

# Oscar Wilde's Short Stories

Retold by Victoria Heward

## KEY TO THE EXERCISES AND EXIT TEST

### The Young King

#### BEFORE YOU READ

##### Page 8 Exercise 1

- white
- orange
- green
- blue-green
- red

##### Page 8 Exercise 2

- d
- e
- c
- b
- a

##### Page 9 Exercise 3

- h
- f
- a
- d
- b
- i
- g
- c
- e

##### Page 9 Exercise 4

dig – dug  
grow – grew  
throw – threw  
laugh – laughed  
kneel – knelt

- threw
- grew
- laughed
- dug
- knelt

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 1

##### Page 14 Exercise 1

- Some people thought her husband was an artist and some people thought he was a musician. But his identity was a mystery.
- Some men took him while his mother was sleeping. The men left the baby with a very poor family.
- He fell in love with all the beautiful things around him
- The people of the city talked about him: they said that he spent all his time admiring statues. 'Beauty and art are the most important things for him.'
- He was so fascinated with beautiful objects that he wanted more of them. He sent merchants to India to buy ivory and jade. He sent men to Persia for silk carpets and others to find amber in the north. He sent servants to look for green turquoise in the magic tombs of the Egyptian kings.
- The room was full of silver and gold and beautiful colours.



## KEY TO THE EXERCISES

#### Page 14 Exercise 2

- B
- B
- C
- A
- C
- B
- C
- B

#### Tapescript:

The King is very old and everyone is worried. What will happen when he dies? Look at the questions below. You will hear a conversation between the servant and the King. For each question put a tick in the correct box.

**Servant:** Your Majesty we are all very worried.

**King:** Why? What's the problem?

**Servant:** Well, Your Majesty you have no son and you're not very young!

**King:** Yes I know, I know. It's a problem. But listen, I want to tell you all something. I have no son but I had a daughter.

**Servant:** But, Your Majesty, that's impossible. She can't be king. Not a girl!

**King:** Be quiet, man. Let me finish the story. My daughter, the princess, was not married but she had a son.

**All:** A son!!

**King:** Yes, a secret son. He is a shepherd and lives in the forest with a very poor family. He looks after goats. I want you to find this boy and bring him to the castle. He will be the King when I die.

**Servant:** But, Your Majesty, the boy is poor and he knows nothing about Kings and ...

**King:** Don't interrupt! Go into the forest and find the boy. NOW!!

**Servant:** Yes, Your Majesty.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART TWO

##### Page 23 Exercise 1

First Dream

- What is the room like?
- What are the people doing?
- Is anybody free?

Second Dream

- What are the (hundred) slaves doing?

- What does the master of the ship do when they arrive in the bay?
- Where does the master put the pearls?

Third Dream

- What (animals, birds and reptiles) can the Young King see?
- Where are Death and Avarice?
- Who does Death send to kill the men?

##### Page 23 Exercise 2

- k
- b
- l
- e
- j
- i
- f
- d
- a
- c

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 3

##### Page 28 Exercise 1

- B He sent merchants to India to buy ivory and jade.
- B Servants arrived and put flower petals on his pillow.
- A
- A
- B The master of the ship looks at the pearls and puts them into a little green bag.
- B Death wants one grain of corn.
- A
- B He says that the rich and the poor are brothers.
- A
- A

##### Page 28 Exercise 2

- crown
- tunic
- robe
- poor
- people
- rich
- brothers
- Julia
- Max
- clothes

#### Tapescript:

You will hear Max and Julia speaking. They are watching the coronation procession of the Young King. Listen to their conversation and look at the summary below. Some information is missing. Fill in the missing information in the numbered spaces.

**Julia:** Look, Max, look! It's the Young King.

**Max:** He's not a king, he's a shepherd. He's wearing a crown of briars and a leather tunic.

**Julia:** What does a King usually wear?

**Max:** Don't you know anything, Julia!

A golden robe and a crown with jewels in it.

