

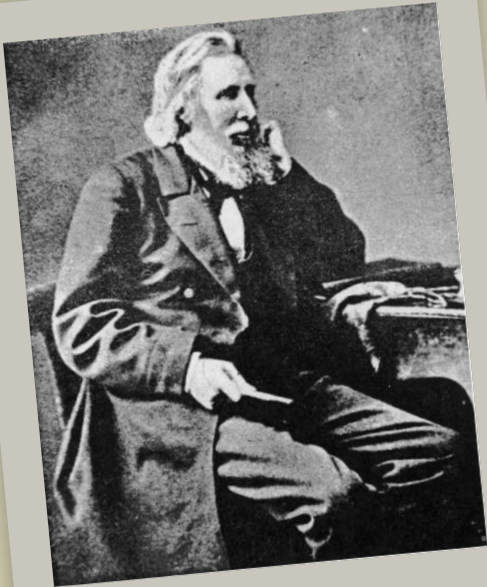
Oscar Wilde



Sterry
OSCAR WILDE.
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37 UNION SQ., N. Y.



Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was born in Dublin on 16 October 1854. His mother was Lady Jane Francesca Wilde, a well-known poet and journalist, and his father was Sir William Wilde, a talented writer as well as a doctor. He had an older brother, William, and a younger sister, Isola.





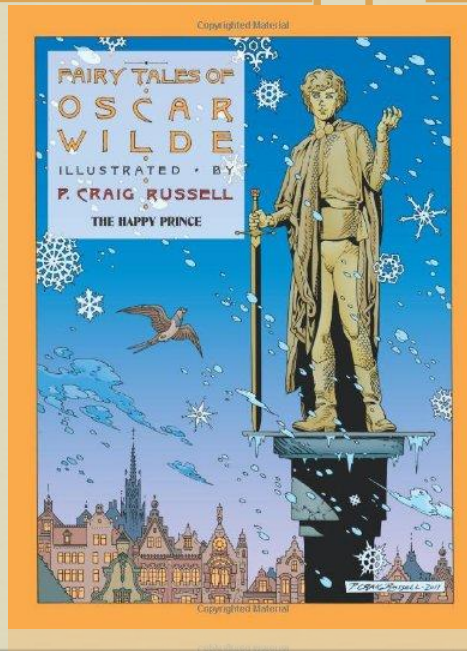
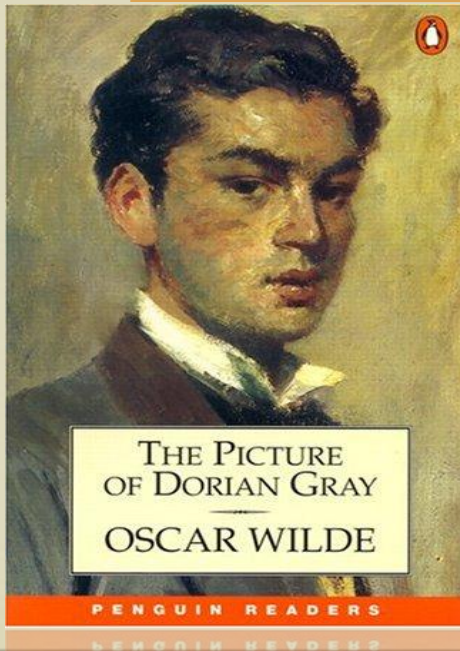
Oscar was a very good student. He was clever, and he enjoyed writing. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Oxford University in England.

When he finished university, Oscar moved to London, and wrote his first book of poetry in 1881. He then became an art reviewer and he travelled to America, Canada and Paris and gave lectures on art.

Oscar also wrote reviews and articles for magazines and newspapers. He later became the editor of a magazine.

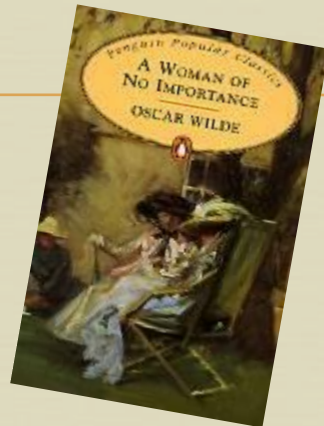


In 1884, he met Constance Lloyd in London. They married and had two sons, Cyril and Vyvyan. It was for his sons that he wrote a collection of fairy tales called *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* in 1888.



He wrote his first and only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, in 1891 and the next year he brought out more fairy tales.

In 1892, he made his first venture into the theatre with his play *Lady Windermere's Fan*. It was very successful, and Oscar became quite rich. He wrote several other plays, including *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), which were all very successful, too.



"The Canterville Ghost" is a popular short story by Oscar Wilde, widely adapted for the screen and stage. It was the first of Wilde's stories to be published, appearing in the magazine *The Court and Society Review* in February 1887.

Oscar Wilde died in Paris on 30 November 1900, at the age of 46. People still perform and watch his plays today, and his stories are very popular. People remember him as a very c



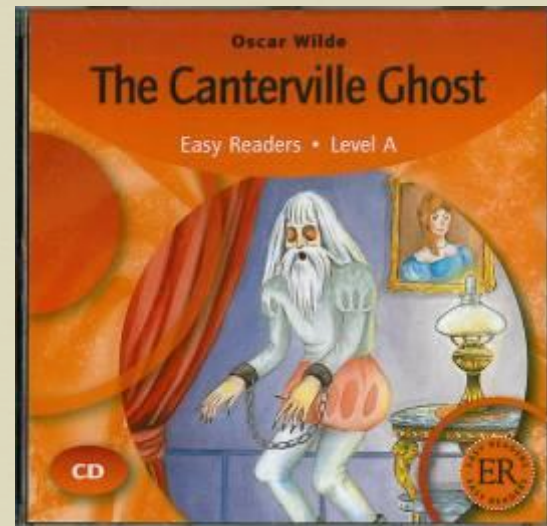
Grave of the Irish writer, with a glass board, on the cemetery Pere Lachaise in Paris.



