

# OSCAR WILDE

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*And the wild regrets, and the  
bloody sweats,  
None knew so well then I:  
For he who lives more lives  
than one  
More deaths than one must  
die.*

Excerpt from: *The Ballad of  
Reading Gaol*

# OSCAR WILDE



- *Nineteenth-century Irish-born writer and intellectual Oscar Wilde led an eccentric life that fueled his witty satires and epigrams on Victorian society. A member of the aesthetic movement in literature, Wilde advocated the idea of art for art's sake. This selection comes from "The Ballad of Reading **Gaol**" (1898), a poem inspired by the 18-month period Wilde spent in jail.*

# OSCAR WILDE: IRISH BORN NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT, POET AND CRITIC.

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- Birth: October 16, 1854; Death: November 30, 1900
- Place of Birth Dublin, Ireland
- 1878 Graduated from the University of Oxford with a degree in classics 1881 Published Poems, a collection of poetry
- January - October 1882 Lectured on English aestheticism in the United States and Canada
- 1882 Vera, or the Nihilists, his first play, is produced in New York but is not successful
- 1891 Published his only novel, The Picture of Dorian Gray, which portrayed the moral decay of its title character  
February

# OSCAR WILDE: IRISH BORN NOVELIST, PLAYWRIGHT, POET AND CRITIC.

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- 1892 The play *Lady Windermere's Fan*, the first of four successful comedies, opened in London. June
- 1892 Rehearsals for the play *Salomé* were halted by the British censor because of a law forbidding the representation of Biblical characters on stage.
- 1895 *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the last and most popular of his comedies, was produced in London.
- May 1895 Was convicted of homosexual acts following three sensationalized trials and received a sentence of two years' hard labor
- 1897 Released from prison, Wilde left immediately for France where he lived the rest of his life, publishing only the poem "The Ballad of Reading Gaol" (1898).

# DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Wilde's most popular plays satirized the English upper classes- the very audience for whom they were intended. Wilde's mother was a poetess and Irish nationalist known as Speranza.
- Wilde's full name was Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, in deference Wilde's full name was Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, in deference to his Irish heritage.
- Although a proficient and versatile writer, Wilde only wrote one novel during his lifetime: "The Picture of Dorian Gray," published in 1891.

# DID YOU KNOW THAT

- Went on a lecture tour throughout the United States, London and Canada to teach aesthetic values in 1879.
- Regarded as one of the greatest playwrights of the Victorian Era, Wilde wrote and produced nine plays.
- Nine biographies have been written on Wilde since his death, one of them by his grandson, Merlin Holland, in 1997.

# *INTERESTING FACTS*

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- As an aesthete, the eccentric young Wilde wore long hair and velvet knee breeches. As an aesthete, the eccentric young Wilde wore long hair and velvet knee breeches. His rooms were filled with various objets d'art such as sunflowers, peacock feathers, and blue china; Wilde claimed to aspire to the perfection of the china. His attitudes and manners were ridiculed in the comic periodical Punch and satirized in the Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera "Patience" (1881).

# *INTERESTING FACTS*

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- In 1895, at the peak of his career, Wilde became the central figure in one of the most sensational court trials of the century. The results scandalized the Victorian middle class; Wilde, who had been a close friend of the young Lord Alfred Douglas, was convicted of homosexual offenses. Sentenced in 1895 to two years of hard labor in prison, he emerged financially bankrupt and spiritually downcast.



# *INTERESTING FACTS*

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- Wilde's most distinctive and engaging plays are the four comedies *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895), all characterized by adroitly contrived plots and remarkably witty dialogues. Wilde, with little dramatic training, proved he had a natural talent for stagecraft and theatrical effects and a true gift for farce.

