

Title: The Happy Prince and Other Tales

Author: Oscar Wilde

Publisher: Bodleian Library Publishing

Category: Fiction

Genre: Fairy Tale

In not less than 60 words, describe the content of the story.

Oscar Wilde's *The Happy Prince* blends beauty and irony in five fables. A selfless prince and swallow help the poor. A nightingale dies for love but its rose is rejected. A selfish giant learns kindness. A manipulative miller exploits friendship. A rocket indulged in self-bragging and with absurd pride eventually explodes and becomes an empty laughing-stock.

Write a brief comment or your impression of the book.

This book is a heartbreakingly beautiful tale of selflessness and sacrifice. The gilded prince, once ignorant of suffering, then gives up his riches to help the poor, while the loyal swallow stays by his side until the end. Wilde contrasts superficial beauty with true compassion, critiquing societal indifference. The story's tragic yet redemptive ending lingers – a poignant reminder that real value lies not in gold, but in empathy and love. A timeless fable that remains deeply moving.

Name one or two characters in the book that impress you most & state the reasons why the character impresses you.

The nightingale's fatal devotion haunts me – singing with a thorn in her heart, dying to paint a rose red for a young student to win the love of the professor's daughter, only to have it discarded. When the student is rejected, "he threw the rose into the street, where it fell into the gutter". The nightingale's sacrifice isn't just tragic; it's a rebellion against a world that mocks purity. Wilde makes her blood bloom into eternal irony: the deepest beauty often withers in human hands, yet its radiance condemns our cynicism forever.

If I could rewrite any part of the story, I would make the following changes:

I would rewrite the part where the nightingale flies off in search of the tree with the red roses because the rose tree requires her life as payment for a red rose. But death is not the best way to exchange for a red rose; to do so would be a sign of contempt for life. The supremacy of romantic love for the realist is too idealistic. The fairy tale ends in tragedy which should never happen because no rose or infatuation is as precious as life.