



**Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie  
Wills Wilde**  
(1854 – 1900) Irish poet  
and **playwright.**



**Ireland (capital?)**

island

**Iceland (capital?)**




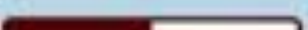
**Ireland** - /'aɪələnd/

island - /'aɪlənd/

**Iceland** - /'aɪslənd/



# IRELAND

0  100 km  
0  60 miles



ATLANTIC  
OCEAN



SCOTLAND

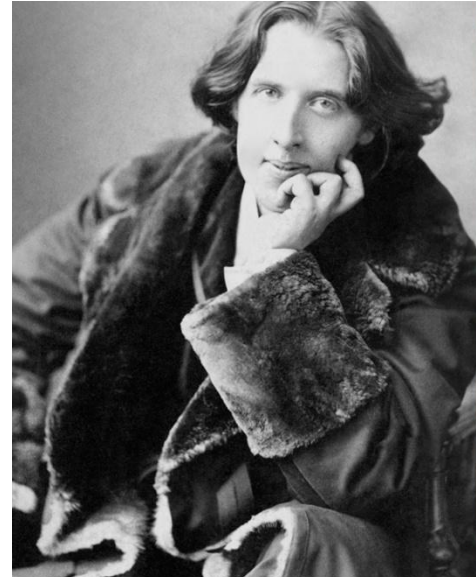
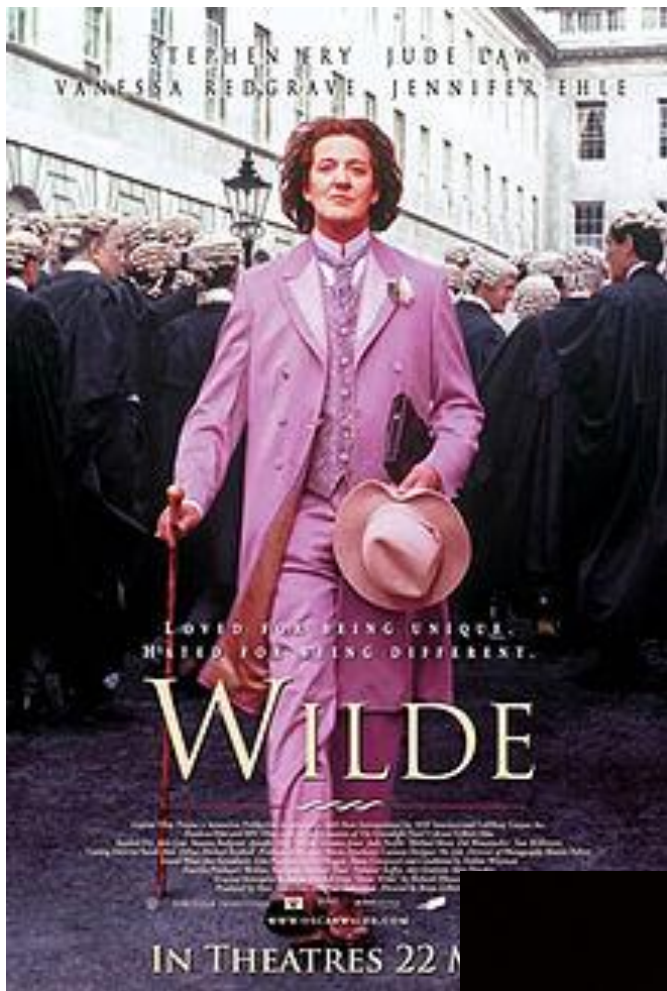
ENGLAND

UNITED  
KINGDOM

WALES

- Where was Oscar Wilde born (city)?
- In which country was he born?
- Which accent did he speak?