# Choose the correct answer

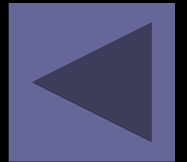
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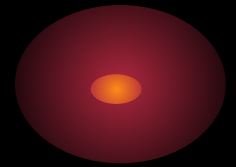
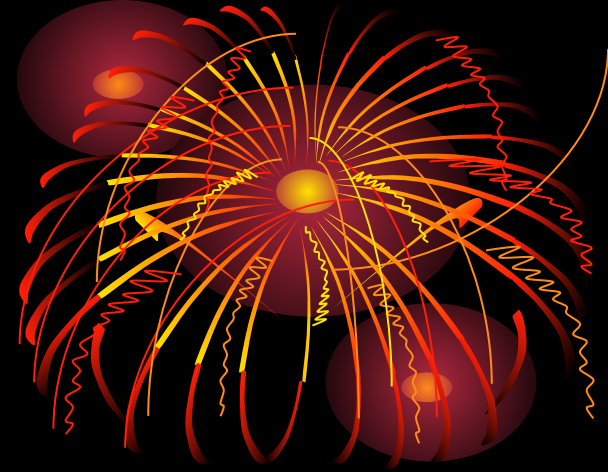
- Where was Oscar Wilde born?
  - a) In England
  - b) In Ireland
  - c) In Wales

# VOCABULARY

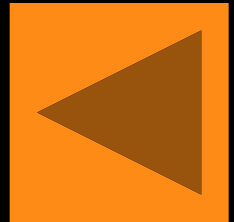
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- Gaol-тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-репетиция
- Trial-суд
- Deference-уважение
- Heritage-наследство, наследие
- Versatile-многосторонний, гибкий
- Breeches-бриджи
- To aspire-стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots-искусно придуманные сюжеты





**Wrong! Try again!**



Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- From what University did Wilde graduate?
  - a) Cambridge
  - b) Stanford
  - c) Oxford

Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- What novel did he publish in 1891?
  - a) The picture of Dorian Gray
  - b) Lady Windermere's Fan
  - c) A Woman of no importance



Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- What period of his life inspired him to write a poem “The Ballad of Reading Gaol” ?
  - His marriage
  - Friendship with Lord Alfred Douglas
  - Imprisonment

Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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■ How many plays did Oscar Wilde produce?

a) 35

b) 9

c) 1

Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- What movement did Wilde represent?
  - a) artistic movement
  - b) catholic movement
  - c) asthetic movement

Correct!



# Choose the correct answer.

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- In what magazine were Wild's extraordinary manners ridiculed?
  - a) Sunset
  - b) Punch
  - c) Daily Mirror



Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- How many middle names had Oscar Wilde?
  - a) 3
  - b) 4
  - c) 2

Correct!



# Choose the correct answer

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- For whom were intended Wilde's plays?
  - a) upper middle class
  - b) merchants
  - c) upper class

Correct!



# Fill in the gaps

1. Wilde advocated the idea art for ..... sake.

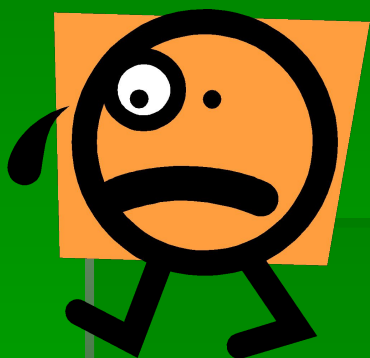
- a) Heart's Heart's b) art's c)  
human's

2. As an aesthete, the eccentric young Wilde wore long hair and velvet knee.....

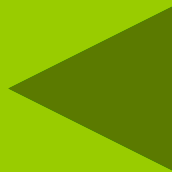
- a) Breeches a) Breeches b) pants a) Breeches  
b) pants c) kilts

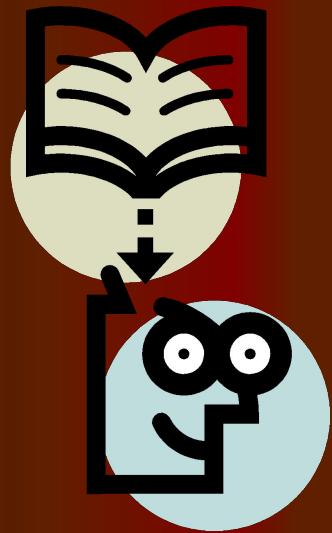
3. Which of his plays was not successful?

