



<https://www.cmgww.com/historic/wilde/photos/>

Oscar Wilde
(.... -)

Fill in the gaps

Oscar Fingal O’Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in _____ in _____. He was the second son of Sir William Wilde, a renowned ear and eye _____, and Lady Jane Francesca Elgee, a writer whose _____ was *Speranza*. Wilde attended Trinity _____ in _____ in 1871, and finally, in _____ went to _____.

At _____ Wilde proved himself to be a brilliant student. He won the Newdigate Prize in _____. There he also came under the _____ of the aesthetic philosophers Walter Pater and John Ruskin.

1. Where did he live after graduation?
2. What “philosophy” did he espouse?
3. What happened in 1884?
4. When (and why) did Wilde become editor of *Woman’s World*?
5. When did Wilde publish *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*? ↓
6. What is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* about?
7. When and where did Oscar Wilde die?

Do you know any of these?

The Happy Prince and Other Tales (1888)

The Picture of Dorian Gray (1891)

Salome (1891)

Lady Windermere’s Fan (1892)

A Woman of No Importance (1893)

An Ideal Husband (1895)

The Importance of Being Earnest (1895)

De Profundis (1897, a letter)

The Ballad of Reading Gaol (1898)

Do you agree?

“The world is a stage, but the play is badly cast.”

— *Lord Arthur Savile’s Crime*

Glossary:

Explain and use the word in a complete sentence:

pedestal
annoyed
mesmerized
pry x pray
leaden

Study Questions:

1. In the beginning of the story, who are the people talking about the Happy Prince?
2. Why do they talk about the statue?
3. Why does the Mathematical Master think the Charity Children do not know what angels look like?
4. Who does the little Swallow fall in love with?
5. Why do the other swallows think the little Swallow formed a “ridiculous attachment”?
6. Why does the little Swallow decide to leave the Reed?
7. Why is the Happy Prince crying?
8. Where is the Swallow going when he meets the Happy Prince?
9. Who is the first person the Prince wants to help? Why and how?
10. Why does not the Swallow want to go and help?
11. Who is the second person the Prince and Swallow help? Why and how?
12. Who is the third person the Prince and the Swallow help? Why and how?
13. Why does the Swallow decide to stay with the Prince?
14. What does the Swallow see when he flies over the city?
15. What does the Prince decide to do when the Swallow tells him about the situation in the city?
16. What happens to the little Swallow when it grows colder and colder?
17. What happens to the Prince’s heart afterwards?
18. What do the Town Councillors think of the statue of the Happy Prince at the end of the fairy tale?
19. What happens to the statue then?
20. Explain the end of the fairy tale (please see below).

↓

“Bring me the two most precious things in the city,” said God to one of His Angels; and the Angel brought Him the leaden heart and the dead bird.

“You have rightly chosen,” said God, “for in my garden of Paradise this little bird shall sing for evermore, and in my city of gold the Happy Prince shall praise me.”

21. Based on the story, is it selfish to appreciate beauty?

Thank You Card:

Those who benefited from the Happy Prince’s generosity did not know who helped them. Think of somebody who recently helped and *brightened* your day. Create an anonymous thank you card to let somebody know their efforts were appreciated.