

## Literacy in ACTion Program Examples of Student Work from Carlynton High School Creative Writing Class

### A Letter of No Importance

As in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, students from Carlynton High School draft a letter using the comedic device of inversion by treating unimportant details very seriously and important issues very flippantly.

### A Letter of No Importance

Dear John,

I have just been informed that I am failing the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Also, I lost my job at Applebee's. On the other hand, did you hear I got a new high score on Iron Pants? I posted a picture on my Twitter.

Sincerely,  
Evan

### A Letter of No Importance

Dear Lauren,

I spilled coffee on myself and got a third degree burn. Even worse, I ruined my \$200 jeans. I had to go to the hospital and get my burn treated and missed "Keeping Up with the Kardashians." I need to keep up with them! On the way home, I hit a squirrel. It got blood all over my windshield. I had to get my car washed. That really ruined my day. At the car wash, a bear mullied the man who runs it. At least, he didn't get my Shnack Wrap from Sheetz.

Sincerely,  
Haley

## **A Letter of No Importance**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to tell you about my wonderful prosperous life. There is some bad news first.

My pet dragon burned down a house and the fire ricocheted back at him and he caught on fire. The good thing is that my Christian Louboutin's came in!

Sincerely,

Lauren

## **Victorian Etiquette - A Public Service Announcement Satire**

Students demonstrate comedic satire based on the 'rules' of Victorian Etiquette

Each student will take one of the rules of conducts and make a short scripted public service announcement. In the PSA, students must: \*Introduce the Social Rule \*Model the "rule" perform correctly \*Explain why it must be performed \*Model what would happen if the "rule" was not performed or was performed incorrectly. \*Explain the negative effects of not performing or incorrectly performing this "Rule" \*Close with restating the Social Rule with a short tag line.

### **"No Mess No Stress" A Victorian PSA**

**by Priya**

*Guest should be spaced two feet apart from one another at the dinner table.*

\*Narrator: Having proper space between guests at the table is important for prevention of accidents.

\*The Right Way Scene: Guests having dinner. They have an easy time passing food and are able to get up and leave without bumping into someone.

\*The Wrong Way Scene: Guests are seated too close together. A guest gets up and knocks over the chair, which knocks the person next to them out of their seat, who throws the food in the air, ruining everything.

-Show panicked host stressed out/

\*Narrator: Remove the mess and stress from your evening by spacing guests two feet apart.

### **"How to Approach Her" A Victorian PSA**

**by Elliot**

*A gentleman will always tip his hat to greet a lady.*

\*Narrator: This is how you approach a woman the right way and the wrong way. Let's show you the wrong way first.

\*The Wrong Way Scene: Man walks up to Woman.

Man: What up shawty?

\*Narrator: Pause! This is how you correctly approach a woman.

\*The Right Way Scene: Man approaches a woman and tips hat.

Man: Hello, M'lady. How are you on this fine evening?

\*Narrator: Now you see! Approach a woman like a man and show true swag.

### **"Appropriate Dress Raising" A Victorian PSA**

**by Lauren**

*In crossing the street, a lady raises her dress a little above the ankle, holding together the folds of her gown and drawing them toward the right. Raising her dress with both hands exposes too much ankle, and is most vulgar.*

\*Narrator: Raising your dress with one hand above the ankle is important because you will be safe crossing the street.

\*The Right Way Scene: Sofia crosses the street and raises her dress appropriately.

Sofia: I am so happy I made it across the street safely.”

\*Narrator: Raising your dress too high or with both hands will result in public humiliation and severe wrinkles to the dress.

\*The Wrong Way Scene:

Haley crosses the street and raises her dress really high using both hands exposing her ankles. She lets go of the dress when she gets to the other side. Her dress is very wrinkled! Sofia starts laughing at Haley.

\*Narrator: Remember folks, keep it classy, never trashy.

## Famous Oscar Wilde Quotes

In a free write activity, Students respond to quotes from Oscar Wilde

"The world was my oyster but I used the wrong fork." -Oscar Wilde

It makes me feel like someone got what they wanted but they didn't use it the right way. –John

I think he said this quote because he looked at the world differently than most. Meaning, he had the world in the palm of his hand, but he didn't use it to his advantage. – John

"If you want to tell people the truth, make them laugh first, otherwise they'll kill you." -Oscar Wilde

He means that when you have to be honest with someone, try to be funny. If you are not funny, that person will be heavily upset because the truth hurts. – John

Sometimes the truth is too much for one to handle. So, by making them laugh it will distract them. – Alex

Making people laugh with the truth is good. You don't want to lie to them. People don't like liars. Laughing about the truth is always good. One must have a sense of humor to succeed in the world. You can't always be too serious. – Haley

Telling the truth can be hard at times and when telling the truth, you don't want to the person to be mad. So, you want to make light of the truth and not make it seem so bad. Sometimes, the truth results in fights and if you don't tell the truth, it can lead to bigger problems that weren't even there in the first place. –Lauren

**BENWORTH HIGH SCHOOL 11<sup>th</sup> Grade English – Mrs. Nikki Ludick**  
**Performance Reflection and Critiques - responses from Students**

