Intentions*, which consists of a number of essays and dialogues on aesthetics as well as his preface to

The Picture of Dorian Gray that has been regarded as Wilde's personal praise of aestheticism. This background information is essential to understanding the main character's motivations in the story, which can often be related to Wilde's life as an artist. I will then make a detailed analysis of the characters Basil Hallward, Lord Henry Wotton, Sibyl Vane and Dorian Gray and will explain how their aesthetic behavior and their moral beliefs can be linked to Wilde's thoughts. To end, I will attempt to summarize my findings referring to the statement that Wilde also included criticism of aestheticism in his novel. The term 'aestheticism' derives from Greek, meaning "perceiving through senses" and is a nineteenth-century European concept that rejects the moral rules and conventions of Victorian society, and focuses instead on beauty and the resulting pleasure in life. Since it is hard to nail down 'aestheticism' to one definition and since it has different meanings to different people, I will take a closer look at Oscar Wilde's thoughts about this concept, in order to better understand the correlation between this idea, and The Picture of Dorian Gray. When it was first published in Lippincott's Monthly Magazine on 20 June 1890, The Picture of Dorian Gray was attacked fiercely as it suggested a new set of moral beliefs.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Sexuality, Aesthetics and Morality in "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde Mirja Quix, 2018-06-20 Seminar paper from the year 2016 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,3, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Gender and the Sister Arts, language: English, abstract: Since The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde was first published in 1890, it can be seen as a representation of the Victorian era; a period that lasted uncommonly long from 1837 till 1901. While the length of more than sixty years complicates the exact classification of typical Victorian literary movements, certain recurring ideas and literary approaches can be found in its literature. Especially the conception of art and aesthetics seemed to experience a time of change, reshaping the way in which art was received and the role of the artist in comparison to the spectator. Still, as art seemed to be in a state of carination, the public reception of new artistic attempts was not always positive. Especially the representation of morality and sexuality caused ground for public discontent. A connection of morality, aesthetics and sexuality in The Picture of Dorian Gray that seems to be of high importance for the novel. This paper, therefore, is going to analyse the novel regarding these aspects and the way they influence each other, illuminating whether morality is really depicted as subordinate to an artistic effect or if it is needed in order for the story to advance.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and the Aesthetic Movement in England at the Turn of the Century Natalia Spektor, 2009-05 Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2, University of Cologne (Englisches Seminar), course: Proseminar B: London Past and Present: Literary and Cultural Heritage of a Metropolis, 16 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: There are some famous writers at the end of the 19th century who are often mentioned as decadent. They have asserted the superiority of beauty and pleasure over all other considerations. Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray presents the aestheticism and the hedonist way of living. The novel anticipates developments and structures of society of that time. The importance of Dorian's experiences refutes the decadent theories which are described in the Yellow Book that enthralls the protagonist. The novel as a whole can be seen as a psychological study which analyzes the gradual debasement of Dorian's nature. At the end of the story he is responsible for every vice and crime including murder. The author shows that on the one hand pleasure and beauty are the highest goods, on the other hand he argues that they also bring death and crime. The task of this research paper is to analyze the mentioned contradiction and the influence of the Aesthetic movement on the novel as well as Oscar Wilde's view of art. I would like to begin with a brief survey of the social and intellectual background at the end of the 19th century, exploring the major art movements of that time and how far they affect Wilde's work. Afterwards his main principles of Aestheticism and their reflection in the novel are analyzed as well as Dorian's life under the influence of the hedonist model. Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray reveals the contradictions of Wilde's relationship with the decadent trends of that time. He adopts and proclaims their esthetical and

literary views, but the flippant amorism that he sometimes parades so defiantly is belied by the final catastrophe

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Dorian Gray and Aestheticism Benjamin Foitzik, 2003-04-05 Seminar paper from the year 1999 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 2 (B), Technical University of Braunschweig (English Seminar), course: PS Introduction to Late Victorian Literature, language: English, abstract: In this paper I will first give an account of the aesthetic movement in England, from origin to decline, which I will then oppose to the character of Dorian Gray in Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. The comparison of the different stages in the development of both aestheticism and its incarnated representative Dorian Gray is intended to outline the fact that, even before the decline of aestheticism sets in in the 1890s, Oscar Wilde has anticipated the danger that lies in leading a life that is exclusively based on aesthetic values and pursuing its doctrines too persistently. Through the ruin of Dorian Gray, Wilde reveals the tragedy of the aesthetic movement and thus shows that it is eventually inevitably condemned to fail. Dorian is the epitome of an aesthete who in the end becomes the martyr of a movement which has preached, taught and understood its philosophy too narrow-mindedly. Of course this is a deficiency of narrow-mindedness in general and thus *The Picture of Dorian Gray* does not only represent the undoing of the epoch it was written in but also of any other theory or philosophy that takes itself too seriously. I will support this statement with an assertion of Lord Henry Wootton's, who is obviously a polemic on general principles but therefore mostly not less right. Humanity takes itself too seriously. It's the world's original sin. If the caveman had known how to laugh, History would have been different. (p.50) 1