**Julia:** What jewels does a king have in his crown?

**Max:** Oh it depends. Diamonds, rubies, sapphires.

**Julia:** So why does this king wear a leather tunic and carry a shepherd's staff?

**Max:** I don't know. Here he is, let's ask him. Excuse me, Your Majesty, why are you wearing the clothes of a poor man?

**The Young King:** Because clothes are not important, people are important. The rich and poor are brothers.

**Julia:** Thank you, Your Majesty, very interesting. I agree with you.

**Max:** Sorry, Your Majesty, I don't agree. I think a king must wear a king's clothes.

Animals	Reptiles and insects	Places	Plants and flowers
mole hare squirrel rabbit cat dog horse	fly snake toad butterfly lizard mosquito ladybird	forest cave pond city garden mountain	violets pine tree daffodils rose daisy oak tree palm tree

#### Page 35 Exercise 2

- fly
- cry
- hug
- follow

#### Page 35 Exercise 3

- c
- f
- e
- a
- b
- g
- d

#### Page 36 Exercise 4

- b
- d
- f
- e
- a
- c

#### Page 36 Exercise 5

Open answer.

### THE CROWN JEWELS

#### Page 31 Exercise 1

Possible answer:

- a golden robe, a crown of rubies and a sceptre of pearls probably represent power and authority (perhaps money too).
- simplicity and humility

## The Star-Child

#### BEFORE YOU READ

#### Page 34 Exercise 1

- j
- e
- c
- b
- h
- d
- l
- f
- a
- k
- i
- g

(Suggested answers in italics after)

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 1

#### Page 41 Exercise 1

- woodcutters
- they
- sky
- star
- gold
- neck
- child / baby / boy
- wife
- children
- food
- pity
- bed

#### Page 41 Exercise 2

Open answer.

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 2

#### Page 47 Exercise 1

- B
- B
- D
- D
- C
- A
- B

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 3

#### Page 51 Exercise 1

- The Star-Child is speaking.  
The Star-Child is listening.  
(The Star-Child is actually speaking to himself.)
- The woodcutter's daughter is speaking.  
The Star-Child is listening.
- The Star-Child is speaking.  
The mole is listening.
- The bird is speaking.  
The Star-Child is listening.
- The squirrel is speaking.  
The Star-Child is listening.

#### Page 51 Exercise 2

- well
- skin
- leaves
- mole
- villages

#### UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 4

#### Page 61 Exercise 1

- big city
- mothers don't love ugly children
- a magician
- old bread
- free
- white gold
- trap
- a tree
- an old man
- angry
- in a pool
- in a cave
- people think
- a king
- queen
- good

#### Page 61 Exercise 2

Open answers.

#### Page 62 Exercise 3

- wake up
- early
- sleep
- eat
- have
- generous
- know
- poor / ugly
- poor / ugly
- rude
- give
- bring

#### Tapescript:

*Listen to this conversation twice and fill in the gaps. The Magician and the Star-Child are talking early one morning.*

**Magician:** Come on, boy, wake up.

**Star-Child:** What time is it? Is it morning already?

**Magician:** It's 6 o'clock.

**Star-Child:** 6.00!! That's very early. Can I sleep some more, please?

**Magician:** What? This is a prison, boy, not a hotel!

**Star-Child:** Alright, alright. Can I have something to eat then?

**Magician:** You can have this piece of bread.

**Star-Child:** Thank you very much.

Very generous. What's your name?

**Magician:** I haven't got a name. I'm a magician.

**Star-Child:** Oh!

**Magician:** And what's your name?

**Star-Child:** I haven't got a name. I'm a Star-Child.

**Magician:** Oh. And why are you in this city, Star-Child?

**Star-Child:** I'm looking for my mother. Perhaps you know her. She's very poor and extremely ugly.

**Magician:** Like her son. Ha, ha, ha.

**Star-Child:** Don't be rude and give me some water, please.

**Magician:** Alright boy, but remember, if you don't bring me the gold there will be no more food for you tomorrow. Ha, ha, ha.

