

# The picture of Dorian Gray

David Marler - Rotterdam UAS - Literature 3.2

Advanced English Literature

# Picture of Dorian Gray

David Marler - Rotterdam UAS

## Course goals

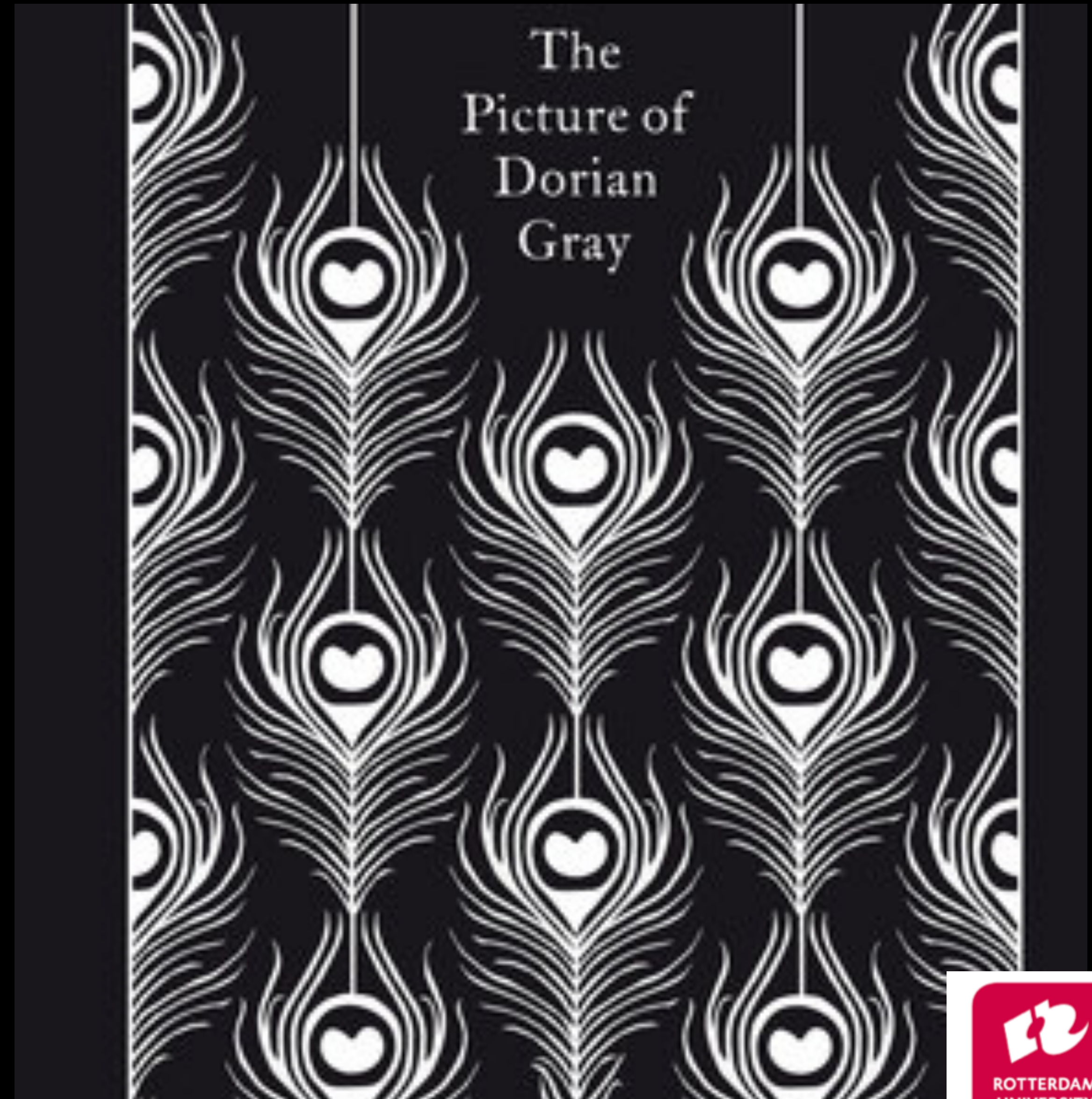
The student demonstrates knowledge of and insight into the defining characteristics of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and can use literary terms (see below) to analyze it.

