

PURPOSE OF ART

("The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde)

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Biography

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde is an Irish poet and writer who lived from 1854 until 1900. He was born in an Irish family. His mother Jane Francesca Wilde was a writer and his father William Robert Wills Wilde was an otorinolaringologist. Oscar Wilde also had an older brother William and a younger sister Isola. When he was younger his mother dressed him as a girl.

When Oscar Wilde was eleven he was sent to school where he couldn't get on with maths. He had a lot of enemies, in school and also with the journalists, because of his gird. While he was in school he started collecting love books which were valuable. In 1874, he went on to study on Oxford in England. He finished his studies in 1878. In the same year he finished college and won an Oxford Newdigate Prize for his poem "Ravenna". After school he moved to London where he continued writing poetry. His first collection simply titled "Poems" was published in 1881. He married Constance Mary Lloyd, who was 4 years younger than him, in 1884. He had two sons Vyvyan and Cyril. Cyril was killed during the World War I and Vyvian became a writer and published memoirs "Son of Oscar Wilde". He used to wear silk and have a lillian or a carnation. He spoke about art . Many people didn't understand his words and his works. He also travelled to America and Canada. A group of people there wore white and had a carnation on their hand but Oscar Wilde simply wore black suit just to show his knowledge and to show his thrill for beauty. Everybody loved his accent and once he told: "My genius is spent on my life, in my books is only my talent." In 1891 he met Lord Alfred Douglas and they became lovers. That relationship led to Oscar Wilde's downfall. On the opening performance of "The Importance of Being Earnest" in 1895, father of Lord Alfred Douglas planned to humiliate Wilde in front of everyone. Oscar Wilde tried to protect himself but nothing helped him. He was charged for homosexual acts and went to prison for two years. While he was in prison Constance changed their family name to Holland. In 1897 he was released from prison, during the time he spent in prison he wrote his book " Ballad of Reading Gaol", which was published in 1898. Oscar Wilde changed his name to Sebastian Malmoth and went to Paris, he was penniless. Oscar Wilde was reunited with his friend and lover Robert Baldwin Ross. Robert stayed by his side until the last day of his life. Oscar Wilde spent his last years in the Hôtel d'Alsace in Paris. Oscar Wilde's friend Reginald said that he dreamt his death. Oscar Wilde died from meningitis on November 30, 1900. He was buried in Paris and his tomb was designed by a sculptor Jacob Epstein.

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