

The Importance Of Being Earnest And Four Other Plays

'To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.' Ever since its debut on February 14th, 1895, *The Importance of Being Earnest* has been a literary and theatrical success. The brilliance of the witty conversation never ceases to delight and entertain. However, beneath its dazzling ironic humour, there is a deep vein of social criticism of Victorian society. This intricate mix of comedy, absurdity, ambiguity and social criticism makes *The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde's masterpiece. Building on the formula of York Notes, this Advanced series introduces students to more sophisticated analysis and wider critical perspectives. Previous ed.: 1999.

Unlock the more straightforward side of *The Importance of Being Earnest* with this concise and insightful summary and analysis! This engaging summary presents an analysis of *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde, which tells the story of Jack Worthing, a country gentleman who frequently assumes the alias 'Earnest' to escape his responsibilities. Shortly after discovering that his friend Algernon is leading a similar double life, the two men both fall in love, and their false identities are soon exposed, leading to a series of mishaps and misunderstandings which are intended to both entertain the audience and encourage them to reflect on the hypocrisy that was rampant in Victorian upper-class society. Wilde was one of the most fascinating authors of the 19th century, known as much for his witticisms as for his writing. His most notable works include the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the comic plays *An Ideal Husband* and *Lady Windermere's Fan*. Find out everything you need to know about *The Importance of Being Earnest* in a fraction of the time! This in-depth and informative reading guide brings you: • A complete plot summary • Character studies • Key themes and symbols • Questions for further reflection Why choose BrightSummaries.com? Available in print and digital format, our publications are designed to accompany you on your reading journey. The clear and concise style makes for easy understanding, providing the perfect opportunity to improve your literary knowledge in no time. See the very best of literature in a whole new light with BrightSummaries.com!

Acknowledged as Wilde's most perfect comedy, brilliant and subversive, *The Importance of Being Earnest* has even been considered to anticipate the 'drama of the absurd' of the twentieth century. Guided activities and introduction help the student to appreciate this masterpiece.

Key Features: Study methods Introduction to the text Summaries with critical notes Themes and techniques Textual analysis of key passages Author biography Historical and literary background Modern and historical critical approaches Chronology Glossary of literary terms The Annotated *Importance of Being Earnest* provides facing-page commentary on Oscar Wilde's greatest play. Editor Nicholas Frankel highlights the play's relation to the author's homosexuality and to the climate of sexual repression that led to Wilde's imprisonment just months after the play's London opening in 1895.

Introduction to one of the theatre's most important and enigmatic writers.

This edition of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* locates his writings within the broader cultural concerns of his day and examines Wilde's aestheticism, his sexual politics, his socialist ideas, and his allegiances to Irish nationalism,

The Importance of Being Earnest and Four Other Plays, by Oscar Wilde, is part of the Barnes & Noble Classics series, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of Barnes &

Noble Classics: New introductions commissioned from today's top writers and scholars
Biographies of the authors Chronologies of contemporary historical, biographical, and cultural events
Footnotes and endnotes Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, plays, paintings, operas, statuary, and films inspired by the work
Comments by other famous authors Study questions to challenge the reader's viewpoints and expectations
Bibliographies for further reading Indices & Glossaries, when appropriate All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. Barnes & Noble Classics pulls together a constellation of influences—biographical, historical, and literary—to enrich each reader's understanding of these enduring works. Oscar Wilde's legendary wit dazzles in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, one of the greatest and most popular works of drama to emerge from Victorian England. A light-hearted satire of the absurdity of all forms and conventions, this comic masterpiece features an unforgettable cast of characters who, as critic Max Beerbohm observed, "speak a kind of beautiful nonsense—the language of high comedy, twisted into fantasy." This collection also includes Oscar Wilde's most famous comedies, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, and *An Ideal Husband*, as well as his poetic tragedy *Salomé*—all written between 1891 and 1895, Wilde's most creative period. George Bernard Shaw said of Oscar Wilde that he is "our most thorough playwright. He plays with everything: with wit, with philosophy, with drama, with actors and audience, with the whole theater." Kenneth Krauss received his Ph.D. from Columbia University. He teaches drama at the College of Saint Rose, where he also directs and produces. His most recent book is *The Drama of Fallen France*, on French theater under the German Occupation.

The Importance of Being Earnest shows a full measure of Oscar Wilde's legendary wit, and embodies more than any of his other plays, his decency and warmth. This edition contains substantial excerpts from the original four-act version which was never produced, as well as the full text of the final three-act version, selections from Wilde's correspondence, and commentary by George Bernard Shaw, Max Beerbohm, St. John Hankin, and James Agate.

