



The Happy Prince

By Oscar Wilde

جامعة ساوة

كلية التربية

قسم اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة الثانية

رقم المحاضرة 5

اسم المحاضر م. م. منار منصور علي

VIDEO

□ <https://youtu.be/IP7ESTU4Pxs?si=nhSTGZdjzLioTD3Z>

Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde (1856-1900) was an Irish poet and a brilliant author and playwright, he was born in Dublin in the middle of the Victorian age, the period of English history during queen Victoria ruled, from (1837-1901).

A brilliant scholar, he studied at Trinity College and Oxford, winning the Newdigate Prize in 1878.

Considered an eccentric, he was the leader of the aesthetic movement that advocated “art for art’s sake” Known for his flamboyant style ,” he gained fame for his wit and aesthetic views.

He published *Poems* (1881) and toured the U.S. in 1882. His major works include *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), *The Happy Prince and Other Tales* (1888), and successful plays such as *Lady Windermere’s Fan* (1892), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895).



Reading time



The Plot

The exposition (description) :

A- Introduction of the Happy Prince

The story begins by describing the magnificent statue of the Happy Prince, covered in gold leaf and precious stones. The townspeople admire him, thinking he must be eternally happy. But the statue contains the spirit of a real prince who only now sees the suffering of his people.

B-Arrival of the Swallow

A Swallow, on his way to Egypt for winter, seeks shelter at the base of the statue. The Happy Prince speaks to the Swallow and reveals his sorrow for the poor and suffering in the city.



The Plot



2- Acts of Charity (Rising Action) : The Happy Prince asks the Swallow to help him relieve the suffering he sees:

- a. The seamstress : The Swallow takes the Prince's ruby to a poor seamstress with a sick child.
- b. The playwright : The Swallow brings one of the Prince's sapphire eyes to a starving young playwright.
- c. The matchgirl : The Swallow takes the second sapphire eye to a poor matchgirl who has dropped her matches.

The Prince becomes blind, and the Swallow decides to stay with him instead of migrating.

The Plot

- 3- The Swallow's Final Sacrifice (Climax)
 - The Swallow flies around the city delivering the Prince's remaining gold leaf to the poor. ■■■
 - Winter arrives, and the Swallow grows weak and cold.
 - In a final act of devotion, the Swallow dies at the Prince's feet.

- 4- The Prince's Heart Breaks (Falling Action)
 - With the Swallow's death, the Happy Prince's lead heart cracks.
 - The townspeople, seeing the now shabby statue, decide it is no longer beautiful and take it down.

- 5- Conclusion / Moral Resolution
 - The Prince's heart and the dead Swallow are discarded.
 - God sends an angel to bring the two "most precious things in the city" to Heaven:
the Swallow and the Happy Prince's broken heart.
 - Together, they are rewarded for their compassion and selflessness.