# Oscar Wilde by Stephen Fry





THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING  
**EARNEST**

# THE MODEL MILLIONAIRE

## THE AUTHOR

Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin in 1854 and studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Oxford. He quickly established himself as a prominent member of social and literary circles in London, and began to make a name for himself with his writings. These included poems and a novel (*The Picture of Dorian Gray*), but he was most celebrated for his witty, brilliant plays, such as *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and *An Ideal Husband*. He also wrote a number of shorter works, including short stories and some classic children's stories, which he wrote for his two sons. Wilde's homosexuality brought him into conflict with the morals of his time and he was sentenced to two years in prison, after which he went to live in exile in Paris, where he died in 1900.



- Facts about life
- Quotes
- How are they connected?

## NOTES

Ruff's *Guide* and Bailey's *Magazine* (p123)

two sporting journals, dealing with horse-racing and other sports – indispensable for a gentleman of this period

pekoe, souchong (p123)

varieties of tea

*bête* (p124)

(*French*) stupid

*A trouvaille, mon cher* (p125)

(*French*) A find, my dear!

Velasquez (p125)

Spanish realist painter (1599–1660), famous for his portraits

Rembrandt (p125)

Dutch painter (1606–69), also celebrated for his portraits

*A chacun son métier* (p126)

(*French*) Each to his own occupation

*Que voulez-vous? La fantaisie d'un millionnaire!* (p127)

(*French*) What do you expect? The whim of a millionaire!

*Son affaire c'est l'argent des autres.* (p127)

(*French*) Other people's money is his business.

not at home to any one (p127)

not available or willing to receive visitors

the Row (p128)

Rotten Row in Hyde Park, where fashionable Londoners went riding

*de la part de* (p128)

(*French*) on behalf of

- (on a plane) **On behalf of our company** let me wish you a pleasant journey
- (at a festival/meeting) **On behalf of our president** let me congratulate you on this occasion
- A trader placed bets in the markets **on behalf of Salomon Brothers.**
- He spoke out **on behalf of the poor, women, our fellow creatures and the environment.**

# on behalf of somebody

(also in **behalf of somebody** American English)

**a)** instead of someone, or as their representative

🔊 She asked the doctor to speak to her parents on her behalf.

🔊 On behalf of everyone here, may I wish you a very happy retirement.

**b)** because of or for someone

🔊 Oh, don't go to any trouble on my behalf.

- Exchange your vocabulary – find the ones you have in common
- Think of how to present it:
- - Ask a question about the word/phrase (“**What (How)** do we call...?” or describe a situation where it is used (Last night I...), but **don’t say the word – Classmates need to guess**
- **Example:**
- **-What do we call a piece of furniture that we sit on? It is usually wooden and not soft.**
- **-Class: a chair!**

12 pence = 1 **Shilling**  
20 shillings = 1 pound  
240 pence = 1 pound  
used to be silver



# Sovereign = 1 pound

- The **sovereign** is a **gold coin** of the United Kingdom, with a nominal value of one pound sterling. Struck from 1817 until the present time, it was originally a circulating **coin** accepted in Britain and **elsewhere in the world**



- The **guinea** was a coin of approximately one quarter ounce of gold that was minted in Great Britain between 1663 and



1814. The name came from the Guinea region in West Africa, where much of the gold used to make the coins originated. <sup>[2]</sup> It was the first English machine-struck gold coin, originally worth **one pound sterling, equal to twenty shillings**, but **risers in the price of gold relative to silver caused** the value of the guinea to increase, at times to as high as thirty shillings. From **1717 to 1816, its value was officially fixed at twenty-one shillings.**





**Guinea**

**Atlantic Ocean**



- there are
- 29 Knuts in a Sickle
- 17 Sickles in a Galleon
- 493 Knuts in a Galleon



