

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

What is ironic about Lord Henry's argument that influence destroys individuality?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	Lord Henry argues that influence is immoral
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FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

SECTION / LOCATION	Chapter II
START	There is no such thing as a good influence, Mr. Gray.
END	Yet they seemed to him to have come really from himself.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dg-02

THE MOVE

Test an argument against the speaker's own behavior

WHY THIS PASSAGE

Lord Henry argues that influence destroys individuality while actively reshaping Dorian's thoughts in the same scene. The irony is produced not by a hidden contradiction but by the gap between his theory and his immediate behavior.

MARK

Box Lord Henry's claim about why influence is harmful. Underline the language showing Dorian becoming fascinated, bewildered, or mentally changed by Lord Henry. Write DOES THIS NOW beside the moment the behavior contradicts the theory.

NOTICE

- What does Lord Henry say influence does to another person's individuality?
- How does Dorian respond while hearing that argument?
- Why is the contradiction especially sharp if Dorian experiences the new ideas as if they came from himself?

THINK

Answer provisionally: What is ironic about Lord Henry's argument that influence destroys individuality? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: What is ironic about Lord Henry's argument that influence destroys individuality? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

STRONG ANSWER	The irony is that Lord Henry condemns influence while actively influencing Dorian. His argument says influence destroys individuality at the exact moment his words are reshaping another person's thoughts.
EVIDENCE	Use Lord Henry's claim about influence and Dorian's visible mental or emotional response to the speech.
WATCH FOR	Do not identify the contradiction without explaining why the speaker's own behavior becomes evidence against his argument.
SOLO	Read the exact passage independently.
SUPPORTED	Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.
LISTENING	Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.

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START ANCHOR	There is no such thing as a good influence, Mr. Gray.
END ANCHOR	Yet they seemed to him to have come really from himself.

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OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Box Lord Henry's claim about why influence is harmful. Underline the language showing Dorian becoming fascinated, bewildered, or mentally changed by Lord Henry. Write **DOES THIS NOW** beside the moment the behavior contradicts the theory.
2. **NOTICE** - What does Lord Henry say influence does to another person's individuality? How does Dorian respond while hearing that argument? Why is the contradiction especially sharp if Dorian experiences the new ideas as if they came from himself?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: What is ironic about Lord Henry's argument that influence destroys individuality?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.