



Gwendolen

From *The Importance of Being Earnest*

By Oscar Wilde

Age Range: Adult

Style: Comedic, Classical

Monologue:

“Oh! It is strange he never mentioned to me that he had a ward. How secretive of him! He grows more interesting hourly. I am not sure, however, that the news inspires me with feelings of unmixed delight. I am very fond of you, Cecily: I have liked you ever since I met you! But I am bound to state that now that I know that you are Mr. Worthing’s ward, I cannot help expressing a wish you were – well, just a little older than you seem to be – and not quite so very alluring in appearance. In fact, if I may speak candidly, I wish that you were fully forty-two, and more than usually plain for your age. Ernest has a strong upright nature. He is the very soul of truth and honour. Disloyalty would be as impossible to him as deception. But even men of the noblest possible moral character are extremely susceptible to the influence of the physical charms of others. Modern, no less than Ancient History, supplies us with many most painful examples of what I refer to. If it were not so, indeed, History would be quite unreadable.”

Play Synopsis:

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde is a play about two bachelors who create fictional brothers to escape their lives and win the hearts of two women. The play's protagonist, Jack is a landowner and justice of the peace in Hertfordshire. He creates an imaginary brother named Ernest to use as an excuse to leave home and travel to London. In London, Jack uses the name Ernest and stays with his friend Algernon Moncrieff. The play ends with the revelation that Jack is actually Lady Bracknell's long-lost nephew, Earnest. Jack and Algernon are forgiven for their duplicity and Jack marries Gwendolen.

Read the Play Here:

https://anglaishautegeironde.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/the_importance_of_being_earnest.pdf