DRAMA

LECTURE FOUR

In the second act we know that it is the birthday of lady Windermere, the party started so the duchess of Berwick Arabella is very happy and she thanks Margret for inviting Mr. James Hopper, who is interested in her daughter Agatha and Arabella wishes that he proposes to her , Agatha waited for him to come without dancing with anybody , until he arrived at the party and then she started dancing with him, the servant parker is calling that names of the guests who enter , he announces their names before entering the party .

We said before that the duchess Arabella is a typical Victorian character , she is like Margret very strict in what is right and what is wrong.

When lord Augustus entered the party ,Augustus is the friend of Arthur Windermere, he is an old rich gentleman, so he enters the party and Arabella avoids talking to him , we do not know why?! Here there is suspense , Oscar wild is making suspense the audience do not know why Arabella tries to avoid Augustus, it seems she is angry with him but the audience do not know why هنا فيه عنصر التشويق I told you in any modern drama there is ambiguity and suspense, subtle language , witty conversation , it is hard to understand everything from the beginning.

There is a conversation between Augusts and Arthur ,Augustus when he enters he goes to talk to Arthur Windermere, this conversation of course is at the beginning of the act , we call this conversation subtle conversation , it has hidden meanings and the reader must read between the lines, it is not explicit , Augustus asks Arthur about Mrs. Erlynne he does not mention her name , he asks Arthur because he knows that Arthur has a relationship with her he frequently goes and visits her, Arthur was very conservative in his answers , he was not explicit in his speech , Mr. Augustus tries to know from him whether Mrs. Erlynne is a good character or not , Arthur does not want to give much information about the lady , so Augustus tells Arthur that he had dined with the duchess of Berwick Arabella the night before and she did not leave a rag on her يعني she talked badly about Mrs. Erlynne's reputation, Augustus tells Arthur that he thinks of marrying Mrs. Erlynne because of her beauty and cleverness , what does this show about Augustus's character ???

You will notice that while talking about the act I am going through the characters , we are analyzing the characters .

Discuss the characterization in the play (assignment question ) Lady Windermere by Oscar wild .

يعني how Oscar wild portrays characters?

We will say that he is an aesthetic writer and a hedonist we will find these characteristics in some characters you mention them and comment on them طبعا فيه شخصية الخادم باركر مافيش داعي تزكروها أصلا بس فيه شخصيات نحب نذكرها مثل ارابيلا و آرثر وميسز ايرلان دول لازم نزكرهم وفيه ماينر كاركترز مسل ارابيلا اقاثا لورد اوقاستس وأنتي تشوفي هو ميجور كاركتر ولا ماينور كاراكتر وتحطي اللي أنتي بتفكري فيه when you answer a question like this you have to mention that this is a well made play ومعروف any well made play has characters as types meaning that they are not fully developed شخصية نموذج للخير شخصية نموذج للشر شخصية نموذج للبخل the characters are not very well individualize, the characters are not portrait as individuals with different rates, most of the characters are types, with no psychological realism m meaning that the writer doe not give the character the space to discus inner conflict ex. Arabella is a typical Victorian type and Darlington is a typical antivictorian character and he is bohemian dandy and is a reflection of Oscar wild himself except Margret , she is a round character because she develops from one extreme to the other. Arthur is a doting husband, he is striving to keep his wife happy. Mrs. Erlynne is a type of a fallen woman in the 19th c . Augustus is a type of a humanitarian character .

So in the answer of this question you will answer talking about:

* Well made plays + examples from the text
* Hedonism
* You will talk about the 2 philosophers that had their influence on Oscar wild while portraying his characters, Emanuel cont + Jeremy Bingham(موجود بالأوراق اللي استلمتوها من الكوبي سنتر)

So Augustus is humanitarian , is he like the other Victorians, because Mrs. Erlynne is a fallen woman, will she be forgiven by others in the society??? The people who will say no are the Victorians, like Margret and Arabella but Augustus is different he is humanitarian , when you read his speeches you will find that he gives excuses to people , and he forgives a fallen woman , he wants to marry Mrs. Erlynne and he knows that she is a lady of a past, because he loves her as a human being , he is attracted to her beauty and cleverness , he watches her while dealing with others, she is very smart and he wants to marry her for her character , he forgives he is tolerant دا هو الاناليسيز ده اللي انتو مش حتلأوه في الكتاب because you will find it from your reading through and between the lines.