- a) A Woman of no importance; a) A Woman of no  
importance; b) Vera or Nihilists  
c) An Ideal husband

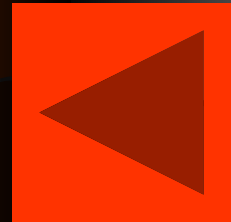


Not quite!

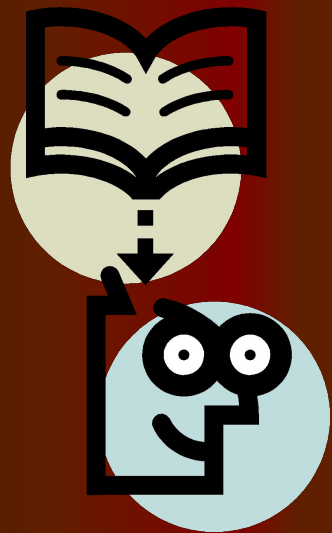




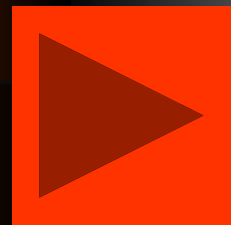
**True!**



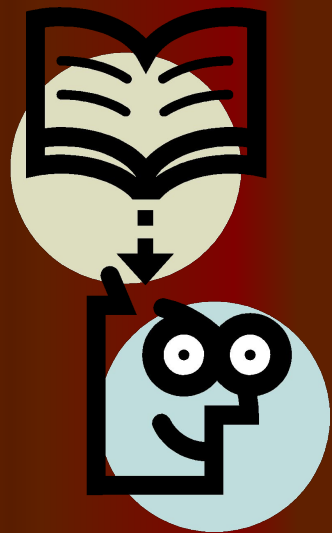




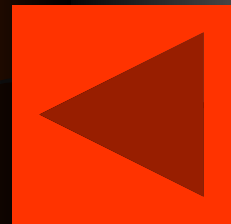
**True!**

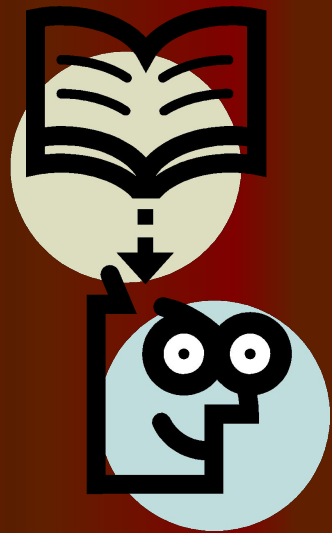






**True!**





**True!**



# Fill in the gaps

7) Where did Wilde lecture on aestheticism?

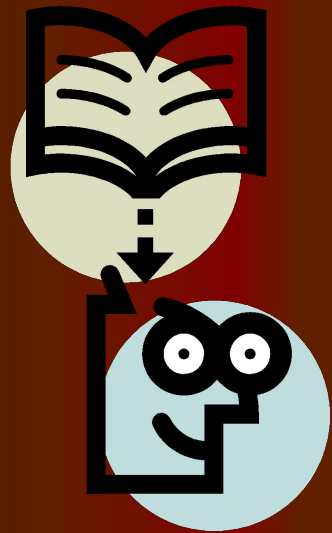
- a) In Europe a) In Europe b) In Australia a) In Europe b) In Australia c) In Canada

8) 1892 Rehearsals for the play Salomé were halted by the British censor because of a law forbidding the representation of .....characters on stage.