**Page 63 Exercises 4-5**

(answers in any order)

a. early	late
b. ugly	beautiful
c. generous	mean
d. rude	polite
e. poor	rich

**Page 63 Exercises 6-7-8**

Open answers.

**LIFE IN VICTORIAN TIMES****Page 65 Exercise 1**

- a. 'The Young King'. In his first dream he sees poor people working in a factory for a cruel master.
- b. Possible answers:  
telephone/e-mail: for worldwide communication; car: lets people travel freely, they have more time to do things, more choice for work, shopping, school, free time etc.; aeroplane: lets people see new places and discover cultures and ways of life which are different from their own.  
Other ideas might be:  
television/mobile phone/internet

**Page 65 Exercises 2-3**

Open answers.

## The Nightingale and the Rose

**BEFORE YOU READ****Page 70 Exercise 1**

- a. 2 b. 3 c. 7 d. 6 e. 5 f. 1  
g. 12 h. 8 i. 11 j. 13 k. 9 l. 14  
m. 4 n. 10

**Page 71 Exercise 2**

- branches
- butterfly
- blood

- ball
- mirror
- oak
- daisy
- cart
- emeralds
- Chamberlain
- wheels
- coins
- moonlight
- sundial
- tears

Secret message: *Hello Oscar Wilde***UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 1****Page 75 Exercise 1**

- The Student needs a red rose but there are none in the garden.
- The Student is very sad because he can't find a red rose.
- The Nightingale is happy because finally she sees a true lover.
- The Professor's daughter will dance with the student if he gives her a red rose.
- The Student studies philosophy but now it's not useful to him.
- The animals don't understand so they laugh at the student.
- The Nightingale thinks love is important so she sings a beautiful song.

**Page 75 Exercise 2**

- The Professor's daughter says she will dance with him if he gives her a red rose.
- She sings of love and happiness.
- Yellow roses, white roses and daisies.
- She thinks that love is a wonderful thing which is more precious than emeralds, opals and pearls, and that you cannot buy love in the market place with gold coins.
- He has no red rose and starts to cry because the Professor's daughter will not dance with him.
- They don't understand why he is crying. They think it is ridiculous to cry for a red rose.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 2****Page 79 Exercise 1**

- Saturday
- 8.00 / 8pm / 8 o'clock
- The Prince's palace
- Emily
- Best clothes
- A red rose
- Emily's house / The Professor's house
- 7.30 / half past seven

**Page 80 Exercise 2**

- Where is the white rose tree? In the middle of the garden
- What colour are the roses round the sundial? They are yellow.
- Where does the red rose tree grow? It grows under the Student's window.
- Why does the red rose tree have no flowers this year? The winter was cold and his branches are broken.
- How can the Nightingale make a red rose? She must build it by moonlight with music and colour it with her own blood. She must sing to the rose tree all night and press her heart against one of its thorns.
- What does the Nightingale like to do? She likes to fly and to look at the flowers and to smell their perfumes in the wind.
- Is the heart of a man more important than the heart of a bird? The Nightingale thinks that the heart of a man is more important than the heart of a bird. Perhaps the students will be interested in discussing the relative importance of animals and humans etc.

**Page 80 Exercise 3**

- It's the Student.
- He's feeling sad.
- He can't find a red rose. / He's thinking about love.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 3****Page 84 Exercise 1**

- She asked him to be a true lover.
- He thought that artists were not sincere. They never do anything practical to help anybody.
- She pressed her heart against one of the thorns and all night she sang her sweetest songs.
- 'Come closer! If not, the day will come before the rose is finished.'
- The white moon heard it, the red rose heard the song and opened her petals in the cold morning air. The sleeping shepherds woke up when they heard it and the river carried its message to the sea. The rose tree heard the song.
- The Nightingale didn't hear because she was dead on the grass with the thorn in her heart.

