

SENTENCE COMBINING #2

Blocking Characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Combine the following elements into a coherent paragraph that explains the function of *blocking* characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

- 1 The climax of many comedies is the marriage of young lovers.
- 2 A good plot requires this.
- 3 The marriage is delayed.
- 4 This delay or suspense is usually achieved by characters.
- 5 They are called blocking characters.
- 6 They consciously oppose the marriage.
- 7 Their folly somehow stands in the marriage's way.
- 8 Parents are most frequently blocking characters.
- 9 Parents represent practical, puritanical, and antiromantic forces in society.
- 10 The marriage is often blocked.
- 11 It is blocked by some folly or fault.
- 12 The fault or folly is in one or both of the lovers.
- 13 This happens in
- 14 This is the plays' primary plot.
- 15 Jack's plan to marry Gwendolen is initially blocked by the girl's mother.
- 16 The mother is Lady Bracknell.
- 17 Lady Bracknell is concerned with Jack's family background.
- 18 She is more concerned with this than with her daughter's desires.
- 19 Gwendolen herself also threatens to be a block.
- 20 Gwendolen is in love with Jack and willing to marry him.
- 21 She can only love someone named Earnest.
- 22 This is what she says.
- 23 Jack uses the name Earnest when he is with her in London.
- 24 The audience believes this.
- 25 The hero's name is Jack.
- 26 Gwendolen's infatuation with the name of Ernest seems likely to become an obstacle.
- 27 This happens at the end of Act 1.
- 28 The audience is led to expect this.
- 29 Jack will discover a respectable set of parents.
- 30 Jack will get a new name.
- 31 This will satisfy the aristocratic conditions of Lady Bracknell.
- 32 This will satisfy the romantic expectations of Gwendolen.