



Norfolk High School



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Students!!!!!!! I miss you! Can you believe it?!?!? LOL. Seriously though, I miss seeing all of your faces in my classroom.

These are the assignments for my English III classes for the next three weeks. I know how you were all loving *The Lord of the Flies*. We had just gotten started, and it is seriously one of the greatest books ever written, therefore, we are going to continue our novel. Here are your assignments:

Week 1, March 30th-April 3rd: Read chapters 1 (we were halfway through this chapter) - 3. After you get done reading chapters 1-2, complete the comprehension questions.

Week 2, April 6th – 10th: Read chapters 3-5, and complete comprehension questions.

Week 3, April 13th – 17th: Read chapters 6-8 and complete comprehension questions.

For my ELA Drama class, here are your assignments:

Week 1, March 30th – April 3rd: read Act II of the Importance of Being Earnest, and complete comprehension questions.

Week 2, April 6th – April 10th: Read Act III of the Importance of Being Earnest, and complete comprehension questions.

Week 3, April 13th – 17th: Complete the comprehensive worksheets over Act's I-III.

If any of you have any questions about any of the assignments, I will be available Monday through Friday from 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. to answer anything you need answered about the above assignments. You can reach me through email: stacy.havner@norfolk.k12.ar.us, message me on Facebook: Stacy Franks Havner, or on Instagram: [ms.lit.teacher](https://www.instagram.com/ms.lit.teacher).

Thank you for working so diligently on your AMI packets. Please know that I miss each and every one of you, and will continue to until you are back in my classroom. Please be safe and listen to mom and dad. Also, WASH YOUR HANDS, CONSTANTLY!!!!

Ms. Havner

9. The other classical allusion, to the Emperor Augustus, is more oblique: why did Wilde choose the name "Augusta" for Lady Bracknell? You may look this answer up BUT CITE YOUR SOURCE!

10. What is the essence of such Wildean aphorisms as the following?" "[Women flirting with their own husbands] looks so bad. It is simply washing one's clean linen in public."

11. What point is Wilde making about journalism in general and reviewers in particular when Algernon remarks, "You should leave that [literary criticism] to people who haven't been at University. They do it so well in the daily papers"?

12. What tools of satire -irony, juxtaposition, understatement, paradox -are apparent in this opening act? CITE SPECIFIC LINES FROM THE PLAY.

Act Two

1. "Gwendolen and Cecily are not so much opposites as complements." Explain this remark by reference to their speeches and actions.

2. Early on in Act One Jack Worthing articulates the difference between city life and country life. Show three ways in which the life of the country (as exemplified by the Manor House, Woolton, Herfordshire) is very different from the bachelor life of The Albany, London.

3. Like Jack, Algy leads a double life, utilizing an escape mechanism when necessary to free himself of a life of social obligation and lead a life of unrestrained pleasure. Explain their differing motivations, but how both are "confirmed Bunburyists," nevertheless.

4. The comedy of mistaken identity is a very old dramatic form - as old, in fact, as comedy itself - which Wilde manages to revitalize in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. The key mistaken identity in this play, of course, is that of "Ernest" himself. What comic consequences result from Algernon's assuming the role of Ernest Worthing?

5. In what ways would the terms "hedonist," "aesthete," and "gourmand" be suitable descriptors for Algernon? You may look this answer up BUT CITE YOUR SOURCE!

6. How would you characterize Canon Chasuble and his relationship with Miss Prism? Why does Wilde include them at this point in the play?

7. Give five examples of Wilde's wit, comedy and/or satire in this act. How does this further his satirical purpose?

8. A subtle sub-theme of the play is readers, publishers, fiction, and censorship. What points by implication is Wilde making about contemporary literature?

9. What role does food have within the play? (Notice how Jack and Algernon are eating muffins at key points – and then those pesky cucumber sandwiches in Act I...)

10. Based on the types of comedy discussed, how would you define *The Importance of Being Earnest* thus far? Defend your selections using textual references.

Act Three

1. Lady Bracknell has been described as "the perfect embodiment of the attitudes and rules of conduct of the British aristocracy." How does Wilde unmask the mercenary motives of Lady Bracknell to reveal her essential snobbishness and hypocrisy in the final act?

2. To a certain extent, Miss Prism and Dr. Chasuble are also satirical figures through whom Wilde attacks British institutions, namely education and the Church of England. Explain briefly what aspects of these institutions Wilde is satirizing.

3. Define the term "bunburying," and explain its significance in the play. How does bunburying relate to Wilde's critique of Victorian earnestness? How are even Cecily and Dr. Chasuble "bunburyists"?

4. The play has a number of objects that acquire additional meanings as the action develops. Explain how three of the following symbols in *The Importance of Being Earnest* relate to the plot and especially to the characters: cucumber sandwiches, bread-and-butter, the German language, French music and language, bottles of champagne, teacake, muffins, and the capacious handbag.

5. "Although we see little of them, each of the butlers has a back story and serves as a vehicle for Wilde's satire of the aristocracy." Explain.

6. If the principal characters will go to any lengths to avoid their responsibilities and place self-interest at the top of their own agendas, then a resolution of the conflicts in the play would be impossible: somebody has to make concessions. How does the resolution scene in the third act resolve the conflicts between Lady Bracknell and Jack? Jack and Algernon? Gwendolen and Cecily?

