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# Oscar Wilde Teachers' Notes **B1**

Irish poet, playwright, novelist, editor, dandy and wit Oscar Wilde was a major figure of the nineteenth century literary scene, and his work is still widely read and performed today.

His life, and his work, were divided into two distinct categories.

The (relatively) conventional: marriage, fatherhood and his immensely popular comic plays like *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and modern fairytales like "The Happy Prince".

And the scandalous, at least in Victorian times: his affair with Lord Alfred Douglas and imprisonment, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Salomé*.

This article will give pupils an overview of Wilde. We recommend it with older classes because of the subject matter.

## Vocabulary and Structures

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- literature
- biography
- narrative present
- simple past
- passive
- adjectives

## Reading + writing

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- The article is designed for videoprojection, but pupils will probably need printouts to do the activities, unless your class is equipped with tablets. We suggest starting with the image tackling the text. Then pupils can do the comprehension activity.
- The second activity works on vocabulary, asking pupils to associate adjectives and nouns, and then adjectives, verbs and nouns from the text.

## Solutions

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**A.1.** Edinburgh/Dublin **2.** 1954/1854  
**3.** actor/poet **4.** He never went to school/He was ten when he first went to school.  
**5.** loved/hated **6.** novels/poems  
**7.** Cambridge/Oxford **8.** New York/London  
**9.** ladies/men **10.** hospital/prison **11.** U.S.A./France **12.** celebrated hero/rejected and poor man

**B.1.a.** Irish **b.** humorous **c.** witty **d.** popular  
**e.** comic **f.** happy  
**2.a.** know, knowledge, known **b.** shock, shock, shocking **c.** surprise, surprise, surprising **d.** protect, protection, protective  
**e.** talk, talk, talkative **f.** marry, marriage, married