

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** **DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

AP Lit Ms. Ciuperca

***The Importance of Being Earnest***

**Essay Prompts**

Choose one of the following prompts and respond to it in a well-organized, five-paragraph essay.

**Prompt One – Cucumber sandwiches.**

An eating scene is common in drama. It may be a simple meal or a banquet, a holiday party or a family meal without which the work would not be the same. Choose one of the eating scenes in ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** and write an essay in which you discuss what the scene reveals, how the scene is related to the meaning of the work as a whole, and by what means the author makes the scene effective. Focus on ONE scene.

**Prompt Two – Sisters and Cousins, incest abounds.**

Many plays that focus on the courtship or marriage of a man and a woman include a second couple who help to define the central figures. Write a well organized essay in which you discuss how the secondary man and woman illuminate the central characters of ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** .

**Prompt Three - A Handbag?????**

Often in drama, an inanimate object plays an important part in the development of the work. The property will often have a significant role in the plot, and it may also be used to reveal character or perform some other purpose. Write an essay that explores how Wilde makes use of a piece of property in ***The Importance of Being Earnest***. How is this piece of property used to reveal the theme?

**Prompt Four – To be or not to be, Ernest.**

In ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** a character intentionally dissembles in order to advance a specific agenda. In a well written essay discuss the nature of the deceit or misrepresentation and how it contributes to the development of the character and the meaning of the work.