

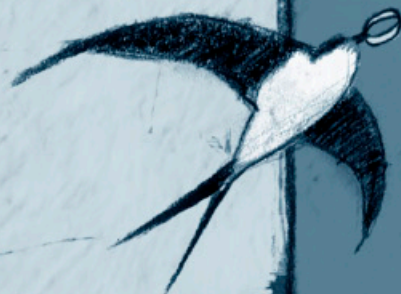
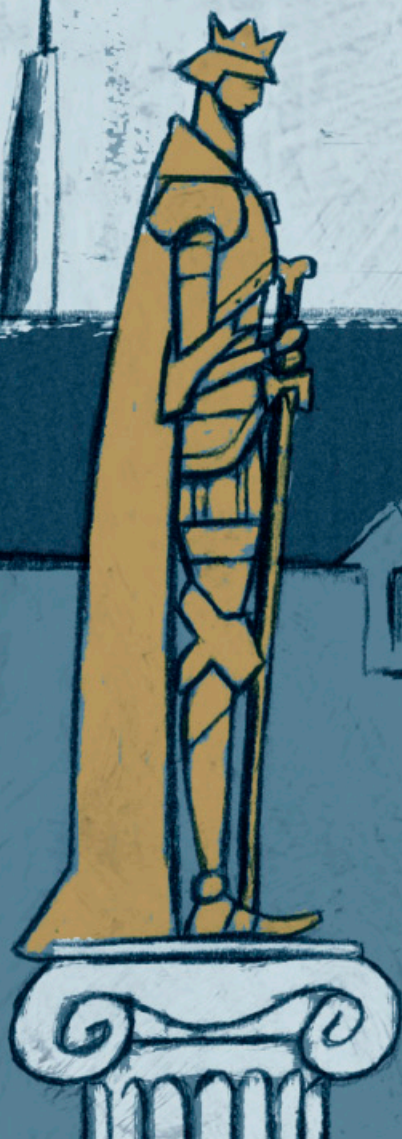
ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

Oscar Wilde

Ivan Mata



ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES

CLASSIC TALES

Oscar Wilde

Illustrations
Ivan Mata

before reading

- 1 Oscar Wilde studied classics at Oxford University, but his writing was also influenced by his Irish childhood, and especially by his mother's love of Celtic mythology. **Identify** the Celtic or Greek mythological characters.

Centaur: head and torso of a human, body of a horse Celtic / Greek

Leprechaun: small fairy with a beard, coat and hat Celtic / Greek

Fomorian: supernatural race of monstrous giants Celtic / Greek

Arachne: half-spider, half-female Celtic / Greek

Gwyllion: mountain fairies Celtic / Greek

Argus: 100-eyed giant Celtic / Greek

Graeae: 3 old women with 1 tooth and 1 eye between them Celtic / Greek

Banshee: female spirit whose cries foretell death Celtic / Greek

- 2 Wilde includes many natural elements in his writing, both living and non-living things. **Categorise** the following natural elements into trees, flowers or things you can eat.

violet

seaweed

cinnamon

palm

hornbeam

saffron

blossom

willow

tulip

pink

date

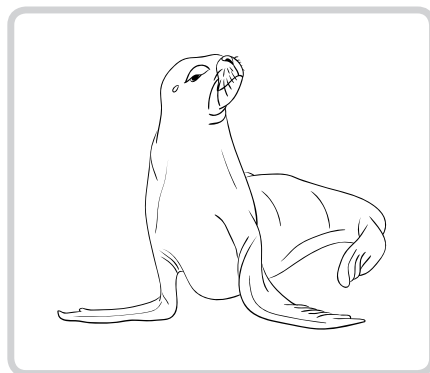
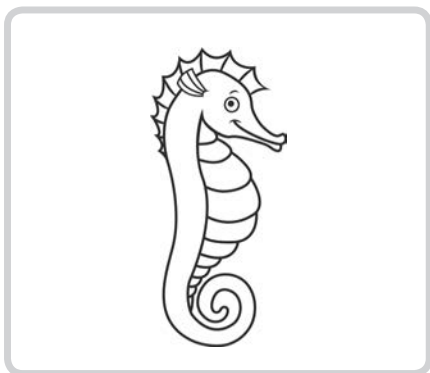
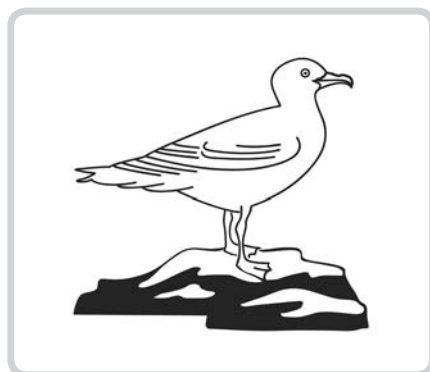
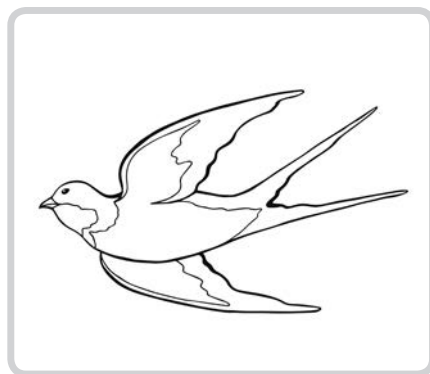
cypress

