

Step 1: Before reading Arthur Ganz's "The Philosophy of the Dandy," define the following words: (hmmm, I did it for you already. Thanks, Ms. Tannous!)

belligerent (adj) - characteristic of an enemy or one eager to fight

innocuous (adj) - harmless

ostensible (adj) - appearing as such but not necessarily so

aesthetic (n) - a philosophical theory as to what is beautiful

bourgeoisie (n) - the middle class

caprice (n) - a *sudden* desire

capricious (adj) - changeable, fickle

subversive (adj) - in opposition to a civil authority or government

obtuse (adj) - lacking in insight or discernment

indecorous (adj) - lacking propriety and good taste in manners and conduct

propriety (n) - correct or appropriate behavior

epitomize (v) - embody the essential characteristics of or be a typical example of

inviolable (adj) - must be kept sacred

antithetical (adj) - sharply contrasted in character or purpose

yoke (v) - become joined or linked together

Step 2: Next, look up and define the following terms:

Philistine -

Victorian -

nouveau frisson -

Puritanical-

Step 3: Now you are ready for the article. Keep your notes above handy, in case you need to look back as you read. Respond to the following questions/prompts below while you read or after reading the article.

1. In your own words, what does it mean to be a Dandy?
2. According to Ganz, in what ways is the Dandy a subversive?
3. Explain Wilde's rejection of Victorian Philistinism. How does he use his play to that end?

4. Explain the importance of “sensation” to the Dandy.

5. Explain **and** evaluate Ganz’s assertion that *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a “Dandiacal Utopia.”

6. Create a continuum, using the characters in the play (include Algernon, Cecily, Chasuble, Gwendolyn, Jack, Lady Bracknell, Lane, Miss Prism) in which you put them in order of the most to the least “dandiacal” characters.

7. Explain the marriage of form and function in the play.