

LEVEL B1

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



CLASSIC TALES

Oscar Wilde

ILLUSTRATIONS Lluís Farré



ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES

CLASSIC TALES

Oscar Wilde

Illustrations
Lluís Farré

before reading

1 **Test** how much you know about the country Oscar Wilde was born and grew up in.

• What continent is Ireland in? _____

• Which is the capital city of the Republic of Ireland? _____

• What are the official languages of Ireland? _____

• Which country is north of Ireland? _____

• Can you name a famous Irish singer, athlete or actor? _____

2 **Unjumble** the different jobs Wilde and his family had.

Oscar Wilde was a p _ _ _ t (TOPE), and a p _ _ yw _ _ _ _ _ t
(WRIPLAYTHG). _____

He was a l _ _ _ _ _ _ _ r (CRUELTRE) and a j _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ t
(SLINJURTOA). _____

His mother was a r _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ y (TROVLUIYONEAR)
and a p _ _ _ t (PETO). _____

His father was a w _ _ _ _ _ r (TWIERR) and a s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ n
(GURONES). _____

Wilde wrote e _ _ _ _ _ s (ASSYES) and n _ _ _ _ _ s (VSLONE).

3 **Combine** these words to describe more places and things that were important in Oscar Wilde's life.

Irish

liturgy

Gaelic

history

Trinity

legends

University of

folklore

Catholic

College

Ancient Greek

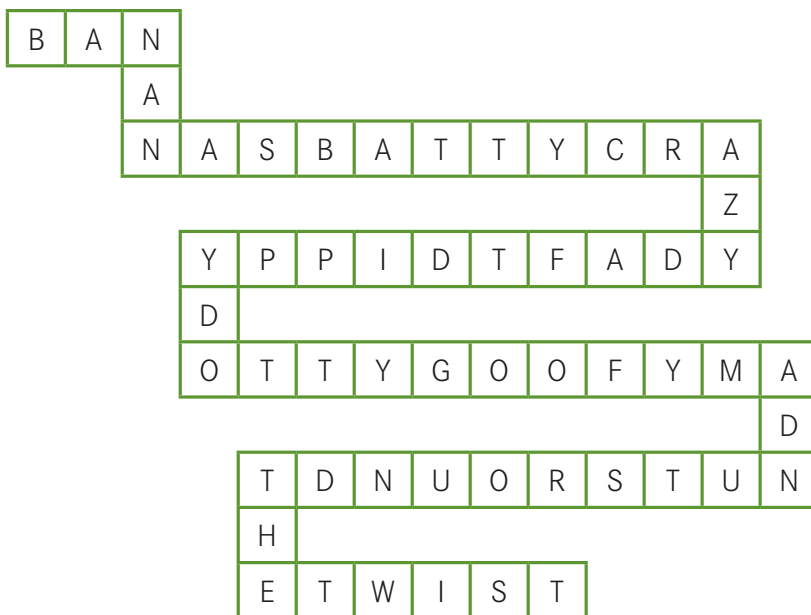
Oxford

4 Oscar Wilde wrote a lot during his lifetime. **Search** for 8 different kinds of writing.

POEM
STORY
ARTICLE
COMIC
LETTER
NOVEL
PLAY
TALE

E	Y	L	G	B	G	K	U	C	P
K	L	S	N	Y	V	U	P	L	D
A	J	C	B	O	T	N	A	C	L
Z	V	R	I	H	V	Y	N	Y	P
Y	R	E	T	T	N	E	R	D	O
S	E	T	U	Y	R	O	L	T	E
C	I	T	R	X	T	A	V	T	M
Q	I	E	S	S	C	O	M	I	C
R	N	L	E	L	A	T	B	Q	X
B	X	V	I	Y	Z	W	W	W	D

- 5 Oscar Wilde is remembered as being an eccentric genius. **Find** 10 words and expressions in the word-snake with a similar meaning to “eccentric”.



- 6 **Correct** the titles of these well-known stories by Oscar Wilde.

Lord Arthur Savile’s Soul _____

The Earnest Prince _____

The Giant Star _____

The Picture of Gray Dorian _____

The Fisherman and his Crime _____

The Happy King _____

The Selfish Child _____

The Importance of Being Young _____

7

Oscar Wilde often wrote about beauty, something that was very important for him in his life. **Write** a list of some things you think are beautiful.

A beautiful place: _____

A beautiful person: _____

A beautiful sound: _____

A beautiful taste: _____

A beautiful smell: _____

A beautiful feeling: _____



The Selfish Giant

- 1 **Fill** in the missing words describing the Giant and his garden.

little lovely happy pink
big green high beautiful
white full selfish

It was a _____ garden, with _____ grass and _____ flowers. The trees were covered in _____ and _____ flowers in the spring, and _____ of fruit in the autumn. The _____ birds sang in the trees, and the children were _____. But then the _____ Giant built a _____ wall all round the garden, and put up a _____ notice: NO ENTRY.

- 2 Decide if these sentences are True (**T**) or False (**F**).

