*STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS The Picture of Dorian Gray*

**Chapters 1-2**

1. Who is Basil Hallward?

2. What completely captures Lord Henry Wotton's attention when he visits Hallward's studio?

3. What reason does Basil give for not wanting to exhibit his painting of Dorian Gray?

4. What does Basil believe are the only two eras of importance in the world's history?

5. Basil believes that his landscape painting is the finest work he's ever done. To what does he attribute this success?

6. Why doesn't Basil want to introduce Lord Henry to Dorian Gray?

7. What does Lord Henry claim is "the aim of life"?

8. According to Lord Henry, what is "the only way to get rid of a temptation"?

9. What does Dorian Gray so desperately wish for that he "would give [his] soul" to have it come true?

10. To what does Basil attribute Dorian's negative reaction to his painting?

**Chapters 3-4**

1. What happened to Dorian Gray's father?

2. What exercise does Lord Henry find "terribly enthralling"?

3. What advice does Lord Henry give the Duchess when she asks how she can become young again?

4. Who claims that Lord Henry is "extremely dangerous" yet still wishes to hear more of Henry's "philosophy of pleasure"?

5. When Dorian Gray is reminded that he promised to visit Basil Hallward, where does Dorian go instead?

6. Who is Victoria?

7. With whom does Dorian Gray fall in love?

8. What does Lord Henry tell Dorian Gray is "the real secret of life"?

9. To where does Dorian want Henry and Basil to accompany him?

10. What news is in the telegram that Lord Henry receives from Dorian?

**Chapters 5-6**

1. What does Mr. Isaacs do to help Sibyl and her family?

2. By what name does Sibyl Vane know Dorian Gray?

3. What does Jim demand to know from his mother before he leaves for Australia?

4. What threat does Jim make regarding "Prince Charming"?

5. What does Lord Henry say is the "real drawback to marriage"?

6. How does Dorian describe the details of his engagement to Sibyl Vane?

7. What does it mean to be "good," according to Lord Henry?

8. What does Lord Henry tell Dorian Gray that he represents to the young man?

**Chapters 7-8**

1. When Lord Henry and Basil accompany Dorian to the theatre, what happens to make Dorian angry?

2. What explanation does Sibyl Vane offer Dorian regarding her performance?

3. What is Dorian's reaction to Sibyl's explanation for her poor performance?

4. After he breaks off his relationship with Sibyl, what does Dorian notice about the painting Basil had done of him?

5. What does Dorian Gray realize when he sees the changes in the painting?

6. What news is in Lord Henry's letter that Dorian does not open?

7. What choice does Dorian Gray make after Lord Henry points out how fortunate Dorian is that someone loved him so much as to kill herself for him?

8. What does Dorian believe would be a real pleasure to watch?

**Chapters 9-10**

1. Where does Basil believe Dorian had gone after learning the news about Sibyl?

2. Where does Dorian go the evening he learns of Sibyl's fate?

3. Who does Basil blame for the changes in Dorian?

4. Dorian threatens never to speak to Basil again. Why?

5. What does Basil want to do with the portrait of Dorian he painted?

6. Who is Mrs. Leaf?

7. Where does Dorian Gray decide to hide the painting?

8. What does the coroner give as the official cause of Sibyl Vane's death?

9. What does Lord Henry send to Dorian that completely fascinates him?

10. Why is Dorian late meeting Lord Henry for dinner?

**Chapters 11-12**

1. What becomes a huge influence over Dorian Gray's life?

2. Why do people tend to disbelieve the rumors about Dorian Gray?

3. What does Dorian Gray do once or twice every month during the winter, and each Wednesday evening while the season lasts?

4. What are some of the activities or interests that capture Dorian Gray's attention in his study of the senses?

5. What is the Duke of Berwick's reaction when Dorian Gray is "brought by a friend into the smoking room of the Churchill"?

6. To what city does Basil tell Dorian he plans to travel?

7. What is it that Basil wishes to speak to Dorian about before leaving?

8. What sort of fate have many of Dorian's acquaintances met?

9. What does Basil claim that he would have to see before he could believe anything he's heard about Dorian's activities?

10. Where does Dorian take Basil so that the artist may see the "diary of [his] life"?

**Chapters 13-14**

1. What does Basil see when he looks at the portrait he painted of Dorian Gray?

2. What does Basil implore Dorian to do after seeing the condition of the painting?

3. What does Dorian Gray do to Basil?

4. Where does Dorian hide Basil's belongings?

5. What does Dorian do to provide himself with an alibi regarding Basil's death?

6. As Dorian sketched, what seems to appear in all of his drawings?

7. Who does Dorian send his servant to fetch on the morning after Basil's death?

8. In what particular field of study does Alan Campbell specialize?

9. What request does Dorian Gray male of Alan Campbell?

10. Why does Alan Campbell agree to do as Dorian asks?

**Chapters 15-16**

1. What is Dorian's mood when he attends Lady Narborough's party?

2. Why does Lady Narborough seem to hate visiting her daughter and son-in-law?

3. Whom does Lady Narbourough accuse of being "extremely wicked"?

4. What does Lord Henry ask Dorian at Lady Narbourough's party that makes Dorian nervous?

5. What "things that were dangerous" does Dorian believe had to be dealt with immediately upon arriving home from Lady Narborough's dinner party?

6. What words did Lord Henry say the first day he met Dorian that now repeatedly play through Dorian's mind?

7. Though Dorian believes that forgiveness for his sins is impossible, what is "possible still"?

8. What former friend does Dorian Gray see at the opium house?

9. Who is the drunken sailor who accuses Dorian Gray in the street?

10. Why doesn't the drunken sailor shoot Dorian Gray?

**Chapters 17-18**

1. With what does Lord Henry have "one quarrel"?

2. When Gladys tells Lord Henry he values beauty far too much, what is his response?

3. According to Lord Henry what three things, "have made . . . England what she is?

4. What is Lord Henry's answer when the Duchess asks him to describe women?

5. What does Dorian believe he had seen through the window of the conservatory?

6. What does Dorian Gray blame for raising "such fearful phantoms" that keep him in his house for three days?

7. What does Dorian beg Sir Geoffrey Clouston not to do?

8. What happens that Dorian Gray proclaims to be a "bad omen"?

9. Who is the man in the thicket?

**Chapters 19-20**

1. What does Dorian promise that he will do in the future?

2. Who is Hetty?

3. Although Dorian believes he has done right by Hetty, what does Lord Henry say will be the result of Dorian's great renunciation?

4. What becomes of Alan Campbell?

5. What does Dorian tell Lord Henry that Henry immediately dismisses as impossible to believe?

6. What does Dorian claim is "a terrible reality . . . [that] . . . can be bought, and sold, and bartered away"?

7. What is Dorian "tired of hearing . . . now"?

8. What does Dorian believe should be the prayer of a man to a most just God instead of "Forgive us our sins"?

9. Why does Dorian go to look at his portrait while thinking of Hetty Merton?

10. What happens to Dorian Gray?