**Page 84 Exercise 2****A** 1. A 2. C 3. B 4. B 5. C

- B** 1. He loves studying and Emily.  
2. All the boys love Emily.  
3. He thinks there are a lot of red roses around so probably it won't be difficult to find one.

**Tapescript:**

*Listen to William and then answer the questions. Choose the best answer A, B, or C.*

*Hello. My name's William and I'm a student. I love studying history and philosophy. When I'm older I want to be a professor at university. I live in a big house with my mother and father. They are very rich and buy me lots of things. I'm not really interested in the things they buy because I love only two things: studying and Emily. Let me tell you about Emily. Emily is the Professor's daughter. She lives with her father and is very beautiful. There's only one problem. All the boys love Emily. She says she'll dance with me if I give her a red rose. That's not very difficult, there are lots of red roses around... I think!*



**Page 85 Exercise 3**

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. B

**Tapescript:**

Now listen to Emily and answer the questions. Choose the best answer A, B, or C.

Hello, my name's Emily. I'm the Professor's daughter and everybody says I'm very beautiful. All the boys love me. There's Richard, the woodcutter's son and Jonathan the artist... oh yes and that student... I can't remember his name, yes, William. But the one I like most is Tristram the Chamberlain's son. Chamberlains are very important, you know. He always buys me beautiful presents. I like boys who spend a lot of money. I think I will dance with him at the Prince's ball on Saturday.

**Page 85 Exercise 4**

Open answer.

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT PART 4****Page 89 Exercise 1**

- a. So that the Professor's daughter will dance with him.
- b. The Nightingale thinks that love is a wonderful thing which money cannot buy.
- c. A butterfly, a daisy and a little green lizard say 'That's ridiculous'. They can't imagine why a boy is crying because of a red rose.
- d. In the middle of the garden.
- e. Around the sun dial.
- f. The rose tree which grows around the student's window. / The red rose tree.
- g. She must build it by moonlight with music and colour it with her own blood. She must sing to the rose tree all night and press her heart against one of its thorns.
- h. He cannot find a red rose.
- i. No she isn't happy. Her dress is blue and she doesn't like the colour of the red rose.
- j. The student throws it to the ground and a cart passes and crushes it.

**GRAMMAR****Page 90 Exercise 1**

- a. will go
- b. will do
- c. will be
- d. will buy
- e. will visit

**Page 90 Exercise 2**

Open answer.

**Page 91 Exercise 3**

1. The Student says, 'If I take her a red rose, she will dance with me.'
2. The Nightingale says, 'If you give me a red rose, I will sing my sweetest song.'
3. The Magician says, 'If you find the gold, you will be free.'
4. The old man says, 'If you don't give me some money, I will die of hunger.'
5. The woodcutter says, 'If we leave the baby here, he will die.'

**Page 91 Exercises 4-5**

Open answers.

**Page 92 Exercise 6**

1. The master of the boat was black like ebony.
2. The pearl was round and white like the moon.
3. His hair was gold like daffodils.
4. His eyes were blue like violets near a river.
5. His skin was white like ivory.
6. The rose was pink like a red rose in a silver mirror.
7. The rose was silver like the new day.
8. My roses are white like the snow on the mountain.

**Page 92 Exercise 7**

Open answer.

**EXIT TEST****Page 93 Exercise 1**

a. 6 b. 7 c. 5 d. 2 e. 1 f. 4 g. 3

**Page 93 Exercise 2**

- a. elegant
- b. greedy

- c. helpful
- d. in love
- e. lazy
- f. sincere

**Page 94 Exercise 3**

The Young King is...  
at the beginning... poor, humble (if we consider the beginning as when he lived in the forest), happy (he loved the palace and the fine things around him), elegant (he wore beautiful clothes), arrogant (he commanded people to work for him and accepted only the best), lazy (he spends his time just looking at beautiful things) at the end... intelligent (he realises the truth about the rich and the poor), humble (he wears his shepherds clothes in the place of a king's clothes), sincere (he believes that the rich and poor are brothers), beautiful (he looks like/is an angel).

