

Complete the text using one or two words in each gap.

A story about hedonism, superficiality and moral _____, this late-Victorian gothic novel by the flamboyant Irish playwright Oscar Wilde did not become a classic until after his _____ in 1900. It champions the appeal of timeless art "whose beauty does not die" and warns of the dangers of a purely _____ life. The protagonist is a man called Dorian Gray who sells his _____ in return for eternal youth. When an artist called Basil Hallward meets Gray, he becomes obsessed by his unblemished _____.

Hallward paints a perfect portrait of Dorian Gray, who declares that he would trade his soul to keep the beauty he sees in the painting. So begins a life of deceit and _____. As Gray loses his innocence, his portrait grows older and more _____-looking, while Gray himself never _____. He hides the painting so that no one can see the _____. But his appetite for wrongdoing grows stronger:

Dorian Gray becomes involved in terrible things: murder, suicide and _____, but he refuses to take any responsibility for his _____. When Hallward visits him, Gray reveals the much-changed portrait, the "face of my _____", as he calls it. Hallward is horrified:

When it was published, Victorian England was _____ by the novel, especially its homoeroticism. Contemporary reviews described it as "unclean" and "poisonous." Five years later, at the height of his theatrical _____, Wilde was convicted of gross _____ for his homosexual relationships. The Picture of Dorian Gray was used as _____ against him. The author was a victim of his age and his authenticity. In Wilde's moral fantasy, Dorian Gray's past eventually catches up with him, even as he tries to _____ it:

After two years in prison, Oscar Wilde was _____, a broken man. He died in exile in Paris aged _____. He is remembered as a brilliant writer whose plays remain popular to this day. His only novel, Dorian Gray, has been adapted many times for screen. Directed by Albert Lewin, the 1945 film version won two _____. Although the book is often used as a study of Victorian morality, the author himself wrote persuasively in the

_____ : *"The artist is the creator of beautiful things. To reveal art and conceal the artist is art's aim [...] 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 _____ written. That is all."*