Part One: Match the character to his/her description

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|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| ___ 1. Jack Worthing | A. a priest or minister secretly in love with Miss Prism |
| ___ 2. Ernest Worthing | B. Jack's butler at his country home |
| ___ 3. Algernon Moncrief | C. a man who "lost" his parents |
| ___ 4. Lady Bracknell | D. the governess to Cecily |
| ___ 5. Gwendolen Fairfax | E. at first, an imaginary brother |
| ___ 6. Cecily Cardew | F. Algernon's cousin |
| ___ 7. Thomas Cardew | G. Jack's adoptive father |
| ___ 8. Lane | H. Lady Bracknell's nephew who likes to eat |
| ___ 9. Merriman | I. Algernon's butler |
| ___ 10. Miss Prism | J. a snobbish woman who worries about seating at dinners |
| ___ 11. Dr. Chasauble | K. Algernon's imaginary friend, often sick |
| ___ 12. Bunbury | L. Jack's ward |

Part Two: Multiple Choice

- ___ 13. Why is Jack not allowed to marry Gwendolen?
- A. He is already married
 - B. Her mother does not approve
 - C. He is her brother
- ___ 14. What does Algernon find that leads him to believe "Ernest" has another life?
- A. A letter, addressed to Ernest
 - B. A handkerchief with the initials "J.W."
 - C. A cigarette case with "Uncle Jack" engraved into it
- ___ 15. Whom does Cecily wish would visit?
- A. Gwendolen
 - B. Miss Prism
 - C. Ernest
- ___ 16. Where has Cecily recorded her engagement?
- A. The local newspaper
 - B. A letter to her mother
 - C. Her diary

- ___17. Who is Jack's real mother?
A. Lady Bracknell
B. Lady Bracknell's sister
C. Miss Prism
- ___18. Where was Jack discovered as an infant?
A. in a handbag
B. in a baby carriage
C. in a taxi cab
- ___19. What is Jack's birth name?
A. John Worthing
B. Algernon Worthing
C. Ernest Worthing
- ___20. Who is Jack's biological brother?
A. Bunbury
B. Algernon
C. Ernest
- ___21. When does Lady Bracknell start liking Cecily?
A. When she finds out Cecily loves Algernon
B. When she learns Cecily is rich
C. She never likes her
- ___22. Who lost Jack when he was a baby?
A. Miss Prism
B. Algernon
C. Lady Bracknell
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- ___23. Why did Jack invent a brother named Ernest in the first place?
A. to have an excuse to go to London
B. to have someone to talk to
C. to keep Algernon from finding out where he lives
- ___24. What seems to bother Lady Bracknell MOST about Cecily?
A. her fortune
B. her guardian, Jack
C. her "country" manners
- ___25. What is Algernon doing throughout most of the play?
A. smoking
B. humming
C. eating
- ___26. Jack makes up a story about his brother Ernest dying in
A. Paris
B. London
C. Geneva

- ___ 1. Algernon's permanent invalid friend is named Ernest.
- ___ 2. Jack was found in a black leather handbag as a baby.
- ___ 3. Jack's ward is named Gwendolen.
- ___ 4. Algernon pretends to be Bunbury when he shows up at Jack's house.
- ___ 5. Cecily's governess is Lady Bracknell.
- ___ 6. Jack was found, as a baby, on the Brighton railway line.
- ___ 7. Jack asks Cecily to marry him.
- ___ 8. Algernon asks Cecily to marry him.
- ___ 9. Algernon's butler is named Merriman.

- ___ 10. Jack's father's first name is Ernest.
- ___ 11. Algernon learns about Cecily from an inscription on a cigarette case.
- ___ 12. Cecily says she and Algernon have been engaged for three months before even meeting him.
- ___ 13. Algernon and Jack want Chasuble to christen them.

- ___ 14. Algernon eats all of the cucumber sandwiches Merriman prepared for Lady Bracknell.
- ___ 15. Cecily serves bread and butter to Gwendolen.
- ___ 16. Gwendolen and Cecily require their husbands to be well educated.
- ___ 17. Cecily becomes independent from Jack when she turns 18.
- ___ 18. Algernon and Jack fight over tea cake after the girls learn who they really are.
- ___ 19. Jack was left in the handbag when he was a baby by Miss Prism.
- ___ 20. The baby carriage Jack was supposed to be in was found, with a manuscript in it.
- ___ 21. Algernon is actually Jack's brother.
- ___ 22. Lady Bracknell starts liking Cecily when Jack says Algernon can't marry her.

- ___ 23. A topic never mocked in the play is education.
- ___ 24. Lady Bracknell is apparently quite interested in money.
- ___ 25. Readers get the impression that Algernon has trouble managing his money.
- ___ 26. The portrayal of young women makes them seem logical and sensible.
- ___ 27. After Jack is rejected by Lady Bracknell as unsuitable for her daughter, Algernon plays the wedding march on the piano.
- ___ 28. In her interview, Lady Bracknell is not impressed with Jack's address in town.
- ___ 29. Algernon finds out the location of Jack's country home by bribing the butler.
- ___ 30. The play presents upper class and lower class people as equally silly.
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