

### Example 1

There are many aspects in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* that are directly involved in the construction of Dorian's moral disgrace, in terms of both the external role of society forming misconceptions based on people's looks and the internal awareness one develops about the distinction between right and wrong. Bringing these together, we could say that society contributed to shape Dorian's perception of himself. In her *Handbook to Gothic Literature*, Mulvey mentions the use of parallelism as an analogy that denotes the sense of Dorian's inner separation of soul and body, "as he remains perpetually young, so his portrait ages" (252). I consider the portrait itself as not only mirroring Dorian's soul, but also reflecting the extent to which society relies on appearances to build a notion of people's lives and their inner value. In addition to this, it can be said that the importance of the portrait is not only based on the separation between his body and soul, but on the fact that through that division he was able to maintain his sins hidden, in a place where people could not perceive them. As the novel unfolds and Dorian gains experience with the dark, sinful side of life, his sense of morality fades away since there is no one to witness the consequences of his behavior. And the reason why no one notices his corruption, at first glance, is the judging habit that makes people focus on what is clearly visible, without searching into the real depths of one's mind and actions.

**Commented [PASMV(1)]:** Your classmate clearly and succinctly explains the relevant claim by Mulvey, quoting to convey Mulvey's main point.

**Commented [PASMV(2)]:** Your classmate expresses her agreement with Mulvey, but at the same time explains that she finds it necessary to expand upon Mulvey's ideas to include society in her own analysis of the portrait.

**Commented [PASMV(3)]:** After expanding on Mulvey's interpretation of the text, your classmate is able to develop and present her own argument more clearly.

### Example 2

There are two factors that we need to take into account when talking about social judgement and the development of Dorian's sense of morality: how Dorian is perceived and therefore treated by society, and how he starts to perceive himself based on that. The characters of Henry and Basil are quite significant to understand this, as they represent two different approaches to dealing with imposed norms and the perceptions of others, as well as the conflict between hidden sins and the visible nature of one's soul, while contributing to Dorian's awakening concerning his own appearance. In his work, Riquelme discusses how Basil and Henry represent the double nature of Dorian, which is highlighted by their contribution to the creation of the portrait. Riquelme also alludes to the similarities between Henry and the character the of Victor in *Frankenstein*, by influencing Dorian to a point where he produces a sort of destructive double of himself (616). Even though I agree with the importance given to Basil and Henry in the production of the portrait, as well as Henry's relevance in the development of Dorian's personality, I would argue that this overlooks the fact that Dorian eventually forms his own posture and stops accepting everything Henry says as true. Moreover, the comparison with *Frankenstein* is not so accurate, for the differences between Victor and Henry are greater than their similarities: Henry does not create a living being resembling himself and is not involved in the development of the creature. In addition to this, it must be recalled that the creature in *Frankenstein* formed his deviant personality by suffering social rejection due to his dreadful appearance, which contrasted with his sensitive soul. On the contrary, Dorian remains untouched by the prejudices of society, precisely because his youthful looks separate him, in appearance, from the dark nature of his soul, which allowed him to commit his sins without being socially alienated.

**Commented [PASMV(4)]:** Your classmate clearly explains the relevant elements of Riquelme's argument in two sentences. Note that these are not her own ideas: she is merely reporting someone else's point of view.

**Commented [PASMV(5)]:** Your classmate succinctly points out what she finds useful in Riquelme's study, and then moves on to state that she fundamentally disagrees with a key aspect of his argument (namely, the importance given to Dorian's own free will or moral responsibility).

**Commented [PASMV(6)]:** As she has also read *Frankenstein*, your classmate is able to explain why she thinks the comparison between Henry and Victor is not so apt. Furthermore, she uses this critique as an opportunity to further develop her own argument by comparing Dorian Gray to the Creature.