## LANGUAGE FOCUS

- 1 Wilde's memorable statements often work in pairs, for example: *'What you call rags, I call romance. What seems poverty to you is picturesqueness to me.'* What other instances of this can you find? How does this work? Is it more effective than a single statement?
- 2 Find these expressions in the text and explain them in your own words.
  - *Trevor was a painter. Indeed, few people escape that nowadays. But he was also an artist, and artists are rather rare.* (p124)
  - *'Men who are dandies and women who are darlings rule the world, at least they should do so.'* (p124)
  - *'There are moments when Art almost attains to the dignity of manual labour.'* (p125)
  - *'An artist's heart is his head, and besides, our business is to realise the world as we see it, not to reform it as we know it.'* (p126)
  - *'I can understand your kissing a pretty model, but your giving a sovereign to an ugly one – by Jove, no!'* (p127)

# artist

*/ˈɑːtɪst/* 

*noun*

noun: **artist**; plural noun: **artists**

1. a person who creates paintings or drawings as a profession or hobby.

*СИНОНИМЫ:* creator, originator, designer, producer, fine artist; Ещё

- a person who practises or performs any of the creative arts, such as a sculptor, film-maker, actor, or dancer.
- a person skilled at a particular task or occupation.

"a surgeon who is an artist with the scalpel"

*СИНОНИМЫ:* expert, master, maestro, past master, adept, virtuoso, genius, old hand, skilled person; Ещё

*АНТОНИМЫ:* novice, amateur

- *What is the difference between a painter and an artist anyway? Can every painter be considered an artist, and every artist a painter?"*
- **Answer:**
- The problem with calling yourself a [painter](#) is that some people will think you mean someone who paints walls. The problem with calling yourself an artist is that some people will think you're being pretentious and some will worry you're a touch mad (believing all artists are like [Vincent van Gogh](#)). Whichever term you use you will encounter misunderstanding, so go with whichever you feel most comfortable.

# А.С.Пушкин. Евгений Онегин.

## Глава 8

- То сельский дом — и у окна  
Сидит *она*... и все она!..

### XXXVIII

- Он так привык теряться в этом,  
Что чуть с ума не своротил  
Или не сделался поэтом.  
Признаться: то-то б одолжил!  
А точно: силой магнетизма  
Стихов российских механизма  
Едва в то время не постиг  
Мой бестолковый ученик.  
Как походил он на поэта,  
Когда в углу сидел один,  
И перед ним пылал камин,  
И он мурлыкал: *Benedetta*  
Иль *Idol mio* и ронял  
В огонь то туфлю, то журнал.

## DISCUSSION

- 1 The first four sentences of the story set out what Wilde calls 'the great truths of modern life'. Yet Hughie defies them, and wins through regardless. Does this illustrate another great truth?
- 2 What kind of story is this? Is it just a light-hearted entertainment, or is there a moral in the story somewhere? If so, what might it be?
- 3 The Baron gets his painting; Alan gets paid; Hughie gets the £10,000 he needs; Laura gets her husband. How many of these things are achieved honestly? Does it matter?



4 Suppose that the Baron gave Hughie, not £10,000, but a job in one of his banks. After saving for several years Hughie at last has enough money to marry Laura. How would this change the tone of the story? Would it change your response to the story, and if so, how?

- What is the meaning of the title?

The Model Millionaire

Is *The Model Millionaire* is a good title for this story? Do you think that Wilde chose it because it was a good pun rather than because it suits the story (which is more about Hughie than about the Baron)? What alternative titles, for example, *A Kind Heart Rewarded* or *A Gift Repaid*, do you think would be more appropriate or more interesting?

# Write 100+ words. Present to the class

## ACTIVITIES

- 1 Write the speech the Baron gave at the wedding breakfast, explaining how he came to know Hughie.
- 2 Write the conversation between the Baron and Alan after Hughie leaves, in which the Baron finds out about Hughie's circumstances.
- 3 Suppose Hughie comes to you today for some advice about his future. Write a report summarising his job history, his good and bad qualities, and your recommendations for a future career.
4. Think of an alternative ending of the story (and a different moral too, maybe)