The Star Child is...

at the beginning... beautiful, rude (to his father and the priest), arrogant at the end... happy (to find his mother and father), humble (he realises his mistakes and begs forgiveness), beautiful (he becomes beautiful again).

The Student is...

at the beginning... in love, sad (because the professor's daughter doesn't love him) at the end... stupid! (he doesn't understand the true value of love or of the Nightingale's sacrifice), rude (at least the Professor's daughter says so!).

**Page 94 Exercises 4-5**

Open answers.

**Page 94 Exercise 6**

- a. The Star Child (the mole, the bird, the squirrel, the hare)  
The Nightingale and the Rose (the nightingale, the rose bushes, a daisy, a lizard and a butterfly)
- b. Open answer.
- c. Possible answers:  
Aesop's fables (the tortoise and the hare, the fox and the grapes);

Fairy stories (Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Little Red Riding Hood, The Frog Princess, Puss-In Boots); less traditional stories for children: Winnie the Pooh, Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck etc.

**Page 95 Exercise 7**

- a. 'The Young King' and 'The Star-Child'
- b. The Young King is the secret daughter of a princess who becomes king when the old king dies. When the time comes for his coronation he refuses to wear the clothes which a king usually wears. The Star-Child becomes king when he accepts that his mother is a poor beggar and has learnt pity and humility.
- c. Open answer.

**Page 95 Exercise 8**

Open answer.

**Page 95 Exercise 9**

The Young King  
love / death / suffering / poor people / angry people / magical clothes (his angelic coronation robes) / beautiful jewels / a poor person becomes rich / a child who doesn't know his father / sacrifice / one person transforms into a different person / a king

The Star-Child  
love / hate / death / suffering / poor people / angry people / magical clothes / beautiful jewels / speaking animals / a poor person becomes rich (perhaps the woodcutter becomes rich when the boy sends him gifts) / a child who doesn't know his father / sacrifice / one person transforms into a different person / a king / a queen

The Nightingale and the Rose  
love / death / suffering / speaking animals / sacrifice / a beautiful girl

**Page 96 Exercise 10**

Open answers.

## CONTEXT

- 1** Decide if the following questions are true (T) or false (F) and correct the false ones.

	T	F
a. Oscar Wilde was English.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. His parents were important people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Oscar studied at Cambridge University.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> is his most famous play.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. He was a very clever, amusing man.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Oscar lived during the reign of Queen Victoria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Charles Dickens's stories were less realistic than Oscar Wilde's.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Doctor Barnardo was a famous Suffragette.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## COMPREHENSION

- 2** Answer the following questions.

- At the beginning of the story what were the most interesting things for the Young King?
- How many dreams did the Young King have?
- What did the Young King learn from his dreams?
- Make a list of the Star-Child's defects.
- Why did the old woman faint?
- Why did the Star-Child run away?
- Who was his mother?
- Why was the Student sad?
- What was the Nightingale's sacrifice?

- F – He was Irish.
  - T
  - F – He studied at Oxford University.
  - F – It is his most famous novel.
  - T
  - T
  - F – They were more realistic than Oscar Wilde's.
  - F – He built special houses for poor children.
- Beauty and art.
  - Three.
  - He learnt that the rich and the poor are brothers.
  - He was cruel, arrogant and selfish. He had no pity for poor people and he laughed at ugly and ill people. He liked to see animals suffer. He was very vain.
  - Because she realised that the Star-Child was her son.
  - Because he wanted to find his mother and say sorry for treating her badly.
  - She was a queen.
  - Because he needed a red rose to be able to dance with the Professor's daughter and he couldn't find one.
  - She killed herself to be able to produce a red rose for the Student.