The student has a knowledge of the characteristics of the gothic genre and can discuss Victorian morals. The student can deduce the themes of the work and link these to the work's genre, time period, and style.

# Workshop

## The Picture of Dorian Gray

- Part 1- Knowledge of the text
  - Activity 1- Choosing a character
  - Activity 2- Group discussion
- Part 2- Knowledge of Genre, theme, and symbol
  - Activity 3- Lecture
  - Activity 4- Mini-presentations



# Part I - Knowledge of the text

# Quiz over novel

# Activity 1. casting the roles

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## Activity

You will be placed into groups. Each group will get a character. Your group will answer the following questions about your character.-

What should the actor look like?

-How should the actor behave when in character?

-Which characteristics are most important for this actor?

You will get 5 minutes to discuss your character, when you are finished one student will present.



# Activity 1. casting the roles

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## Activity

- What should the actor look like?
- How should the actor behave when in character?
- Which characteristics are most important for this actor?

## Groups

- 1.Dorian Gray
- 2.Lord Henry Wotton
- 3.Basil Hallword
- 4.Sybil Vane
- 5.James Vane
- 6.Allan Campbell

# Activity 2. Group discussion



**The novel is based around three male characters: Dorian Gray, Lord Henry Wotton, and Basil Haliward. How are these characters similar and different from one another?**

**What kind of love does Lord Henry have for Dorian...  
does Dorian have for Sybil Vane... does Basil have for  
Dorian? What does this say about each character?**

Lord Henry gives Dorian a book after Sybil's death titled *Le Secret de Raoul* (a.k.a. "the yellow book"), what is in the book? Why is this book significant?

**Why does Dorian kill Basil Haliward?**

A black and white portrait of Oscar Wilde, a man with dark, wavy hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and patterned tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

# Oscar Wilde's tumultuous life and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Part 2- Activity 3- Lecture

# Oscar Wilde

## Biographical information

- 1854-1900
- Anglo-Irish
- Major works: “The Importance of Being Earnest” (play), *The Picture of Dorian Gray*



OSCAR WILDE

AND

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

DINED HERE WITH THE PUBLISHER  
OF 'LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE'