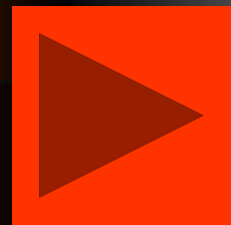
- a) Upper class characters a) Upper class characters b) Biblical a) Upper class characters b) Biblical c) Catholic

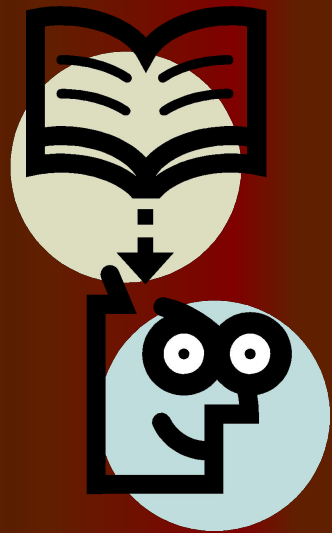
9) Sentenced in 1895 to two years of hard labor in prison, he emerged financially ... ..and spiritually.....

- a) betrayed lost a) betrayed lost b) empty down a)



**True!**





**True!**



# Vocabulary

## ТЮРЕМНОЕ ЗАКЛЮЧЕНИЕ

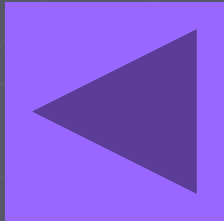
- Gaol-
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference-
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches-
- To aspire-
- Adroitly contrived plots-



Excellent!



**Try again!**



# Vocabulary

## Уважение

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference-
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches-
- To aspire-
- Adroitly contrived plots-

Excellent!



# Vocabulary

## СТРЕМИТЬСЯ

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference- • уважение
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches-
- To aspire-
- Adroitly contrived plots-

# Vocabulary

## бриджи

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference- • уважение
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches-
- To aspire- • стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots-

Excellent!



Excellent!





# Vocabulary

## наследие

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference- • уважение
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches- • бриджи
- To aspire- • стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots-

Excellent!



# Vocabulary

## репетиция

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference- • Уважение
- Heritage- • Наследие
- Versatile-
- Breeches- • бриджи
- To aspire- • стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots-

Excellent!



# Vocabulary

## искусно продуманные сюжеты

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals- • репетиция
- Trial-
- Deference- • Уважение
- Heritage- • Наследие
- Versatile-
- Breeches- • бриджи
- To aspire- • стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots-

Excellent!



# Vocabulary

## суд

- Gaol- • тюремное заключение
- Rehearsals- • репетиция
- Trial-
- Deference- • Уважение
- Heritage- • Наследие
- Versatile-
- Breeches- • бриджи
- To aspire- • Стремиться
- Adroitly contrived plots- • Искусно продуманные сюжеты

Excellent!





# Vocabulary

## МНОГОСТОРОННИЙ

- Gaol-
  - Rehearsals-
  - Trial-
  - Deference-
  - Heritage-
  - Versatile-
  - Breeches-
  - To aspire-
  - Adroitly contrived plots-
- тюремное заключение
  - репетиция
  - суд
  - Уважение
  - Наследие
  
  - бриджи
  - Стремиться
  - Искусно продуманные сюжеты

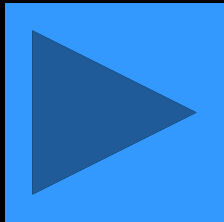
Excellent!



# Vocabulary

## МНОГОСТОРОННИЙ

- Gaol-
- Rehearsals-
- Trial-
- Deference-
- Heritage-
- Versatile-
- Breeches-
- To aspire-
- Adroitly contrived plots-
- тюремное заключение
- репетиция
- суд
- Уважение
- Наследие
- многосторонний
- бриджи
- Стремиться
- Искусно продуманные сюжеты



Congratulations!



**The job is done!**