The Importance of Being Earnest, *A Trivial Comedy for Serious People* is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personæ to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play. The successful opening night marked the climax of Wilde's career but also heralded his downfall. The Marquess of Queensberry, whose son Lord Alfred Douglas was Wilde's lover, planned to present the writer with a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde's homosexual double life was revealed to the Victorian public and he was eventually sentenced to imprisonment.

His notoriety caused the play, despite its early success, to be closed after 86 performances. After his release, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work.

Essay from the year 2019 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Amsterdam, language: English, abstract: Oscar Wilde's plays are characterized by satirical wit that exposes and derides the norms, values and beliefs of Victorian society. Although it could be argued that his comedies were mainly designed to amuse the aristocratic audience, his characters challenge the dominant gender roles in a revolutionary way. In her article "Gender roles in the 19th century," Kathryn Hughes explains, that "during the Victorian period men and women's roles became more sharply defined than at any time in history." It can be said that the clear division of two gender roles is created by a social system and the prevailing cultural beliefs of a society.

Witty and buoyant comedy of manners is brilliantly plotted from its effervescent first act to its hilarious denouement, and filled with some of literature's most famous epigrams. Widely considered Wilde's most perfect work, the play is reprinted here from an authoritative early British edition. Note to the Dover Edition.

The Importance of Being Earnest is one of the most enduringly popular of British comic dramas, and a mainstay of English literature and drama courses at college and university level. This is an ideal edition for students with on-page notes to help clarify meaning, and a completely new introduction. In the new introduction, Francesca Coppa explores recent critical approaches to the play, including queer and postcolonial readings, as well as giving the context in which the play was written and how it relates to Wilde's personal life and public persona. The introduction also discusses the play's stage history, providing students with an ideal overview of the play and its resonances for contemporary audiences.

The four great comedies of Oscar Wilde, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *A Woman of No Importance*, *An Ideal Husband* and *The Importance of Being Earnest*, were all written at the height of the controversial Irish author's powers in his last, doomed decade, the 1890s. They remain among the most-loved, and most-quoted, of all drama in the English language. Along with *Salome*, his darkly decadent dramatization of the Bible story, these immortal plays continue to pack theatres, and have been adapted for every kind of media. This Macmillan Collector's Library edition of *The Importance of Being Earnest & Other Plays* echoes the book form in which Wilde originally insisted his plays were published, and includes illustrations by Aubrey Beardsley and an afterword by Ned Halley. Designed to appeal to the booklover, the Macmillan Collector's Library is a series of beautiful gift editions of much loved classic titles. Macmillan Collector's Library are books to love and treasure.

The thesis of this book is that neither laughter nor humor can be understood apart from the feeling that underlies them. This feeling is a mental state in which people exclude some situation from their knowledge of how the world really is, thereby inhibiting seriousness where seriousness would be counterproductive. Laughter is viewed as an expression of this feeling, and humor as a set of devices designed to trigger it because it is so pleasant and distracting. Beginning with phonetic analyses of laughter, the book examines ways in which the feeling behind the laughter is elicited by both humorous and nonhumorous situations. It discusses properties of this feeling that justify its

inclusion in the repertoire of human emotions. Against this background it illustrates the creation of humor in several folklore genres and across several cultures. Finally, it reconciles this understanding with various already familiar ways of explaining humor and laughter.

This witty play is considered Oscar Wilde's greatest dramatic achievement.

Analyzes both the social context and the literary artistry of Oscar Wilde's comedic play Seminar paper from the year 2011 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 3,0, University of Mannheim, language: English, abstract: This paper will identify certain types of characters of the upper-class and relate them to the developments of the gender role in the Victorian era. Going along with it the men's different attitudes towards marriage as a constantly present issue in the play will be illustrated and compared to the points of view that dominated the high society in that time. Wilde refers to many more social habits and temporary fashions which however shall not be part of this paper.

The fictional Bunbury comes to life with distressing and amusing results for Algernon, Jack (Ernest), Gwendolen, Cecily, Lady Bracknell, Dr. Chasuble, and Miss Prism.

Offers newly edited texts of five of the British playwright's works, including the great farcical comedy "The Importance of Being Earnest."

"The Passionate Shepherd to His Love," "Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?" "Death, be not proud," "The Raven," "The Road Not Taken," plus works by Blake, Wordsworth, Byron, Shelley, Keats, many others.