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: The Act of Reading "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde Cristina Pascual Aransáez, 2018-11-26 Research Paper (postgraduate) from the year 1999 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, , course: Third-Cycle Education / Tercer Ciclo, language: English, abstract: This study analyses the act of reading *The Picture of Dorian Gray* from the perspective of Reception Theory. In his critical writings, Oscar Wilde asserts that the receiver of a work of art must play a dynamic role in the construction of its meaning, and the analysis of his only novel shows that Wilde encourages the reader to participate actively in its production in order to be able to find out the lesson which is inherent in it. As a result, the research shows that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is representative of Wilde's aesthetic principles not only because it promotes the individuality of the reader but also because the moral in it is subordinated to its artistic effects.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: The Picture of Dorian Gray Oscar Wilde, 2022-09-16 In Oscar Wilde's seminal novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, the reader is drawn into a richly woven tapestry of aestheticism and moral decay, where the theme of beauty is intricately explored through the life of a young man who remains perpetually youthful while his portrait bears the marks of his sins. Written in a style characterized by Wilde's trademark wit and epigrammatic precision, the narrative navigates the moral complexities of the Victorian era, questioning the implications of a hedonistic lifestyle detached from accountability. The interplay of art and life accentuates the book's philosophical undertones, making it a pivotal work in the canon of Gothic literature and a precursor to modernist themes of identity and existence. Oscar Wilde, known for his flamboyant persona and sharp social critique, was undoubtedly influenced by his own experiences with fame and societal expectations. His encounters with the avant-garde movements in London and personal struggles with identity and morality allowed him to craft a narrative that transcends the boundaries of his time. The novel serves as both a cautionary tale and a reflection of Wilde's preoccupation with beauty, ethics, and the duality of human nature. This captivating exploration of vanity and consequence is recommended for readers interested in the complexities of the human psyche and the tantalizing tension between art and morality. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* not only entertains but also invites profound introspection, making it a timeless classic that resonates with the enduring struggles we face in our pursuit of beauty and fulfillment.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: The Ideology of Aestheticism in Oscar

Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray Sangyeup Lee, 1992

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: *"The Portrait of Dorian Gray". From an aesthetic to a moral value* Ana María Leiva Aguilera, 2014-10-22 Essay from the year 2014 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, University of Jaén, language: English, abstract: The first thing we find when we begin with the reading of The Picture of Dorian Gray is a preface, a series of very philosophical aphorisms which served to the Irish author, Oscar Wilde, so that he could answer to those who classified his very first edition as immoral. It is known that the book was inspired when he visited the studio of a painter friend of him, the same who appears in this book, that romantic artist, lover of beauty who idealizes and loves beautiful things. That excessive idealism, represented in the admiration the author feels for the physical beauty of his model, as well as the intimate friendship he had with the son of a marquis which will be the reason why he will be judged to be homosexual.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: *Aestheticism in Oscar Wilde: The Picture of Dorian Gray and the Tales* Simon Gabriella, 1998

