

The Importance Of Being Earnest And Four Other Plays

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

The truth is rarely pure and never simple. Two women fall in love with men of the same name. This mythical suitor is called ‘Ernest’, a name that has been adopted by both Jack Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff to win the hearts of their beloved, Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew, respectively. As Pandemonium breaks out at Jack’s country home on the same weekend and while the identity of ‘Ernest’ is still uncertain, only an insignificant handbag and an old nursemaid can save the fictitious roles. Oscar Wilde’s the importance of Being earnest is a delightful Carnival of lovers in conflict, warped identities, clandestine arrangements, witticism and incisive, artful conversations. The eccentricity and effervescence in Wilde’s plot and characters are enjoyed by readers and viewers even today. Ever since it was first performed in London’s St. James’ theatre on 14 February 1895, this brilliant tour de force has inspired many other adaptations. 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 events Footnotes and endnotes Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, 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 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 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 teacher’s 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.

Enriched Classics offer readers accessible editions of great works of literature enhanced by helpful notes and commentary. Each book includes educational tools alongside the text, enabling students and readers alike to gain a deeper and more developed understanding of the writer and their work. Wilde’s classic comedy of manners, The Importance of Being Earnest, a satire of Victorian social hypocrisy and considered Wilde’s greatest dramatic achievement, and his other popular play, An Ideal Husband, and Salomé—challenged contemporary notions of sex and sensibility, class and cultural identity. Enriched Classics enhance your engagement by introducing and explaining the historical and cultural significance of the work, the author’s personal history, and what impact this book had on subsequent scholarship. Each book includes discussion questions that help clarify and reinforce major themes and reading recommendations for further research. Read with confidence.

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

Making Oscar Wilde

The Paradox of Identity

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde (Book Analysis)

Analyses both the social context and the literary artistry of Oscar Wilde’s comedic play

In this Oscar Wilde’s entire three-act play presented as a full color graphic novel, two young gentlemen living in 1890’s England use imaginary friends to inject some excitement into their seemingly dull lives. Jack Worthing invents a brother, ‘Ernest,’ whom he pretends to be in order to visit his beloved Gwendolen in the city. Meanwhile, friend Algy Moncrieff uses the name ‘Ernest’ while visiting Jack’s beautiful young ward, Cecily in the country.

Much confusion ensues as the two women find out they have been deceived by their ‘Ernest’s.’ Some would call this a society comedy, others, a Victorian farce. Regardless of the term used, this full color graphic novel captures the era effortlessly. With an intricate attention to detail, wonderful characterization and dramatically expressive and humorous artwork, this really is a graphic novel to cherish.

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 Theatre in 1895 marked the high point of Wilde’s career as a writer.

The Book of the Year, perhaps of the decade, has to be Matthew Sturgis’s Oscar’ TLS Books of the Year. NOMINATED FOR THE WOLFSOM HISTORY PRIZE 2019. A SUNDAY TIMES BOOK OF THE YEAR. ‘Simply the best modern biography of Wilde . . . A terrific achievement’ Evening Standard. ‘Page-turning . . . Vivid and desperately moving. However much you think you know Wilde, this book will absorb and entertain you’ Sunday Times. ‘Wonderfully exciting . . . Sturgis’s

great achievement is to take on board his great flour of contradictions’ Craig Brown, Mail on Sunday. ‘[Sturgis] is a tremendous orchestrator of material, fastidious, unharried, indefatigable’ Observer. ‘Oscar Wilde is more fashionable than ever . . . Sturgis’s account of the hearing at the Old Bailey is as gripping as it is grim’ Guardian. ‘The Book of the Year, perhaps of the decade, has to be Matthew Sturgis’s Oscar which captures the wit, the love-ability, the dramatic genius, the insane self-destructiveness, the originality of Wilde . . . [Sturgis] is the greatest chronicler of the 1890s we have ever had’ TLS Books of the Year. Oscar Wilde’s life – like his wit – was alive with paradox. He was both an early exponent and a victim of ‘celebrity culture’: famous for being famous, he was lauded and ridiculed in equal measure. His achievements were frequently downplayed, his successes resented. He had a genius for comedy but strove to write tragedies. He was an unabashed snob who nevertheless delighted in exposing the faults of society. He affected a dandified disdain but was prone to great acts of kindness. Although happily married, he became a passionate lover of men and – at the very peak of his success – brought disaster upon himself. He disparaged authority, yet went to the law to defend his love for Lord Alfred Douglas. Having delighted in fashionable throngs, Wilde died almost alone: barely a dozen people were at his graveside. Yet despite this ruinous end, Wilde’s star continues to shine brightly. His was a life of quite extraordinary drama. Above all, his flamboyant refusal to conform to the social and sexual orthodoxies of his day make him a hero and an inspiration to all who seek to challenge convention. In the first major biography of Oscar Wilde in thirty years, Matthew

