

Key Takeaways From “The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde

- There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about
- But beauty, real beauty, ends where an intellectual expression begins
- If they know nothing of victory, they are at least spared the knowledge of defeat
- We shall all suffer for what the gods have given us, suffer terribly
- I have grown to love secrecy. It seems to be the one thing that can make a modern life mysterious or marvellous to us
- It would absorb my whole nature, my whole soul, my very art itself
- I choose my friends for their good looks, my acquaintances for their good character, and my enemies for their good intellects
- None of us can stand other people having the same faults as ourselves
- I like persons better than principles, and I like persons with no principles better than anything else in the world
- A dream of form in days of thought
- Those who are faithful know only the trivial side of love: it is the faithless who know love's tragedies
- One's own soul, and the passions of one's friends- those were the fascinating things in life
- The aim of life is self-development. To realize one's nature perfectly- that is what each of us is here for
- I believe that if one man were to live out his life fully and completely, were to give form to every feeling, expression to every thought, reality to every dream- I believe that the world would gain such a fresh impulse of joy that we would forget all the maladies of medievalism, and return to the Hellenic ideal- to something finer, richer, than the Hellenic ideal, it may be. But the bravest man amongst us is afraid of himself
- The only way to get rid of a temptation is to yield to it
- Nothing can cure the soul but the senses, just as nothing can cure the senses but the soul
- You know more than you think you know, just as you know less than you want to know
- Youth is the one thing worth having
- They spoil every romance by trying to make it last forever
- I adore simple pleasures. They are the last refuge of the complex
- Behind every exquisite thing that existed, there was something tragic

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Taken directly out of the book

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- The only things one never regrets are one's mistakes
- Punctuality is the thief of time
- Women represent the triumph of matter over mind, just as men represent the triumph of mind over morals
- You will always be loved, and you will always be in love with love
- When one is in love, one always begins by deceiving oneself, and one always ends by deceiving others
- People are very fond of giving away what they need most themselves
- I never approve, or disapprove, of anything now. It is an absurd attitude to take towards life. We are not sent into the world to air out moral prejudices. I never take any notice of what common people say, and I never interfere with what charming people do
- The reason we all like to think so well of others is that we are all afraid for ourselves
- No life is spoiled but one whose growth is arrested
- Pleasure is Nature's test, her sign of approval. When we are happy we are always good, but when we are good we are not always happy
- To be good is to be in harmony with oneself
- Beautiful sins, like beautiful things, are the privilege of the rich
- No civilized man ever regrets a pleasure, and no uncivilized man ever knows what a pleasure is
- Women inspire us with the desire to do masterpieces, and always prevent us from carrying them out
- The secret of remaining young is never to have an emotion that is unbecoming
- When we blame ourselves we feel that no one else has a right to blame us
- One can always be kind to people about whom one cares nothing
- Conscience makes egotists of us all
- A man who is master of himself can end a sorrow as easily as he can invent a pleasure
- I cannot repeat an emotion
- Teach me rather to forget what has happened, or see it from the proper artistic point of view
- Perhaps one should never put one's worship into words
- Harry spends his days in saying what is incredible, and his evenings in doing what is improbable
- No man came across two ideal things. Few come across one

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- Life itself was the first, the greatest, of the arts, and for it all the other arts seemed to be but a preparation
- I love scandals about other people, but scandals about myself don't interest me. They have not got the charm of novelty
- Each of us has Heaven and Hell in him
- Romance lives by repetition, and repetition converts an appetite into an art
- We can have in life but one great experience at best, and the secret of life is to reproduce that experience as often as possible
- Civilization is not by any means an easy thing to attain to. There are only two ways by which man can reach it. One is by being cultured, the other by being corrupt
- The things one feels absolutely certain about are never true