Trees	Flowers	Edible Elements

3

The main character in one of Oscar Wilde's tales is a swallow.
Match these pictures with the names of the correct bird or animal.

dove seagull seahorse swallow sea lion hawk



before reading

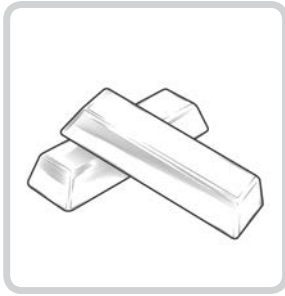
4 Sea-life

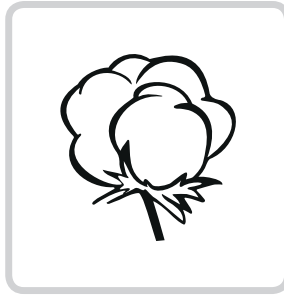
Order these sea creatures according to their typical size. **Search** for the data on the Internet.

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| dolphin _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | mackerel _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| cuttlefish _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | seahorse _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| conch _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | mermaid _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| sea snail _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | sea lion _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| tuna-fish _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> | porpoise _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 5 Wilde mentions a lot of different materials in his stories, which makes them more vivid. **Identify** the material these things are made from.

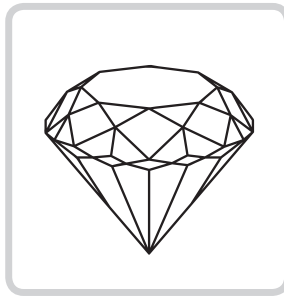
flannel diamond cotton sponge linen gold













6 **Decide** what colour these jewels and precious stones are.

jade	red
alabaster	blue
ruby	white
lead	grey
sapphire	green
amber	orange
ebony	black

7 Oscar Wilde lived the last years of his life in France but he had spoken French since he was a child. It is quite common to use French words and expressions in English conversation and writing - but Wilde uses a lot! **Complete** the definitions of these expressions.

sweets world love life conversation things

'on a fait le monde ainsi' means "That's the way of
the _____"

'tête-à-tête' means "a private _____"

'bonbonniere' means "a box for _____"

'monsieur le mauvais sujet' means "Mr. Bad-but-
I-_____-you!"

'on a fait des folies pour moi' means "people have done crazy
_____ for me"

'Palace of Sans-Souci' means "The palace of carefree
_____"

during reading

The Happy Prince

- 1 The Happy Prince said “There is no Mystery so great as Sadness”.
Complete the acronym with words relating to ‘Sadness’.

S_____: a great sadness

A_____: a feeling when you worry that something bad is
going to happen

D_____: a feeling of being very unhappy

N_____: a lack of life, an empty space

E_____: a feeling of love, hate, anger you experience

S_____: a sound you make when you are sad by breathing
out slowly

S_____: embarrassed or unhappy about something you
have done

- 2 **Find** the adjectives in this extract from the story. Then find the five asterisks * in the extract and replace three of them with interesting adjectives.

‘What a remarkable phenomenon,’ said the * Professor of Ornithology
as he was crossing the * bridge. ‘A * swallow in * winter!’ And he
wrote a long letter about it to the local newspaper. Everyone talked
about it, it was full of so many * words that they could not understand.