**\*Are there any characters that took you by surprised or seemed different than how you expected them to be?**

**Student Responses:** Dr. Chausable's voice was extremely weird but it made me enjoy him. / I wasn't expecting Dr. Chausable and Miss Prism to act the way they did. / I expected Miss Prism to be younger. / Algernon was taller than I expected. / No / I thought Cecily would act smarter. / I thought Algernon would have been heavier. / Algernon was more sarcastic and funny than I expected and Lady Bracknell wasn't as harsh as I expected. / I thought Gwendolen was more upbeat in the performance than in the book. Lady Bracknell was definitely funnier in the performance than in the book / Cecily was more bossy and feminine than I expected. / Algernon was much more likable than in the book. / Miss Prism was older than I expected and Dr. Chausable was a lot younger looking than Miss Prism. He should be the same age as her. / Algernon was so goofy. I didn't expect it but I liked it. /

**\*Were there any characters that were right "on target"? List them and explain.**

**Student Responses:** Lady Bracknell did really well. / I think Jack played his part perfectly. / I liked when Algernon and Jack were talking and fighting after Gwendolen and Cecily left. / Gwendolen, Cecily, Lady Bracknell and Jack / Algernon was on target. / Algernon was just like I imagined him. He was funny and kind of creepy. / Jack was short like I expected. / Lady Bracknell was exactly like I pictured her. / I thought Algernon was very good and Lady Bracknell was right what I thought. / Lady B. and Jack / Cecily – she played the part very well. I really enjoyed watching her. / I believe Jack and Algernon were right on target. They were exactly how I thought they would be. / Jack and Cecily had traits that were just like the book. / Algernon was perfect and Jock was exactly how I pictured. / Lady Bracknell was a proper older woman just as I thought she would be. /

**\*What was your favorite moment? Why?**

**Student Responses:** When Jack and Algernon were chasing each other. I liked when Algernon and Jack were talking and fighting after Gwendolen and Cecily left. / When the globe prop opened into a bar - It was cool. / The ending when they found out they were brothers. / When Jack and Algernon found out they were brothers. It was happy and funny. / The freeze frame of Algy and Jack - It was hilarious. / When Algernon and Jack were fighting over the cigarette case. / The muffin scene between Jack and Algernon was my fav. / When Algernon nearly fell while he and Jack were fighting and chasing each other. It was funny. / My favorite part was when Algernon and Jack were fighting over muffins. / The beginning was slow. / Every time Algernon and Jack argued – their arguments were so funny. / My favorite scene was the muffin scene. It was funny to watch grown men argue over muffins. /

**\*What was your least favorite moment? Why?**

**Student Responses:** The ending of the play because it was over. / There were just some parts that dragged on. / When the scenes dragged on, I got restless. The seats were super uncomfortable. / None of it. Everything was good. / Some of the parts in ACT TWO – I knew what was happening and it was just boring in some parts. / During Act 2 when there was a bunch of acting and no action, it got a little boring. / The long breaks between acts. Our school does set changes really quick for our musicals. I thought they should

**BENWORTH HIGH SCHOOL 11<sup>th</sup> Grade English – Mrs. Nikki Ludick**  
**Performance Reflection and Critiques - responses from Students Continued -**

have been faster. / The intermissions were a little long. / The beginning was slow. I was hard for me to pay attention. /

**\*If you could make a directorial change, what would it be?**



**Student Responses:** Some scenes need to be sped up. / To speed up the scenes. / It was put together well. / I wouldn't change a thing. / The set was awesome. / microphones – you couldn't hear the actors sometimes. / Giving the actor microphones. Not changing the setting picture in the frame after the light had already come on. / There was satire and hyperbole / I would add more hype to Act 1. / I would make sure the audience was always able to pick up on the sarcasm – especially from Lady Bracknell. /

**\*Provide a compliment to the director.**

**Student Responses:** The actors that he used were really good. / He did a good job. / The accents were good. / It was great and the actors were great. / The set was awesome. / You did a good job. The staging was very good. / It was well put together. Hard work pays off. / The play was well rehearsed. / The play was very well directed and I really appreciated that. I'm into directing. / Great use of space and staging. / The performances was funnier than when we read the play. / I loved the play. / The play flowed very smoothly. It went in line with the book better than I imagined and the actors were perfect for the characters they represented. /

**\*Provide a compliment to the actors. (you may choose one actor or generally address all of the actors.)**

**Student Responses:** Cecily, I think she was beautiful and did a good job with acting. / The accents were all really good. / All of the actors did great and they portrayed the characters awesomely. / They were very funny and they let the words flow. It was like listening to a conversation. / I think Algernon and Cecily worked really well together. Props to the Butlers! / Jack – it was funny how he was OK with the short jokes between him and Algernon. Cecily – was very pretty and a good actress. Gwendolen – spoke her lines well. She had a lot to say. / The actors were so great. Everyone was funny, especially Algernon. He was very energetic. / Everyone was well played out. Loved Cecily and her characters. / All of the actors were right on point. They made the play seem realistic in a sense. Despite the fact that it was set in Victorian time, it was still was understandable and fun.

**\*What particular type of comedy did you detect? Name examples of different types of comedy and add extra information pertaining to how the actors made this type of comedy come to life.**

**Student Responses:** A lot of sarcasm. / The whole thing is ironic / The dentist joke – it was a pun! / There was a little bit of slapstick. / Lady Bracknell's sarcasm / Some slapstick and a lot of puns / Situational Irony / The irony and the end of the play / I noticed the puns and slapstick. I also noticed the irony in it. / Slapstick – Algernon was fixing Jack's coat and they were slapping each other. Satire – the entire play. Hyperbole – When Lady Bracknell was talking about My Bunburry being sick. Puns – anytime character's talked.