Seminar paper from the year 2001 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7 (A-), University of Stuttgart (FB Anglistics), course: Critical Analysis: Comedy, 8 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: "The Importance of Being Earnest" was written by the famous Irish author Oscar Wilde. Wilde was born in 1854 and died of cerebral meningitis in 1900. "The Importance of Being Earnest" was his final and most lasting play - "by all accounts, a masterpiece of modern comedy."¹ This play is filled with wit and wisdom, which Wilde himself wrote of it, too. "Well I think, an amusing thing with lots of fun and wit might be made."² It represents Wilde's late-Victorian view of the aristocracy, marriage, wit and social life. The play tells the story of Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff. Both men lead a double life. One in the country and one in the city. Then, they both fall in love, and a series of crises threatens to spoil their romantic pursuits. The main plot line of the play is definitely marriage. "Of course Wilde pokes fun at the institution of marriage, which he saw as a practice surrounded by hypocrisy and absurdity."² He focuses on the higher class and satirises the life of the English aristocracy. His characters are typical Victorian snobs who are arrogant, overly proper, formal and concerned with money. This essay will provide an outline of the comic effects in this play. How Wilde uses humour, satire, farce and irony. The analysis will show, what makes this comedy so funny and so special. The essay will show some combinations of dialogue, dramatic irony, social criticism, characterisation and exaggeration and it will prove that the dialogues with its puns and epigrams are the basis for the humour in Wilde's last play."

Wilde's witty and buoyant comedy of manners, filled with some of literature's most famous epigrams, reprinted from an authoritative British edition. Considered Wilde's most perfect work. Wilde's "trivial play for serious people" is a sparkling comedy of manners. This hilariously absurd satire pits sincerity against style, barbed witticisms against ostentatious elegance. Wilde's brilliantly constructed plot and famous dialogue enrich the appeal of his celebrated characters, as he turns accepted ideas inside out and situations upside down in this, his masterpiece. The Student Edition offers a plot summary, full commentary, character notes and

questions for study, besides a chronology and bibliography.

A Study Guide for Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest," excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama for Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama for Students for all of your research needs.

The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays Simon and Schuster

"The text of this ... [edition] of Oscar Wilde's comedic tour-de-force is the established three-act version, accompanied by explanatory annotations. The Importance of Being Earnest was originally written in four acts, but Wilde shortened it to three at the urging of George Alexander, the owner of the St. James Theatre and the first actor to play Jack Worthing. The excised portions of the play are included in an appendix. ..."--Back cover.

A collection of critical essays on Wilde's comedic play "The Importance of Being Earnest" arranged in chronological order of publication.

All four of Wilde's famous plays in one bargain-priced volume.

Each volume in a collection of affordable, readable editions of some of the world's greatest works of literature features a chronology of the author's life and career, a concise introduction containing valuable background information, a timeline of significant events, an outline of key plot points and themes, detailed explanatory notes, critical analyses, discussion questions, and a list of recommended books and films. Subtitled "A Trivial Comedy for Serious People," Wilde's play is a brilliantly satirical comedy of manners, sending up the absurdity of Victorian social mores and cleverly critiquing the conventions of love and marriage. The tale of two gentlemen who adopt fictitious identities in order to woo the objects of their affections is Wilde's most beloved work, considered to be one of the wittiest plays ever written in English. The glowing critical reception in London on opening night at the St. James Theater in 1895 marked the high point of Wilde's career as a writer.

"The Importance of Being Earnest A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a play by Oscar Wilde. First performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London, it is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae to escape burdensome social obligations. Working within the social conventions of late Victorian London, the play's major themes are the triviality with which it treats institutions as serious as marriage, and the resulting satire of Victorian ways. Some contemporary reviews praised the play's humour and the culmination of Wilde's artistic career, while others were cautious about its lack of social messages. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make The Importance of Being Earnest Wilde's most enduringly popular play."

Beautiful, aristocratic, an adored wife and young mother, Lady Windermere is 'a fascinating puritan' whose severe moral code leads her to the brink of social suicide. The only one who can save her is the mysterious Mrs Erlynne whose scandalous relationship with Lord Windermere has prompted her fatal impulse. And Mrs Erlynne has a secret - a secret Lady Windermere must never know if she is to retain her peace of mind.

The Importance Of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde is a wonderful comedy in which the protagonists uphold fictitious personæ in order to escape burdensome social obligations. It is hailed as being one of the greatest plays of all-time by one of the worlds best loved authors. This is a classic, presented to you in its original form. A great

addition to any book collection.

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