3 Do you **remember** what the swallow's friends are going to do in Egypt?

They are going to fly up and down ...the Second Cararact
Then they'll sleep in ...the Temple of Baalbec
Next they're going to fly up to ...the tomb of the great King
And finally they'll build their nests in ...the Nile

4 **Decide** if these sentences about the statue are true (T) or false (F).

The prince was once a real person.

The real prince was surrounded by sadness all his life.

The statue is surrounded by sadness in the city.

The swallow takes the ruby from the statue's nose to the poor woman.

The swallow takes the sapphire from the statue's eye to the poor young man.

The little match girl doesn't know that the sapphire is a jewel.

The swallow gives the poor children bread.

The statue has a real heart.

5 **Art for Art's sake**

When the statue has no more gold or jewels covering it, the Art Professor at the University says that '*He is not beautiful so he is not useful*'.

Do you agree? **Give** your opinion.

during reading

The Fisherman and his Soul

- 1 People who live in the seas, lakes and rivers appear in many kinds of mythology and popular tales. What do you know about mermaids and mermen? **Find** some information about them from the story - can you **add** some more features yourself?

Some things we learn about them from the story include...

Some other things I know about them include...

- 2 The Fisherman asks first the priest, then the merchants in the market and finally the evil witch if they will help him to get rid of his soul. **Decide** who said the following things in the tale:

“It is not worth a broken piece of silver.” _____

“There is nothing more precious than a human soul.” _____

“That is a terrible thing to do!” _____

“For them there is no heaven nor hell.” _____

“Come! let us worship!” _____

“I wish that I had not told you about it.” _____

“To us it is nothing, nor does it have any value.” _____

“You are mad, or have eaten poisonous herbs.” _____

3 **Order** the events in the story that took place between the Fisherman and the witch.

The Fisherman offered the witch five pieces of gold.

They danced round and round, faster and faster.

The witch saw an image of the mermaid in her magic smoke.

The Fisherman made a religious sign to the mysterious man dressed in black.

They had to meet at full moon on the top of the mountain.

She commanded the Fisherman to dance with her.

4 The Fisherman's Soul had many adventures when it was alone in the world. **Complete** the descriptions of each adventure with the missing words.

however instead first second but after if and

The Soul _____ travelled with a group of merchants towards the East. They saw many wonderful things on their journey.

_____ four months they arrived at the city of Illel and the Soul visited the garden of the city's god. _____, when the priest showed him the god, it was a mirror which showed everything in heaven and earth _____ the Soul stole it.

In the _____ year the Soul travelled to the city of Ashter and the Emperor walked through the market-place to his palace _____ the Soul did not hide his face in respect. The Emperor's soldiers tried to kill him but the Soul could not be hurt and the Emperor was afraid. He offered the Soul half of his treasures _____ he would leave the city but _____ the Soul stole his ring.

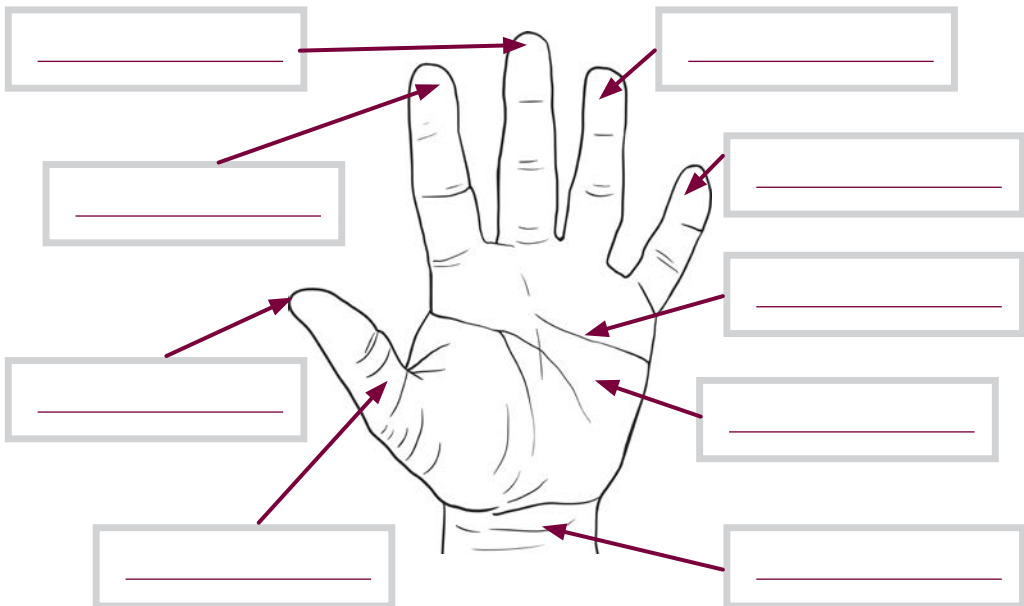
Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

