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APPENDIX

A. Biography of The Author

Oscar Wilde was born by the name Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde on October 16, 1854 – November 30, 1900 in the town of Westland Row, Dublin, Ireland. His mother, Jane Francesca Elgee, was an Irish nationalist and writer under the pen name Speranza. His father, Sir William Wilde, was a writer and ear and eye surgeon. Oscar Wilde had a brother named William Charles Kingsbury, and a sister named Isola Emily Francesca, who died a tragic death from a fever at the age of ten and affected him deeply.

Oscar and his older brother Wille studied at the Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, and Oscar became an excellent student in the classics. He was awarded a Royal School scholarship to study at Trinity College in Dublin. He again received a foundation scholarship, the highest award the school gives to undergraduate students for getting first place. In 1874 Oscar won the Berkeley gold medal for Greek learning and was awarded a Demyship Scholarship to study at Magdalen College, Oxford. Her poem Ravenna was awarded the Newdigate Prize, and received the highest rating (first class) for her work Mods and Greats by her examiner.

His first collection of poems, *Poems*, was published in 1881 to mark Oscar's start as a writer. While he was starting his career as a writer, he married Constance Lloyd in 1884. They had two children, Cyrill and Vyvyan. His *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*, published in 1888, and

The House of Pomegranates, published in 1992, were the era in which Oscar was at the peak of his creativity.

Oscar wrote a novel entitled *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, published by an American magazine in 1890, and was criticized by Victorian society for being homoerotic. He then re-released the novel the following year. Oscar then performed the first performance for his theatrical script, *Lady Windmere's Fan*, in 1892. The work was a success and earned him so much money that he decided to continue his writing through a play.

Several other successful works recorded in his writings are *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895). His drama script received a lot of recognition and made him a famous and talented writer.

At the height of his fame with *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895) played in London, Oscar was accused and sentenced to two years in prison for libel and indecency. He wrote *De profundis* (1897) while he was in prison, and it was only published in 1905. After his release, he wrote his last work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898), which is a lengthy poem about his life in prison. He had a serious ear infection and eventually died at the age of 46 after spending the rest of his life moving around Europe on November 30, 1900 in Paris.

B. Synopsis of The Play

The Importance of Being Earnest is a comedy genre work by Oscar Wilde, consisting of three acts and reflecting on the life of Victorian society at that time. The play was first staged in London on February 14, 1895.

In act 1 in the play, Ernest came to the city to visit his friend Algernon. His real purpose was to propose to Algernon's cousin, Gwendolen. But Algernon did not allow Jack to discuss the matter, and instead turned the conversation to Jack's cigarette box that was left at his house. Ernest refuses that the box is his, but Algernon continues to press him to admit ownership of the box. Algernon questions who is the girl named Cecily is who wrote a small letter in the box. Jack, who previously tried to cover up the identity of the girl named Cecily, finally told the truth after being pressed by Algernon. Cecily turns out to be a young girl who is under Jack's guardianship. Jack also admitted that he always reasoned to visit his younger brother Ernest who lived in London so he could leave the village where he lived for a while.

Gwendolen and Lady Bracknell finally arrived at the Algernon residence. Lady Bracknell intended to have a chat with Algernon about an acquaintance's banquet. On the other hand, Gwendolen and Jack are in a separate room and Jack proposes to Gwendolen. When Lady Bracknell found out about this, she was angry and refused because she did not have a clear family background. Jack finally admits that he has no parents, but was only found in a handbag at the train station.

In the second half, Algy is curious about Cecily until he finally visits his house in the village. He claims to be the younger brother of Jack named Ernest and lives in London. The misunderstanding finally occurred when Jack arrived at his house and said that he was mourning the death of his brother Ernest in Paris. Gwendolen also finally comes to the village and meets Cecily, until then another misunderstanding occurs because both of them think that they will be engaged to the same person named Ernest.

The third act in this drama contains a heated issue, where Lady Bracknell finally arrives at the village because of following Gwendolen. He finally met Miss Prism, Cecily's teacher who was very familiar to him. He asked about a baby that Miss Prism brought 28 years ago in a black handbag on the train. This eventually solves Jack's unknown family background. It was later revealed that Jack was the first son of Lady Bracknell's older sister, who is Algernon's mother. His real name is Ernest, which is taken from his father's name.