

Chapter One

VOCABULARY

bourdon – the lowest note
conjectures – odd opinions
disquiet – unease, restlessness
divan – a backless couch
dowagers – widows with money or titles inherited from their husbands
enmity – hatred, dislike
ensconced – sheltered
languidly – lazily
lionize – to exalt; treat as a celebrity
listlessly – without energy
précis – a summary
proletariat – low social class
scrupulous – careful; precise
truculent – stubborn

1. Identify the following characters:

a. Lord Henry Wotton

b. Basil Hallward

c. Dorian Gray

2. Even though he does not appear in this chapter, why is the person of Dorian Gray important?

3. What prediction does Basil Hallward make about the three of them?

4. What contrast does Lord Henry make between Basil and Dorian?

5. What is the significance of the portrait Basil is working on?

6. According to Basil, how has Dorian affected his work as an artist?

7. Why does Basil say he will never exhibit the portrait?

8. Why does Basil not want Lord Henry to meet Dorian? What promise does he want Lord Henry to make?

9. Explain the allusion to Narcissus.

10. Discuss these epigrams from Lord Henry. How do they reveal his character?

- a. "Conscience and cowardice are really the same things... Conscience is the trade-name of the firm. That is all." (Pg. 17)
- b. "The ugly and the stupid have the best of it in this world." (Pg. 15)
- c. "...the one charm of marriage is that it makes a life of deception absolutely necessary for both parties." (Pg. 15)
- d. "I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good characters, and my enemies for their good intellects. A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies." (Pg. 18)