1 In this story the main character is a Lord - a hereditary title which is handed down through the centuries in families which are rich and powerful, or a courtesy title which only the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Queen of England can give. **Match** the male and female partners in these English titles.

- | | |
|--------|----------|
| Mister | Madam |
| Duke | Queen |
| Prince | Countess |
| King | Princess |
| Lord | Missus |
| Count | Duchess |
| Sir | Lady |

2 Mr Podgers reads the hands of Lady Windemere's party guests. **Label** these parts of the hand, including the lines commonly used for telling fortunes.

pinkie palm ring finger thumb index finger
middle finger rascette heart line life line tip



during reading

- 3 When Mr Podger read Lord Arthur's hand, the young man "seemed turned to stone," as though "Nemesis had stolen the shield of Pallas, and shown him the Gorgon's head." **Search** for information and **describe** these characters from ancient Greek mythology.

Zeus _____

Gorgon _____

Nemesis _____

Aphrodite _____

Hydra _____

Pallas _____

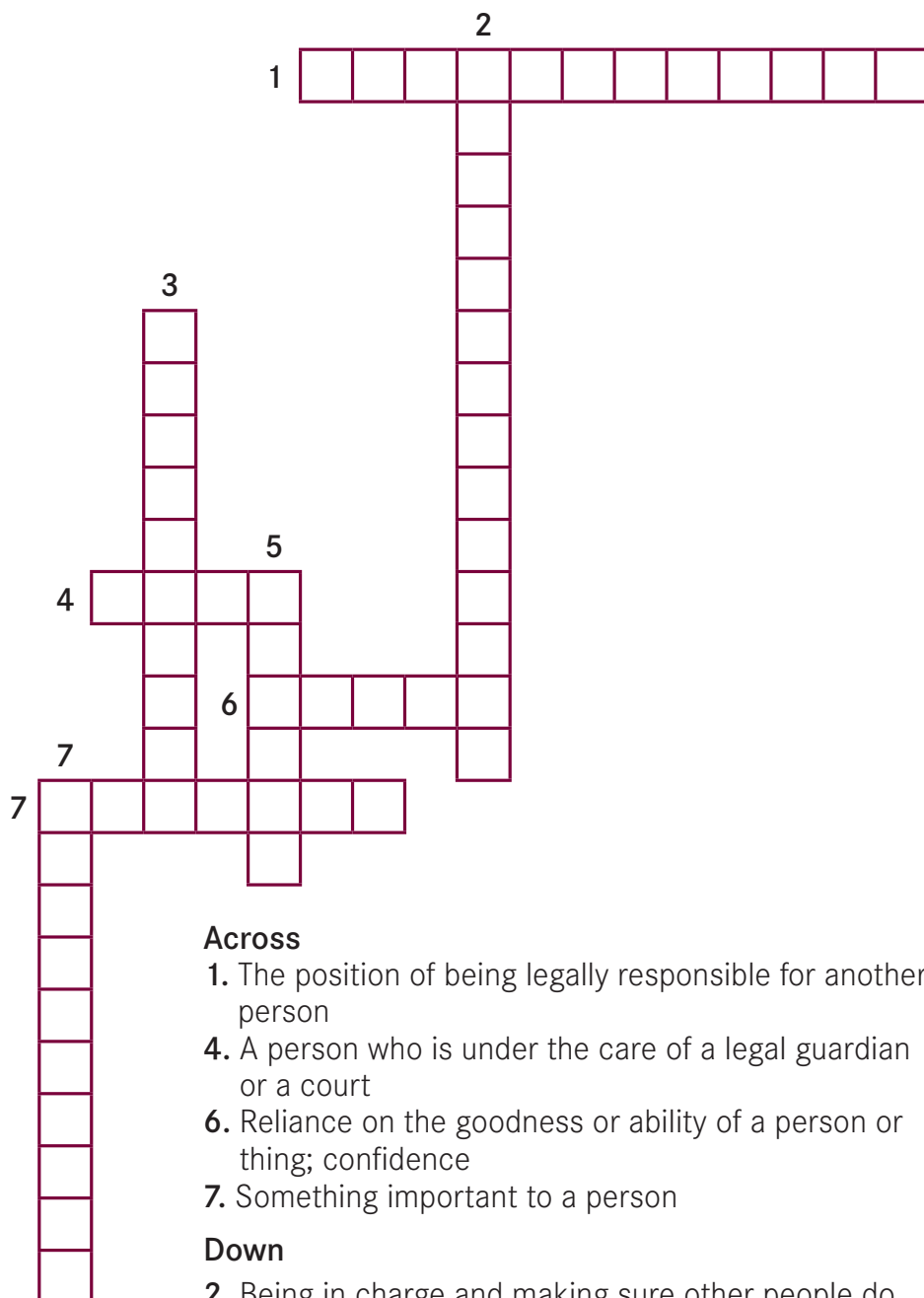
- 4 The Duchess's niece helps a charity called The Dorcas Society by making clothes for the poor. **Separate** the names of these British charities in the word snake.