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Aestheticism & Modernism Richard Danson Brown, Suman Gupta, 2005 Textbook introduction to key debates from the early twentieth century to modernisms emerging between First and Second World Wars. Examines in detail texts by Chekhov, Mansfield, Gibbon, Eliot, Woolf, Brecht and Okigbo.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Willa Cather and Aestheticism Ann Moseley, Sarah Cheney Watson, 2012-06-14 In this collection of essays, contributors investigate the various connections between Willa Cather's fiction and her aesthetic beliefs and practices. Including multiple perspectives and critical approaches—derived from the Aesthetic Movement, the visual arts, modernism, and the relationship between art and religion—this collection will increase our understanding of Cather's aesthetic and lead to a better comprehension of her work and her life.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Aesthetics Over Morality in The Picture of Dorian Gray Milo Asay, 2017 Oscar Wilde is one of the most notable literary writers of the 19th Century. He is especially well known for his contribution as a playwright, novelist, poet, and critic. Even though Oscar Wilde's novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray, is saturated with homoerotic rhetoric, this will not be my focus in this thesis. Instead, I strive to explain Wilde's adamant desire for aestheticism over morality in his novel. It can therefore be said that The Picture of Dorian Gray is a story of artistic and dramatic effect rather than a story of moral insight. Careful examination of his various writings, a close reading of The Picture of Dorian Gray, and an exploration of the many scholars who have written about him, all help to uncover Wilde's need for a dominance of beauty and artistic flare in his only novel. Ultimately, I will argue that The Picture of Dorian Gray is meant to deliver a conspicuously aesthetic theme as opposed to any moralistic principle.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Modernism and the Aesthetics of Violence Paul Sheehan, 2013-06-24 This book addresses the subject of violence as it features in celebrated modernist works from the early twentieth century. It traces the modernist fascination with violence back to the middle decades of the nineteenth century, when certain writers in France and England sought to celebrate dissident sexualities and stylized criminality.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: Good, True, and Beautiful in "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde Dana Kabbani, 2002-10-16 Seminar paper from the year 1998 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,0 (A), Grinnell College (English Studies), course: The Tradition of English Literature, language: English, abstract: 1. Introduction: In the following, the notions of "good, true, and beautiful" in Oscar Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray will be examined, both separately and as they relate to one another. These adjectives carry a positive meaning, and they create a distinct contrast to the critiques and accusations that have been raised against the book and its writer. The Picture of Dorian Gray is in many ways a "pivotal work" (Lawler 285) in Oscar Wilde's life and career. It sums up his major influences of the 1870s and 1880s, and anticipates the style of his celebrated comedies to come. Why was the public's opinion, which meant his ruin in the end, so important to Oscar Wilde? To answer this question it is

necessary to look at Wilde's audience and environment. Wilde was "the epitome of a new type of professional writer" (Small 3). Thus *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the scandal it provoked have to be situated in the context of late Victorian social institutions of journalism, advertising, homosexual communities, criminology, etiquette, and theater (Gagnier, *Cambridge Companion* 27). Wilde had always been a great borrower and collector of literary culture, and therefore was often accused of plagiarism, but he transformed everything into his own way of expression. It is the blending of original invention and existing art that enables Wilde to create new effects and moods. This blending helps to explain how *The Picture of Dorian Gray* embraces the range from classic Greek and Latin masters to contemporary English, French, and German writers. From its first appearance in the spring of 1890, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* has suggested to readers parallels to other works, ancient or modern, in English or any other language. To specify the focus, the novel can be regarded as a study of various Victorian art movements corresponding to different stages in the development of Victorian human nature, and the main characters are meant to be personifications of these art movements and psychological states (Nassaar 37). This paper tries to shed light not only on Wilde's paradoxical style, but also on the 1890s society by answering the following questions: Which are the major art movements at the end of the 19th century; how far do they affect Wilde's work? To what extent is the book good, true, and beautiful? Or are the opposites more appropriate? [...]

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: On Beauty of Artworks as Aesthetic True Representations of Reality Dan Nesher, 2022-05-03 This book is aimed to explain the creation of artworks and their evaluation, and offers a new concept of aesthetics and beauty of artworks. Following and reconstructing Peircean realist epistemology, Aesthetics is one of the three normative sciences, along with Logic (Theoretic) and Ethics, which are the three different modes of representing reality. Aesthetics is the mode of artistic representation of reality, and the created artworks are judged beautiful when proven as an aesthetic true representation of reality. Artists aim to represent reality truly, and hence, beautifully, in order to enhance our knowledge of it and to afford us insights on how to better conduct our life in society.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: **The Picture of Dorian Gray** Oscar Wilde, 2003-02-04 An astounding novel of decadence, debauchery, and secrecy from one of Ireland's greatest writers. Nominated as one of America's best-loved novels by PBS's *The Great American Read* Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray makes a Faustian bargain to sell his soul in exchange for eternal youth and beauty. Under the influence of Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life, where he is able to indulge his desires while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only Dorian's picture bears the traces of his decadence. A knowing account of a secret life and an analysis of the darker side of late Victorian society. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* offers a disturbing portrait of an individual coming face to face with the reality of his soul. Shocking in its suggestion of unspeakable sin, this novel was later used as evidence against Wilde when he was tried for indecency in 1895. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

aestheticism in the picture of dorian gray: **CliffsNotes on Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray** Stanley P Baldwin, 2001-03-07 The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes, plots, characters, literary devices, and historical background. The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic, familiar format. In *CliffsNotes on The Picture of Dorian Gray*, you explore Oscar Wilde's great works about narcissism, rife with symbolism and classic themes. Here, you meet Dorian Gray and discover his secret pact with the devil to stay young and handsome, and the subsequent destruction of his soul. This study guide carefully walks you through Dorian's story by providing summaries and critical analyses of each chapter of the novel. You'll also explore the life and

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