The Importance of Being Earnest

Before Reading

**Activity 1** BEFORE READING
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays.
The correct answers are:
1 No  2 No  3 Yes  4 Yes  5 No

**Activity 2** BEFORE READING
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays.
The correct answers are:
1 b  2 c

While Reading

**Act 1** WHILE READING
1 Jack Worthing.
2 Algernon/Algy Moncrieff.
3 Cecily Cardew.
4 Gwendolen Fairfax.
5 Aunt Augusta/Lady Bracknell.

**Act 1** WHILE READING
When Jack was a baby, someone left him in a large black handbag in the cloakroom at Victoria Station. An old man called Mr Cardew found him and gave him the name of Worthing, because he had a ticket to Worthing in his pocket.

**Before Reading Act 2**
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays.
The correct answers are:
1 Y  2 N  3 N  4 N

**Act 2** WHILE READING
1 Miss Prism to Cecily about her novel.
2 Jack to Dr Chasuble about a christening.
3 Miss Prism to Dr Chasuble about Ernest Worthing.
4 Cecily to Algernon/Ernest about his letters to her.
5 Gwendolen to Cecily about her diary.

**Act 2** WHILE READING
Dr Chasuble did not ask Miss Prism to marry him in Act 2.
The correct order is: 2, 6, 1, 5, 7, 3

**Before Reading Act 3**
Do not give the answers now, but ask students to wait and see if their guesses were correct as they read the plays.
The correct answers are:
1 It is large and black.
2 Miss Prism.
3 Mr Cardew found it 28 years ago, but now Miss Prism finds it again (Jack gives it back to her).

**Act 3 Up to Page 33** WHILE READING
Cecily and Gwendolen were happy that Jack and Algernon were ready to change their names. Suddenly Lady Bracknell arrived. She said that Algernon could not marry Cecily, although Cecily’s grandfather, Mr Cardew, had a good address. But when she heard that Cecily had a lot of money, she agreed to the marriage. Then Jack said that he was Cecily’s guardian and that he would only agree to the marriage if Lady Bracknell would let him marry Gwendolen. Lady Bracknell said that this was impossible.

**Act 3** WHILE READING
Miss Prism put the baby in the handbag.
Miss Prism left the handbag in a station cloakroom.
Miss Prism put the novel in the pram.
Miss Prism left the pram in an empty street.

**Act 3** WHILE READING
1 F Lady Bracknell is Jack’s aunt/ Lady Bracknell’s sister is/was Jack’s mother.
2 T Jack is Algernon’s older brother/ Algernon is Jack’s younger brother.
3 T
4 T

After Reading

**Activity 1** AFTER READING
Suggested answers:
LADY BRACKNELL: Is Mr Moncrieff at home, Lane?
LANE: No, Lady Bracknell, I’m afraid that Mr Moncrieff is not at home.
LADY BRACKNELL: Where has he gone?
LANE: To the country, Lady Bracknell.
LADY BRACKNELL: What is he doing there?
LANE: Mr Moncrieff is visiting his friend Mr Bunbury.
LADY BRACKNELL: He seems to visit this Mr Bunbury very often!
LANE: Yes, Mr Bunbury is often ill, the poor gentleman.
LADY BRACKNELL: Well, how long will he be there?
LANE: Until Monday, he told me.
LADY BRACKNELL: And do you know where this Mr Bunbury lives?
LANE: Yes, Lady Bracknell. Mr Moncrieff left me the address.
LADY BRACKNELL: Then give it to me, Lane!
LANE: Of course, Lady Bracknell. Here you are.

**ACTIVITY 2** AFT ER READING

Today I met Uncle Jack’s brother Ernest! He told me all about his poor friend Mr Bunbury, who is often very ill. Dear Ernest is so kind to him! He said that I was the most beautiful girl he’d ever seen, and asked me for a flower to wear on his coat. I think that perhaps he’s in love with me. I do hope so!

**ACTIVITY 3** AFT ER READING

1 + 6, 2 + 4, 3 + 5

Open answers.

**ACTIVITY 4** AFT ER READING

1 wicked (it describes someone’s character)
2 kiss (a movement, not a piece of writing)
3 baby (a living person, not a thing)
4 aunt (female, not male)
5 lesson (a time for teaching, not a person)
6 plate (a container, not food)
7 muffin (a type of food, not something people wear)
8 sir (what people sometimes say to a man, not a place)

**ACTIVITY 5** AFT ER READING

FOKiSSRTHEF
WisSTIMEIP
INMBABYLLIL
CFLEIUNDERA
KSETANAUNT
EDSTHEIMPOE
DRSTANCBOF
EIONGMUFFIN
EARNNSIREST

**ACTIVITY 6** AFT ER READING

1 For the first time in my life I understand the Importance of Being Earnest.
2 Jack Worthing.
3 Now Jack realises how important it is a) to be serious about life b) to be called Earnest.

**ACTIVITY 7** AFT ER READING

1 Gwendolen: she is having tea with Cecily at Jack’s house in the country.
2 Jack: he is angry with Algernon, who has just arrived at the house in the country, pretending to be Jack’s brother Ernest.
3 Dr Chasuble: he has just been told by Miss Prism that women will never leave him alone if he stays single. He is considering asking her to marry him.

**ACTIVITY 8** AFT ER READING

Open answers.