ON 30 AUGUST 1889,

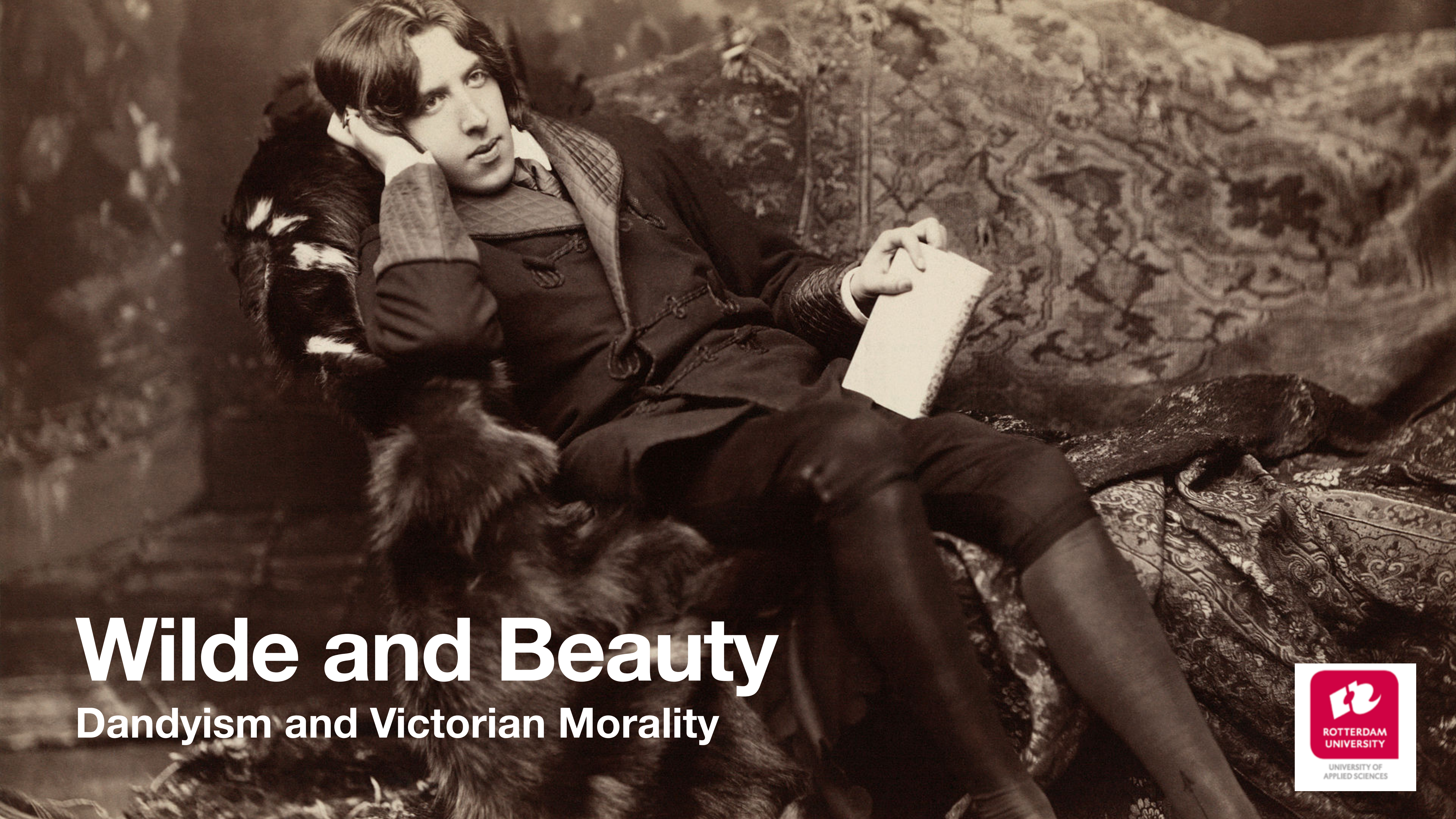
A MEETING THAT LED TO

'THE SIGN OF FOUR' &

'THE PICTURE OF  
DORIAN GRAY'