DORCASSOCIETYOXFAMSAVETHECHILDRENWARONWAN
THELP THEAGEDCANCERRESEARCHWORLDWILDLIFEFUN
DREDCROSSUNICEFROYALSOCIETYFORTHEPREVENTIONOF
CRUELTYTOANIMALSTHEDONKEYSANCTUARY

5

Lord Arthur “recognised what his duty was, and was fully conscious of the fact that he could not marry until he had committed the murder.”

Solve the crossword with these words related to “duty”.



Across

- 1. The position of being legally responsible for another person
- 4. A person who is under the care of a legal guardian or a court
- 6. Reliance on the goodness or ability of a person or thing; confidence
- 7. Something important to a person

Down

- 2. Being in charge and making sure other people do what is right
- 3. Something you have to do for moral or legal reasons
- 5. Moral obligations
- 7. The legal obligation to do something

after reading

1 **Order** the works of art created during Oscar Wilde's lifetime

Impression: Sunrise
(C. Monet)

The Starry Night
(V. V. Gogh)

Great Expectations

(C. Dickens)

The Scream (E. Munch)

The Thinker (A. Rodin)

Nutcracker Ballet
(P. I. Tchaikovsky)

1861- _____

1872- _____

1880- _____

1889- _____

1892- _____

1893- _____

2 Oscar Wilde visited the United States twice; touring the country and giving lectures. In 1882 he wrote about his impressions of the country. **Fill** the gaps with his words.

the richest the noisiest the most beautifully rhythmic
the roughest the most well-dressed
the most comfortably dressed

Americans are not _____ people in the world, they are _____.

America is _____ country that ever existed.

At the water-works at Chicago I realized the wonders of machinery; the symmetrical motion of the great wheels is _____
_____ rhythmic thing I have ever seen.

Upon the top of the Rocky Mountains is Leadville _____
_____ city in the world. It has also got the reputation of being _____ and every man carries a revolver.

- 3 Many people want to know their destiny and use different ways to foretell their future. **Complete** the following words and expressions with the missing vowels.

F__RT__N__ - T__LL__NG

T__R__T C__RDS

P__LM - R__D__NG

T__ L__V__S

CRYST__L B__LL

N__M__R__L__GY

__STR__L__GY

- 4 When Oscar Wilde was a student at Oxford University he was well-known for being flamboyant and eccentric, and for decorating his rooms in an extravagant, colourful way. **Remember** some of the images and colours from the tales. What sounds or feelings can you recall?

The Happy Prince _____

The Selfish Giant _____

The Fisherman and his Soul _____

Lord Arthur Savile's Crime _____

after reading

5 Match these words from the story with their definitions.

beggar boast coward regret shame wound

A person who is very poor and asks for money or food

Physical damage to your body, usually there is blood and it is dangerous

Embarrassment or guilt for having done something bad

A person who is not brave and runs from conflict or problems

Proudly tell people about things you have or have done

Feel sorry that something has happened

6 Write about the tale you prefer. Why do you like it best?
