

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

When does the portrait stop being a record of beauty and become a moral instrument?

TOTAL TIME

PASSAGE

30 minutes	The portrait becomes conscience
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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 VII
START	as he was turning the handle of the door, his eye fell upon the portrait Basil Hallward had painted of him.
END	The picture, changed or unchanged, would be to him the visible emblem of conscience.
PASSAGE ID	sec-dg-03

THE MOVE

Track a symbol as its meaning changes

WHY THIS PASSAGE

The portrait begins as a record of Dorian’s physical beauty, but after his cruel action it appears to register moral change instead. The symbol becomes a private conscience because it shows a truth Dorian can hide from everyone else but not from himself.

MARK

Underline the earlier purpose or meaning Dorian assigns to the portrait. Circle the first physical change he sees in it after his behavior toward Sibyl. Star the sentence where he understands the change as a moral record.

NOTICE

- What did the portrait represent before Dorian noticed the altered expression?
- What new kind of information does it seem to contain afterward?
- Why is a visible private record more powerful for Dorian than an ordinary feeling of guilt?

THINK

Answer provisionally: When does the portrait stop being a record of beauty and become a moral instrument? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: When does the portrait stop being a record of beauty and become a moral instrument? 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 portrait becomes a moral instrument when its appearance changes in response to Dorian's conduct rather than simply recording physical beauty. It begins to show what his public face can conceal.
EVIDENCE	Use the original meaning of the portrait, the first altered feature after Dorian's cruelty, and Dorian's recognition that the image now records moral change.
WATCH FOR	Do not say the portrait 'becomes evil.' The important shift is from aesthetic record to private moral evidence.
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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When does the portrait stop being a record of beauty and become a moral instrument?

START ANCHOR	as he was turning the handle of the door, his eye fell upon the portrait Basil Hallward had painted of him.
END ANCHOR	The picture, changed or unchanged, would be to him the visible emblem of conscience.

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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** - Underline the earlier purpose or meaning Dorian assigns to the portrait. Circle the first physical change he sees in it after his behavior toward Sibyl. Star the sentence where he understands the change as a moral record.
2. **NOTICE** - What did the portrait represent before Dorian noticed the altered expression? What new kind of information does it seem to contain afterward? Why is a visible private record more powerful for Dorian than an ordinary feeling of guilt?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: When does the portrait stop being a record of beauty and become a moral instrument?
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.