Geology Through Literature

Using *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde

While seeming to offer no geological significance, several works can still be used to describe the beauty available in the natural world. One of those works is *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde where in one portion of the book the title character becomes obsessed with gems and minerals. This leads to a rather lengthy discussion and listing of several varieties of gems, minerals, precious metals, and a host of other things (some of which I still am not sure what are).

Project Description

Directions:

Read Chapter 11 (around the middle of the chapter, begins "On one occasion he took up the study of jewels" of *Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde. There are approximately 35 different varieties of gems, minerals, and precious metals mentioned in the text. The minerals mentioned in the text are listed out on the provided sheet.

Questions:

(A website that might be of some use is: http://gwydir.demon.co.uk/jo/minerals/dorian.htm, but I recommend using Google and Yahoo! as a back-up as well since that website does not always give the correct answers)

1. Several of the gems and minerals have multiple colors listed in the text. Write down the colors mentioned on the chart under the **Color Variations** column.
2. Several of the gems and minerals also list special properties in the text. Write down the special properties on the chart under the **Special Properties** column.
3. Gem names are often specific colored varieties of certain minerals (i.e. purple quartz is called amethyst). List what the mineral name is for the open boxes on the chart under the **Alias** column. *(The red boxes I am unable to determine so I will not expect anyone else to determine them either. See Bonus Question 1.)*
4. There are 4 different varieties of Quartz (or chalcedony, which is a variety of quartz) mentioned. What are those gems mentioned?
    a.
    b.
    c.
    d.
5. According to Mohs Hardness Scale, which of the minerals/gems mentioned are on the scale? (Fill in the blanks below, multiple blanks means multiple answers)
    a. 1 – Talc
    b. 2 – _____
    c. 3 – Calcite
    d. 4 – Fluorite
    e. 5 – Apatite
    f. 6 – _____; _____
    g. 7 – _____; _____; _____; _____;
    h. 8 – _____;
    i. 9 – _____; _____;
    j. 10 – _____;
6. Looking at all the duplicates in the **Alias** column (i.e. garnet, quartz, etc.) what is the principle difference, other than color, between the different varieties of the same mineral?
7. What is the difference between Balas Rubies and regular Rubies?

8. Amethyst is mentioned that it “drove away the fumes of wine”. What did the ancient Greeks do with amethyst that helped corroborate this claim?
9. Which of the three gems mentioned are not inorganically formed but biologically produced?
    a.
    b.
    c.

Bonus (i.e harder than normal)

1. Fill in the dark red boxes for **Aliases** of the 3 unknown gems (aspilate, hydropicus, and meloceus) *And if you do know what these are let me know as well.*
2. What is the difference between Turquoise and Turquoise de la vieille roche?

Number	Mineral/Gems	Color Variations	Special Properties	Alias
1	Agate of India (Agate)			
2	Amethyst			Quartz
3	Aspilate			
4	Balas rubies			
5	Balasses			
6	Bezoar			Bezoar
7	Carbuncle			
8	Chrysoberyl			Chrysoberyl
9	Chrysolite			
10	Cinnamon Stones			
11	Cornelian			
12	Cymophane			
13	Diamond			Diamond
14	Emeraults			
15	Emerald			
16	Garnet			Garnet
17	Gold			Gold
18	Hyacinth			
19	Hydropicus			
20	Jacinth			
21	Meloceus			
22	Moonstone			
23	Opal			Opal
24	Orient			
25	Pearl			Pearl
26	Peridot			
27	Ruby			
28	Sapphire			

Number	Mineral/Gems	Color Variations	Special Properties	Alias
29	Sardius			
30	Selenite			
31	Silver			**Silver**
32	Spinel			**Spinel**
33	Sunstone			
34	Topaz			**Topaz**
35	Turquoise			**Turquoise**
36	Turquoise de la vieille roche			**Turquoise**