Sturgis draws on a wealth of new material and fresh research to place the man firmly in the context of his times. He brings alive the distinctive mood and characters of the fin de siècle in the richest and most compelling portrait of Wilde to date.

A Reader’s Companion

The Importance of Being Earnest (in 30 Minutes)

The Importance of Being Earnest the Graphic Novel: Original Text

Gone-Away Lane

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!

Offers newly edited texts of five of the British playwrights’ works, including the great farcical comedy ‘The Importance of Being Earnest.’

The importance of critical essays on Wilde’s comedic play ‘The Importance of Being Earnest’ arranged in chronological order of publication.

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 and Four Other Plays

Revised Edition

The Importance of Being Earnest.

Witty, inspiring, and charismatic, Oscar Wilde is one of the Greats of English literature. Today, his plays and stories are beloved around the world. But it was not always so. His afterlife has given him the legitimacy that life denied him. Making Oscar Wilde reveals the untold story of young Oscar’s career in Victorian England and post-Civil War America. Set on two continents, this book tracks a larger-than-life hero on an unforgettable adventure to make his name and gain international acclaim. ‘Success is a science,’ Wilde believed, ‘if you have the conditions, you result.’ Combining new evidence and gripping cultural history, Michèle Mendelsohn dramatizes Wilde’s rise, fall, and resurrection as part of a spectacular transatlantic pageant. With superb style and an instinct for story-telling, she brings to life the charming young Irishman who set out to captivate the United States and Britain with his words and ended up conquering the world. Following the twists and turns of Wilde’s journey, Mendelsohn vividly depicts sensation-hungry Victorian journalism and popular entertainment alongside racial controversies, sex scandals, and the growth of Irish nationalism. This ground-breaking revisionist history shows how Wilde’s tumultuous early life embodies the story of the Victorian era as it tottered towards modernity. Riveting and original, Making Oscar Wilde is a masterful account of a life like no other.

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

‘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.

The Importance of Being Earnest is a play by Oscar Wilde. It is a farcical comedy in which the protagonists maintain fictitious personae in order 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 humor, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it is 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.

The Importance of Being Earnest & Other Plays

Detailed Summary, Analysis and Reading Guide

The Importance of Being Earnest and Other Plays

The feeling behind laughter and humor

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 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.

Offers newly edited texts of five of the British playwrights’ works, including the great farcical comedy ‘The Importance of Being Earnest.’ Reissue.

Portia and her cousin Julian discover adventure in a hidden colony of forgotten summer houses on the shores of a swampy lake.

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 believes of Victorian society. Although it could be argued that his comedies were mainly designed to amuse the aristocratic audience, his characters challenge the dominate gender roles in a revolutionary way. In her article “Gender roles in the 19th century,” Kathryn Hughes explains, that “during the Victorian era, gender roles were strictly defined. Men were expected to be the breadwinners and women were expected to be the homemakers. This was a result of the social and cultural norms of the time. However, Oscar Wilde’s plays challenged these norms and explored the complexities of gender roles in a revolutionary way. In his play, The Importance of Being Earnest, Wilde explores the idea of a man who creates a fictional identity for himself in order to escape his social obligations. This is a classic, presented to you in its original form. A great addition to any book collection.

