

Extract 2, *The Importance of Being Ernest* : **The INTERVIEW**

Read from page 82, "Lady Bracknell (sitting down)... to page 88 Lady B : ... and form an alliance with a parcel."

1) Why does Lady Bracknell meet Jack ?

..Jack wants to marry Gwendoline who is Lady Bracknell's daughter so she has to know if Jack could be a suitable husband.

2) *LADY BRACKNELL*

a. Draw her portrait : social origins, family situation, values, character...

....Lady Bracknell is a Lady so someone with noble origins, she is married to Lord Bracknell, she has Victorian values (marriage is like a job, "we work together". p.82 though it was not well-seen to work, she despises lower classes : "If it did, (referring to education) it would prove a serious danger to the upper classes, ... "p. 82), she is very arrogant.

b. What are her criteria to determine whether a young man is eligible ?

...Her criteria are "smoking, age, education (absence of), income, houses, politics, and origins of the family"

c. What is paradoxical in her questioning ?

..She never asks about love.

d. What is her real concern actually ?

....Her real concern is status so money.

3) *JACK WORTHING*

a. What do we learn about him (age, origins, family life, social status,...) ?

Jack is 29, he smokes, he didn't receive much education, he's rich, he's not interested in politics, his parents lost him and he was found in a hand-bag by a rich man called M. Thomas Cardew who left him his fortune when he died.

b. Imagine how he is going to feel after the interview.

..Jack may feel devastated because he can't marry Gwendoline because he doesn't know his parents and also because Lady Bracknell is quite mean with him.....

4) **What does this extract illustrate ?**

...This extract illustrates the artificiality of the Victorian society and rules where appearances were so important. It is a comedy with very diverse questions and unexpected answers. ...



BONUS : Draw the scene and send it to me, or act it with a sibling and make a video