The Giant heard musicians in his garden.

All the children except one, were sitting in the trees.

The Giant was angry when he saw the small boy crying.

The little boy never came back to the garden.

The boy invited the Giant to come to his garden.

The winter never arrived to the garden.

The Giant was lying dead, all covered with white flowers.

3 Choose who did what.

	The North Wind	Hail	Frost	Snow
Who danced in the garden?				
Who broke the roof?				
Who broke the chimneys?				
Who painted the trees silver?				
Who made the garden white?				
Who wore a brown coat?				
Who wore a white cape?				

during reading

The Young King

1 Unjumble what the people in the palace said about the young king.

the / of / was / princess. / son / He / the

When / was / was / a / he / he / his / stolen / from / mother. / baby,

wife. / forest / farmer / lived / with / the / a / in / poor / and / his / He

the / In / mountains, / wore / he / a / tunic / and / cape. / simple

he / the / loved / beautiful / jewels. / palace / clothes / In / and / his

He / beautiful / fascinated / by / was / things.

2 Connect the sentences about the young King.

The young King wanted...

his coronation clothes.

He sent merchants far away...

to look for gold, rubies and pearls.

The King was most interested in...

the cathedral.

He ordered the artisans...

to buy amber, turquoise and jade.

He ordered the artists...

to work night and day.

The King liked to imagine himself in...

rich and rare things from all over the world.

3 **Find** words in the young King's first dream which match these definitions.

A room at the top of a building, under the roof. _____

A big machine used to make textiles. _____

Water vapour in the air. _____

Dirty old clothes with holes in them. _____

A person who belongs to another person, and must work for them and do what they tell them. _____

The sensation when you have not eaten for a long time. _____

Textile made from a precious metal. _____

4 **Order** the events the young King saw in his second dream.

The young slave brought up the most beautiful pearl in the world.

The young slave brought up a pearl and the sailor took it and pushed him back into the sea.

The young King was sitting in a big ship being rowed by hundreds of slaves.

Blood came out of the ears and mouth of the young slave and he died.

The youngest slave was unchained, a stone was tied around his middle and he went into the sea.

The master held up the pearl and said it was perfect for the young King's sceptre.

The master weighed the pearl and put it into his bag.

The ship stopped in a bay.

during reading

- 5 **Fill** the gaps in the story of the young King's third dream.

Plague rubies valley Malaria third slaves seeds Fever

Death and Avarice were watching a multitude of men working in a _____, making big holes in the ground. Death asked Avarice for a _____ of the men and then he would go away. Avarice said they were her _____ and refused. Death asked Avarice for one of her _____ and then he would go away, but again Avarice refused. Death called _____ from the water, and she killed a third of the multitude. Then Death called _____ from the forest, and she killed more people. Then Death called _____ from the air, and she killed every man who was looking for _____ for the King's crown.

- 6 **Choose** the correct answer to each question about the end of the story.

Why didn't the young King want to wear his beautiful robe and crown and sceptre?

- Because they were not beautiful enough.
- Because of the suffering he had seen in the three dreams.
- Because he was not old enough to be king.

Why did the Head Councillor tell the King to put on the beautiful clothes?

- Because without them, nobody would know he was the King.
- Because they were very expensive and they had been made specially for him.
- Because it was his duty and obligation to wear them.

Why did the young King make himself a crown of a climbing plant?

- Because he wanted a symbolic crown.
- Because the gold crown was too heavy.
- Because the rubies were too big.

The Star-Child

1 Identify the characters in the story.

Who were cold, poor and terrified? _____

Who had an amber chain and a gold cape covered in stars? _____

Who was angry and cold and had a hard heart? _____

Who had curly yellow hair, white skin, red lips and purple eyes? _____

Who threw stones at the poor, laughed at the weak and ugly, and loved himself? _____

2 Finish the sentences about what happened next.

The Star-Child wanted to send the beggar-woman away because

the woodcutter told him his mother was in the house.

The woodcutter told the Star-Child to stop throwing stones because

he did not want the beggar-woman to be his mother.

The beggar-woman gave a loud cry because

she was ugly and horrible.

The woman cried with happiness because

she heard the woodcutter say he had found the boy in the forest.

The Star-Child was very happy because

the woman had done nothing to him.

The Star-Child spoke coldly to the beggar-woman because

she knew the boy was her son.

during reading

3 **Decide** which animals are missing from this part of the tale.

dove frog snake owl rabbit

Because the Star-Child had been cruel to his mother, his face became the face of a _____.

The Star-Child's beautiful white skin became the horrible skin of a _____.

The _____ could not help find the beggar-woman because the Star-Child had blinded its eyes.

The _____ could not help find the beggar-woman because the Star-Child had thrown stones and hurt its wings.

The _____ would not help find the beggar-woman because the Star-Child had killed its family.

4 **Match** the speakers in the city to the things they said.

The soldier at the gate said,

“We can sell the ugly thing as a slave.”

The Star-Child said,

“Who is your mother?”

The soldier with the black beard said,

“I have spoken to her cruelly.”

