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# THE SHORT STORY

# SECOND YEAR

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# The story of 'The Happy Prince'

**Themes:**

Love, compassion and sacrifice are all a part of the themes of Oscar Wilde's 'The Happy Prince.' In this lesson, we'll take a closer look at the lessons this story has to teach us about interacting with others.

## Judging on Appearance

The idea of judging someone based on how they look is one of the central themes of Oscar Wilde's "The Happy Prince." Wilde's writing tells the story of a majestic prince that overlooks the city, adorned in gold leaf and jewels such as sapphires and rubies. Yet, despite his wealth, he's not happy. He is saddened by the poverty he sees from his perch atop the city. He sets out to rid himself of his wealth to help the people below him, but once he has sacrificed everything, he's no longer deemed beautiful by the townspeople.

## Being Judgmental:

The Happy Prince has given of his beauty and possession - his gold leaf covering, sapphire eyes and ruby from his sword - to benefit the impoverished people he's witnessed below. Instead of being grateful for his care and compassion, the townspeople judge the prince by his outward appearance. They choose to pull the statue down and melt its 'ugliness' away. The idea of this theme is not to judge people according to their outward appearance. They may have a heart of gold inside'.

**Sacrifice:**

When you give all you have for the benefit of others, that's sacrifice. We can see the sacrificial giving of both the Happy Prince and the swallow in this story. The prince has gifted (given) his gold covering and even his eyes for the benefits of the poor people he's watched from above, while the swallow has sacrificed his travel plans and, ultimately, his life, for his new mission alongside the prince. In the end, their sacrifices are rewarded as they are carried away to Heaven by angels who deem them to be "the two most precious things in the city."

**Love and Compassion:**

During his life, the prince lived in a place "where sorrow is not allowed to enter." Now, on his perch above the city, he can see all the heartaches of the people in the town and is compelled to help them. He gives everything he has to give, including his sight, to show his love and compassion for the people who need it most. Outward beauty is nothing. It is just a show. The real beauties are love and sacrifices.

Love and sacrifice are two saving forces. There is great gap between the rich and the poor, the rulers and the masses. God loves those who love their fellow human beings.

**What is the moral of the story The Happy Prince?**

The moral lesson of "The Happy Prince" by Oscar Wilde is that the worst aspects of modern society can be overcome by love and charity, which have the unique ability to unite men and make them whole.

**What is the conclusion of the Happy Prince?**

The conclusion of "The Happy Prince" shows the Sparrow and the prince transported to heaven. God calls them the "most precious" objects in the city because of their good deeds. They will spend eternity in paradise.

**What was done after Prince death?**

So the courtiers called him the Happy Prince. But after his death, his statue was put on a high pedestal. Now he could see the misery of the people all around.

**What made the Happy Prince cry?**

Answer: The statue of the Happy Prince was weeping because when he had been alive, he had not known any sorrow. But after his statue had been erected, he was able to see all the ugliness and misery of the city, and even though he now had a heart of lead, he could still feel the pain, which made him cry.

**What kind of story is The Happy Prince?**

fantasy short story

"The Happy Prince" is a fantasy short story for children by the Irish author Oscar Wilde. It was first published in the 1888 anthology The Happy Prince and Other Tales, which also contains "The Nightingale and the Rose", "The Selfish Giant", "The Devoted Friend" and "The Remarkable Rocket".