«The Canterville Ghost»

Setting

*The story of the **Canterville Ghost** takes place in an old English country house, **Canterville Chase**, which has all the accoutrements of a traditional haunted house. Descriptions of the wainscoting, the library paneled in black oak, and the armor in the hallway characterize the Gothic setting and help Wilde clash the Old World with the New. Typical of the style of the English Decadents, [citation needed] the Gothic atmosphere reveals the author's fascination with the macabre. Yet he mixes the macabre with comedy, juxtaposing devices from traditional English ghost stories such as creaking floorboards, clanking chains, and ancient prophecies with symbols of modern American consumerism. Wilde's Gothic setting helps emphasize the contrast between cultures—setting modern Americans in what could arguably be a classic symbol of British history—and underscores the "modern" thinking of the house's mismatched residents, the Otises.*



The story begins when Mr Otis's family shifted to Canterville Chase, despite warnings from Canterville that the house is haunted. The Otis family includes Mr. and Mrs. Otis, their daughter Virginia, twin boys (often referred to as "Stars and Stripes") and their eldest son Washington. At first, none of the member of the Otis family believes in ghosts, but shortly after they move in, none of them can deny the presence of Sir Simon (The Ghost). The family hears clanking chains, they witness re-appearing bloodstains "on the floor just by the fireplace", and they see strange apparitions in various forms. But, humorously, none of these scare the Otises in the least. In fact, upon hearing the clanking noises in the hallway, Mr. Otis promptly gets out of bed and pragmatically offers the ghost Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator to oil his chains.

Despite Sir Simon's attempts to appear in the most gruesome guises, the family refuses to be frightened, and Sir Simon feels increasingly helpless and humiliated. When Mrs. Otis notices a mysterious red mark on the floor, she simply replies that she does "not at all care for blood stains in the sitting room." When Mrs. Umney, the housekeeper, informs Mrs. Otis that the blood stain is indeed evidence of the ghost and cannot be removed, Washington Otis, the oldest son, suggests that the stain will be removed with Pinkerton's Champion Stain Remover and Paragon Detergent: A quick fix, like the Tammany Rising Sun Lubricator, and a practical way of dealing with the problem.

Wilde describes Mrs. Otis as "a very handsome middle-aged woman" who has been "a celebrated New York belle." Her expression of "modern" American culture surfaces when she immediately resorts to using the commercial stain remover to obliterate the bloodstains and when she expresses an interest in joining the Psychical Society to help her understand the ghost. Mrs. Otis is given Wilde's highest praise when he says: "Indeed, in many respects, she was quite English..."

The most colourful character in the story is undoubtedly the ghost himself, Sir Simon, who goes about his duties with theatrical panache and flair. He assumes a series of dramatic roles in his failed attempts to impress and terrify the Otises, making it easy to imagine him as a comical character in a stage play. The ghost has the ability to change forms, so he taps into his repertoire of tricks. He takes the role of ghostly apparitions such as a Headless Earl, a Strangled Babe, the Blood-Sucker of Bexley Moor, Suicide's Skeleton, and the Corpse-Snatcher of Chertsey Barn, all having succeeded in horrifying previous castle residents over the centuries. But none of them works with these Americans. Sir Simon schemes, but even as his costumes become increasingly gruesome, his antics do nothing to scare his house guests, and the Otises succeed in failing him every time. He falls victim to trip wires, pea shooters, butter-slides, and falling buckets of water. In a particularly comical scene, he is frightened by the sight of a "ghost," rigged up by the mischievous twins.

During the course of the story, as narrated from Sir Simon's viewpoint, we come to understand the complexity of the ghost's emotions. We see him brave, frightening, distressed, scared, and finally, depressed and weak. He exposes his vulnerability during an encounter with Virginia, Mr. Otis's fifteen-year-old daughter. Virginia is different from everyone else in the family, and Sir Simon recognizes this fact. He tells her that he has not slept in three hundred years and wants desperately to do so. The ghost reveals to Virginia the tragic tale of his wife, Lady Eleanor de Canterville.

Unlike the rest of her family, Virginia does not dismiss the ghost. She takes him seriously; she listens to him and learns an important lesson, as well as the true meaning behind a riddle. Sir Simon de Canterville says that she must weep for him for he has no tears, she must pray for him for he has no faith and then she must accompany him to the angel of death and beg for Death's mercy upon Sir Simon. She does weep for him and pray for him, and she disappears with Sir Simon through the wainscoting and goes with him to the Garden of Death and bids the ghost farewell. Then she reappears at midnight, through a panel in the wall, carrying jewels and news that Sir Simon has passed on to the next world and no longer resides in the house. Virginia's ability to accept Sir Simon leads to her enlightenment; Sir Simon, she tells her husband several years later, helped her understand "what Life is, what Death signifies, and why Love is stronger than both."

Flowers of "Life"

Gardenia

Scent of gardenia extremely elegant. It's warm, soft, large, heady, but light and airy. It is ideal as a "heart" for flower arrangements with exotic color.



Sunflower

Wilde began to flower in the lapel of his coat sunflower. He was a follower of John Ruskin with his doctrine of the indissolubility of life and art. Yellow flower was the living symbol of this doctrine. A few years later a sunflower turns green carnation - as a symbol of "what can not be," as a brand name of the Wilde ...

