

Student name: 5504641795

Name : Tananun Reunsukh

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If we say to the genius poet, the name that sounds familiar to everybody should be William Shakespeare, the number one in poet. What about if we ask who else is the top poet? Oscar Wilde? If we speak his name, it might not sound familiar to people but what if we speak his work's name, it might have a lot of people know. Oscar Wilde is the genius in poetry; he had a tendency to become the great poet since he was young. The most interesting things about him are not just his novel or his play but it is his life which is the most interesting thing. He becomes the well-known person from his novel, "The picture of Dorian Grey" and the play "The Importance of Being Earnest" as well as for his infamous arrest and imprisonment for being homosexual. His life was full of excitement and disappointment.¹

Oscar Wilde was born on December 16 in Dublin. His father was doctor and his mother was a poet who was closely connected with the Young Irelander Rebellion of 1848. Wilde mother was a also a linguist who had translated Pomeranian novelist Wilhelm Meinhold's "Sidonia the Sorceress" This novel became a deep influence on Wilde's later work. When Wilde was young, He attended to the Portora Royal School and became enthusiastic on Greek and Roman studies. With his outstanding skill, he was awarded with the Royal school scholarship to attend at Trinity College. After receiving the scholarship, he decided to study Greek and became a superb student. He was on a top of his class; won a scholarship in his first year and won the university's highest academic award in Greek studies in his second year. After graduated from Trinity College, he applied his enrollment for Magdalen College, Oxford. He became a popular person in the college from his talent in writing, speaking, and and his dominance in characteristic. He won the Newdigate prize in 1878 and graduated from Oxford with a rare double first in his BA of classical moderation and literae humaniores. He had been publishing lyrics and poems in the magazine in Kottabos which was Trinity magazine and also the Dublin University magazine. His work was stated to be known by people in that time.²

The first career of his life was journalist and editor. He started reviewing and journalizing and writing a lot of things that which might be contradict with the opinion from the others, but he still wrote it. For instance, Wilde supported Charles Stewart Parnell, who was falsely accused of inciting murder, by wrote defending him in a magazine called Daily Chronicle. With a supported from his family and his talent in writing, Wilde became the editor of the Lady's world magazine. Not only the magazine that he did, but also a lot of short fictions, which have become so popular until now even some short fiction are more than 20

¹ Wikipedia Contributors "Oscar Wilde" Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.26. Jan 2013
< http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Wilde >

² Bio.true story Contributors "Oscar Wilde" biography.com 31. Jan 2013
< <http://www.biography.com/people/oscar-wilde-9531078> >

years such as “The Happy Prince and Other Tales”, “Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories”, “The House of Pomegranates”, and “The Portrait of Mr. W. H.” However the best writing of his life is *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. It is the only published novel that he wrote. The novel is a cautionary tale about a beautiful young man, Dorian Gray, who wishes that his portrait ages will be remains youthful for always while living a life of sin and pleasure. His novel description is masterfully covered in every conversation but after his novel was published reviewers criticized his novel and called it ‘unclean’, ‘poisonous’ and ‘heavy with mephitic odours of moral and spiritual putrefaction’. Nonetheless Wilde responded the criticized by saying that “If a work of art is rich and vital and complete those who have artistic instincts will see its beauty and those to whom ethics appeal more strongly will see its moral lesson”³

After Wilde had achieved his career in journalism and editorship, he started to work on a theatrical career. His first play was *Salome*, Unfortunately, the play was refused because it depicted biblical characters. *Salome* was published in Paris and London in 1893, but had not been performed until 1896. After he had finished his first play, he continued his interest in the theater and wrote many plays such as “*Lady Windermere's Fan*”, “*A Woman of No Importance*”, and “*An Ideal Husband*”. The final play in his life was *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This play was written in late 1894 and performed on 14 February in 1895, at a theatre in London. He later became the most famous play in his life. With his popularity and increasing in fame from his novel and play, it caused many people dislike him and feud him such as Queensberry and Regina who caused him to end up in the jail.⁴

Like what Wilde said, “he can resist everything except temptation”; he said these words before being caught to have homosexual behaviours. Wilde was arrest for “gross indency” and convicted the sentence of two years’ hard labour. From comfortable life was changed to the other side of the hand. His fame and financial status were destroyed. After he was sentenced for two years’ hard labour. Wilde’s health was weakened by overworking and followed up with illness and hunger. His right ear was deafened and later caused injury. He spent his last two months of his life in the infirmary and died at the end.

Nowadays Oscar Wilde has become acceptable and his works are inferior only to Shakespeare’s. Even more than 20 years after Wilde death, yet his name still be remembered from his identity in writing and imagination especially in his novel “*The Picture of Dorian Grey*” and his play *The Importance of Being Earnest*”. From all his plays and novels, he has become a popular person in England, Europe and America. Unfortunately that he could not keep his popularities of himself in the moment he lived. At present, Oscar Wilde’s works were translated into many languages and his life has been made into film. Moreover, there are the statues built to honour Oscar Wilde in many places around the world.

³ Wilde Online Provider “Oscar Wilde”. [Wildeonline.com](http://www.wilde-online.info/oscar-wilde-biography.htm) 30 Jan 2013
< <http://www.wilde-online.info/oscar-wilde-biography.htm> >

⁴ The European Graduated School Library “Oscar Wilde”. [TheEuropeanGraduatedSchool.com](http://www.egs.edu/library/oscar-wilde/biography/) 2 Feb 2013
< <http://www.egs.edu/library/oscar-wilde/biography/> >