SHERLOCK HOLMES

OSCAR WILDE SOCIETY



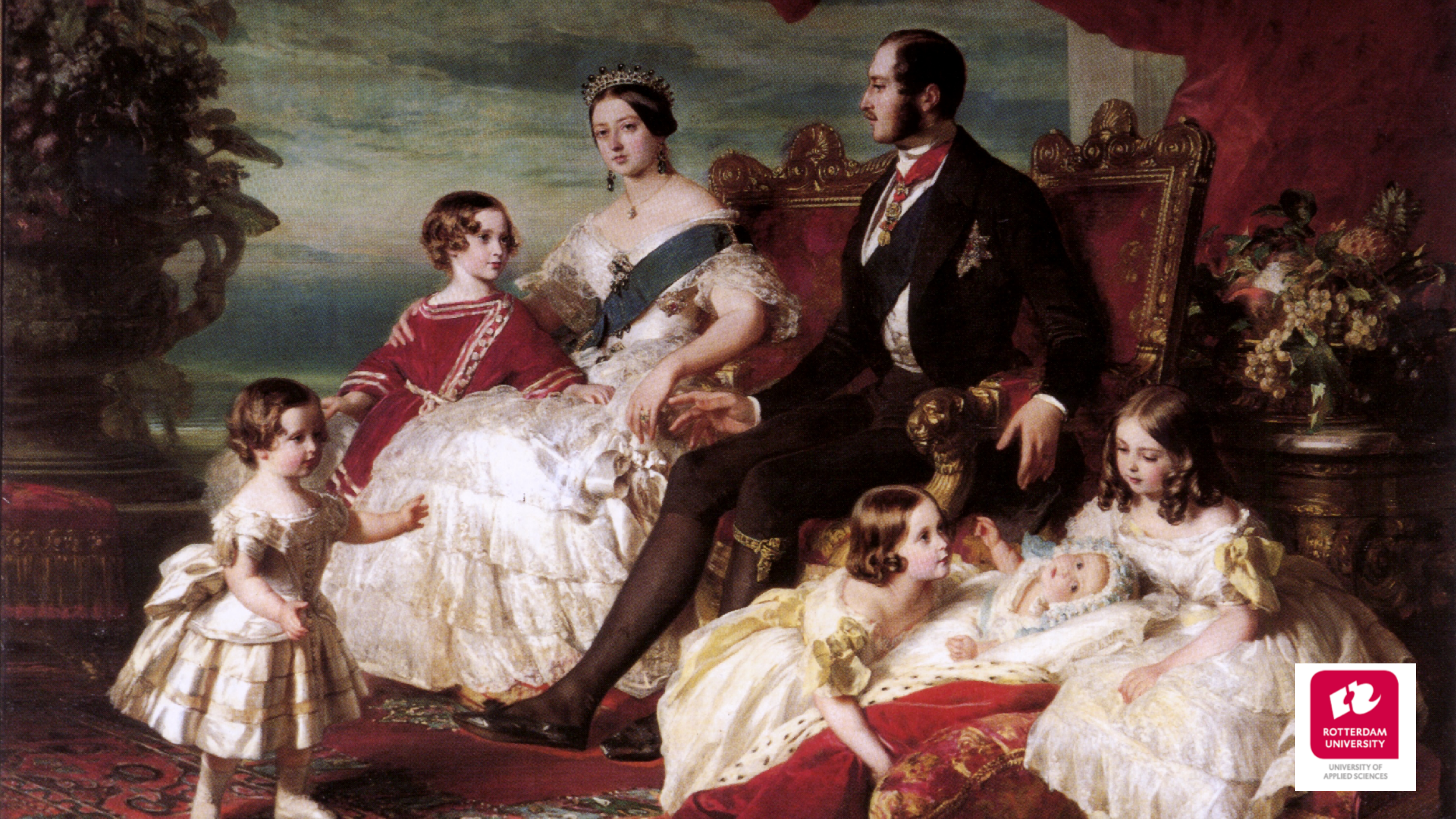
# Wilde and Beauty

Dandyism and Victorian Morality





**Problematic then, problematic now**



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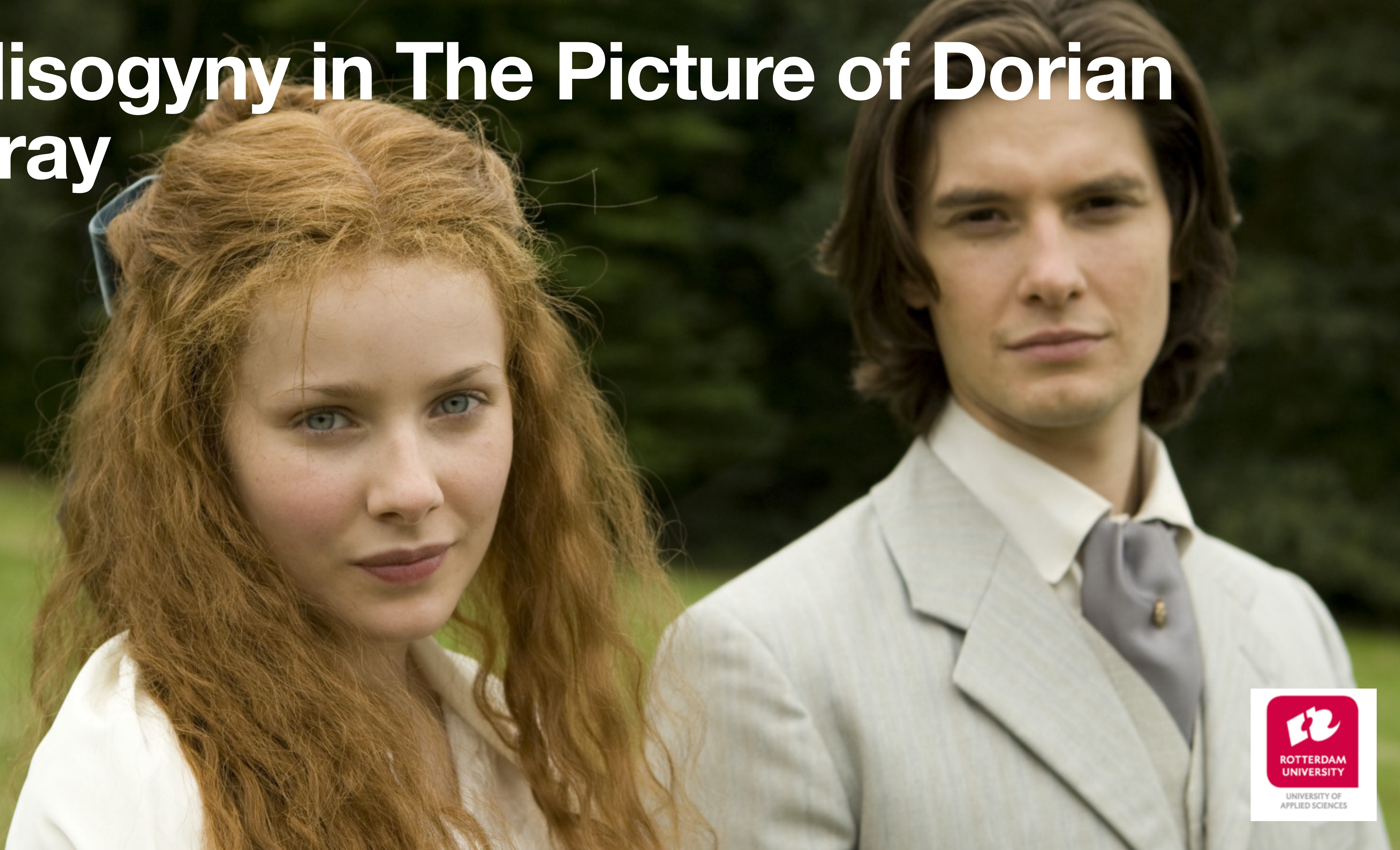
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APPLIED SCIENCES



# The Trial and Imprisonment of Oscar Wilde

1895-1897

# Misogyny in The Picture of Dorian Gray



# Activity 4- Minipresentations

# Instructions

## Minipresentations

**You will be given 20 minutes to create a short 3-minute presentation on one of the terms below in groups. You will answer a question about theme or genre and you must use specific examples from the novel. After 20 minutes, your group will present.**

# Group 1

## Dandyism

**The title of your mini-presentation: Dandyism in *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

**Look at the term Dandyism on the handout. What role does Dandyism place in the novel? Which characters are Dandies?**

# Group 2

## The Aesthetic or Decadent Movement

The title of your mini-presentation: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as part of the Aesthetic or Decadent Movement

Many academics have called *The Picture of Dorian Gray* a quintessential text from the Decadent or Aesthetic movement.

Read the term on the handout and present specific examples from the text that prove that this novel is an important part of the Aesthetic movement.



# Group 3

## Libertines and Sadists

**The title of your mini-presentation: Libertines and Sadistic characters in *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

**Many of the characters in the novel can be described as libertines or even sadists. Describe what those terms mean and present which characters are libertines or sadists using specific examples from the book.**

# Group 4

## The Gothic Genre

The title of your mini-presentation: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as a Gothic novel

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is often seen as part of the gothic genre. Read the term on the handout and prepare a mini-presentation where you explain how this book is part of the Gothic genre. Use as many specific examples from the book.

# Group 5

## Bourgeois Morality

**The title of your mini-presentation: The roll of bourgeois morality in *The Picture of Dorian Gray***

**Many academics argue that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a rebuke of bourgeois morality. Read the term on the handout and create a mini-presentation where you explain the role of bourgeois morality in the novel. Use as many specific examples from the text as possible.**

# Group presentations

20 minutes