Englische Lektüre Ab Dem 6. Lernjahr. Mit Annotationen und Illustrationen

Readings on The Importance of Being Earnest

A Trivial Novel for Serious People

B2/C1-niveau ERK

A farce, one of the best ever written, cleverly constructed and delightfully amusing. There is only the slightest attempt at the sketching of character, while most of the personages are at best but caricatures; the Wilde’s skill is brought to bear chiefly upon the situations and the lines. It so happens that this farce contains more clever lines, puns, epigrams, and deft repartees than any other of modern times, but these are after all accessory. A farce may be written without these additions—it might well be pure pantomime. Wilde has thrown them in for full measure.

Building on the formula of York Notes, this Advanced series introduces students to more sophisticated analysis and wider critical perspectives. Previous ed.: 1999.

*The Importance of Being Earnest*Courier Corporation

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 Cambridge Companion to Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde’s The Importance of Being Earnest

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Importance of Being Earnest / Textheft

The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People is a real classic. You should grab it and read it to experience it yourself. Here’s a simple plot to The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People by Oscar Wilde 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. 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. Their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde’s homosexuality was revealed to the Victorian public and he was sentenced to imprisonment. Despite the play’s early success, Wilde’s notoriety caused the play to be closed after 86 performances. After his release from prison, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work. The Importance of Being Earnest has been revived many times since its premiere. It has been adapted for the cinema on three occasions. In The Importance of Being Earnest (1952), Dame Edith Evans reprised her celebrated interpretation of Lady Bracknell; The Importance of Being Earnest (1992) by Kurt Baker used an all-black cast; and Oliver Parker’s The Importance of Being Earnest (2002) incorporated some of Wilde’s original material cut during the preparation of the original stage production. The Importance of Being Earnest, A Trivial Comedy for Serious People by Oscar Wilde

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

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. Part of the Macmillan Collector’s Library; a series of stunning, clothbound, pocket-sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. These beautiful books make perfect gifts or a treat for any book lover.

In New England in the late nineteenth-century, a fatherless family, happy in spite of its impoverished condition, is befriended by a very rich gentleman and his young son.

A Life

Texto en Inglés Para Estudiantes Españoles

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde

The Trivial Comedy for Serious People

Insight Study Guides are written by experts and cover a range of popular literature, plays and films. Designed to provide insight and an overview about each text for students and teachers, these guides endeavor to develop knowledge and understanding rather than just provide answers and summaries.

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

‘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.

In this one-act adaptation of Oscar Wilde’s beloved romantic comedy, the stakes are even higher and the deadlines even tighter for poor Jack Worthing, whose alter ego “Ernest” comes back to haunt him in the form of his rakish friend Algernon Montcrieff, who adopts the false identity to woo Jack’s ward Cecily. But Jack-as-Ernest has just proposed to Algernon’s cousin Gwendolen, to the great disapproval of her mother, the rigid Lady Bracknell. When the two ladies -- both engaged to Ernest Worthing -- meet up, chaos ensues. All the wit of Wilde in less than half the time.

Gender Roles and Female Power in Oscar Wilde’s “The Importance of Being Earnest”

The Importance of Not Being Earnest

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People by Oscar Wilde

The Importance of Being Earnest. Buch MIT Audio-CD

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 Importance of Being Earnest,” Oscar Wilde’s madcap farce about mistaken identities, secret engagements, and lovers’ entanglements, still delights readers more than a century after its 1895 publication and premiere performance. The rapid-fire wit and eccentric characters of The Importance of Being Earnest have made it a mainstay of the high school curriculum for decades. In “The Importance of Being Earnest,” Cecily Cardew and Gwendolen Fairfax are both in love with the same mythical suitor. Jack Worthing has wooed Gewndolen as Ernest while Algernon has also posed as Ernest to win the heart of Jack’s ward, Cecily. When all four arrive at Jack’s country home on the same weekend in “The Importance of Being Earnest,” the rivals to fight for Ernest’s undivided attention and the Ernests to claim their beloved’s pandemonium breaks loose. Only a senile nursemaid and an old, discarded hand-bag can save the day!

Lady Windermere’s Fan; Salome; A Woman of No Importance; An Ideal Husband; The Importance of Being Earnest

The Originals : The Importance of Being Earnest

Bunbury!

The Importance of Being Earnest (B2/C1)