The soldier with the yellow flag said,

“Your mother will not be happy when she sees you.”

The Star-Child said,

“I will buy him.”

The soldier with the gold flowers on his armour said,

“I'm looking for my mother.”

The old man said,

“What is your business in the city?”

5 **Decide** which day these events occurred: Day 1, Day 2 or Day 3.

- a. The magician ordered the Star-Child to bring him the piece of white gold.
- b. The magician ordered the Star-Child to bring him the piece of yellow gold.
- c. The magician ordered the Star-Child to bring him the piece of red gold.
- d. The Star-Child could not find the gold.
- e. The Star-Child freed a rabbit from a trap.
- f. The rabbit helped the Star-Child find the gold.

Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

6 **Choose** the right words to finish the story.

The Star-Child looked in the mirror and saw that he was still ugly / beautiful again. _____.

The priests and councillors told him to leave / _____ the city.

The Star-Child _____ / washed the feet of the beggar-woman.

The beggar-woman and the leper were really the King and Queen / _____.

7 **Think** about the end of the story. Do you like stories with happy endings? Why / why not?

after reading

1 **Match** these words from the story with their definitions.

A wound is...	...a device for catching animals.
A robe is...	...a piece of equipment used to weigh things.
Scales are...	...a very poor person who asks for money and food in the street.
A beggar is...	...a long metal object used for fighting.
A trap is...	...a hole in the ground with water for drinking.
A sword is...	...a long piece of clothing worn for special ceremonies.
A well is...	...a cut in the skin from an accident.

2 These three stories are about people who change. **Complete** the sentences describing how they change.

beautiful sad loved ugly angry
cruel simple angry happy

The Giant was _____ when the children played in his garden, but he was _____ when it was always winter and he was _____ when the children came back.

The Giant _____ the smallest child, but he was _____ when he saw the child's hands and feet.

The young King was only interested in _____ things, but when he saw in his dreams the suffering he had caused, he only wanted his _____ clothes for the coronation ceremony.

The Star-Child was beautiful but he was _____. When he was _____ he was humble and kind.

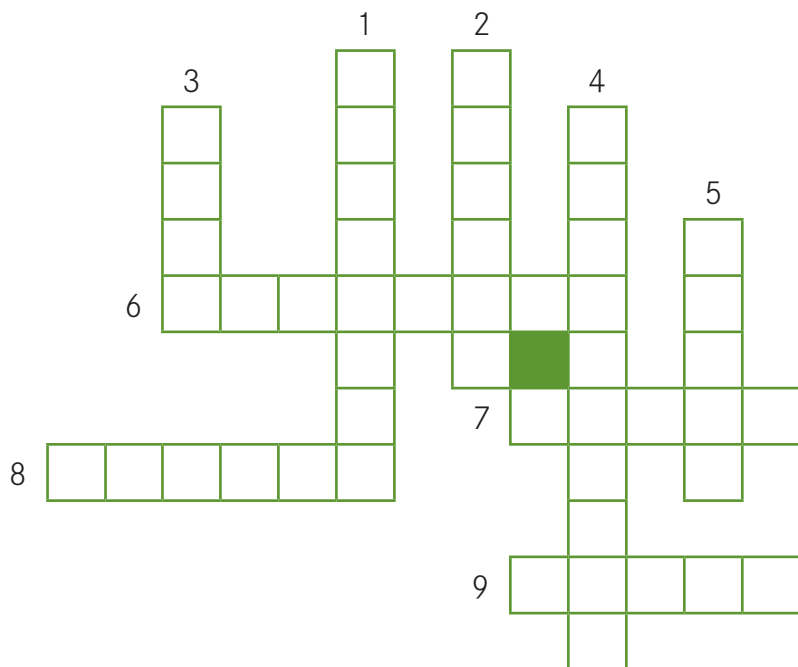
3 Do the crossword puzzle about different characters in the three stories.

Clues down

1. a servant to the royal family
2. a person who catches and kills animals, to eat or to sell
3. a man who rules a country
4. a person who chops down trees
5. a person who pulls on a wooden pole to move a boat through the water

Clues across

6. a person who looks after goats
7. a woman who rules a country
8. a very poor person who asks for money and food in the street
9. a person with the serious illness, leprosy, affecting their skin and extremities



after reading

- 4 Oscar Wilde included a lot of plants, animals and minerals into his stories. Can you **remember** which story these natural elements appeared in?

red flowers gold flowers white flowers
a rabbit in a trap a goat on a mountain
a bird in a tree golden lions and steps of quartz
golden leaves and silver fruit a pot of gold

The Selfish Giant _____

The Young King _____

The Star-Child _____

- 5 **Choose** the odd one out and **explain** your reasons.

The selfish Giant / The Star-Child / The beggar-woman

_____ is the odd one out, because _____.

The boy in the Giant's garden / The boy in the gold cape / The boy with the shepherd's stick

_____ is the odd one out, because

_____.

The Giant's garden / The young King's palace / The city where the Star-Child found his mother

_____ is the odd one out, because

_____.