Arthur tells Augustus when he knows that he wants to marry Mrs. Erlynne that she is a good lady but he does not talk about any details about her history.

We have somebody called lady Plymdale, she tries to talk to Arthur and Arthur is running after his wife , because he knows that he has upset her and he invites Mrs. Erlynne against her will , all the time he is running after her he wants to make sure that she does not make a scene, lady Plymdale said a comment that echoed the ideas and thoughts of Oscar wild when she criticizes society and says that there are no happy marriages in the Victorian society, Arthur is running after his wife everywhere as if they are happy together, so she says that she knows that there are no happy marriages in the 19th c Victorian society, marriages are built on betrayal , Oscar wild's voice is echoed here, his authorial voice is clear in lady Plymdale's criticism of the society.

This means that wild's style of writing is subjective, he uses lady Plymdale as his mouth piece to echo his ideas this is the opposite of the naturalistic drama completely , in realistic novels we have Charles Dickens, George Eliot, they try to be as objective as possible if their authorial voice is heard it is considered a flaw in the technique but Oscar wild is an aesthete he is an aesthetic writer meaning he is a subjective style he expresses his feelings and he use moth pieces like his use of lady Plymdale.

Lady Plymdale is a married woman and we will know that she has an affair with Mr. Dumby, why Arthur is following his wife ???

He is following her begging her not to make a scene to Mrs. Erlynne because he has invited her against her will. According to the Victorian principles Margret has to obey her husband she is suppressed she cannot say her opinion she uses her fan to express her feeling the fan becomes a tool for self expression while Arthur is calling her she goes and gives Darlington her fan and goes to talk to Arthur giving Darlington the message and impression that she is infatuated with him. When she talks to her husband he irritates her ,because he talks favorably and well about Mrs. Erlynne, and forces her to deal nicely with her.

Margret goes back to Darlington and she was very angry, she took the fan from him and she dropped it in front of Arthur, what does this mean???

She expresses her anger by dropping her fan in front of Arthur, the fan here is symbolizes Arthur's love to ,as if she drops Arthur's love from her heart , Arthur picked up the fan and gave it back to Margret. He really loves her he is a doting husband but this is not clear yet.

Then we have a conversation between Arthur and Mrs. Erlynne , this conversation is subtle this is a proof that our play is implicit P. 34:

LORD WINDERMERE. [In a low voice.] It was terribly rash of you to  
come !

The moment Margret saw her she dropped the fan , she bowed for her تحية but she is boiling from inside, she is fuming with anger because she is doing this against her will.

terribly rash, we understand that he is not welcoming her .

MRS. ERLYNNE. [Smiling.] The wisest thing I ever did in my life.  
And, by the way, you must pay me a good deal of attention this  
evening. I am afraid of the women. You must introduce me to some  
of them. The men I can always manage. How do you do, Lord  
Augustus? You have quite neglected me lately. I have not seen you  
since yesterday. I am afraid you're faithless. Every one told me  
so..

Women are very jealous of her that’s why they talk badly about her , because she is very beautiful and smart and she is very attractive to men ماعندهاش مشكلة مع الرقالة هي بتعرف تتعامل معاهم then she starts talking to Augustus.

So here, what do you read between the lines ???

Are they friends??? Does Arthur really loves her ??? Arthur does not love her and it seems that she is threatening Arthur or she is holding something on him that is why he listens to her and that’s why he invited her against his well وانتو فاكرين في اكت 1 فيه سيلوليكوي بتاع آرثر بيؤل انه فيه سيكرت بس احنا لسه مش عارفين أيه هو السيكريت ده see how Oscar wild develops his plot , we are in suspense and ambiguity we cannot think of any explanation لغاية دلوأتي .

Is it logical that Arthur keeps hiding a secret from his wife ??? he lives his wife very much but he drives her to utter anger, is it realistic??? His reaction is illogical and this is an impressionistic technique , this creates a dreamlike atmosphere, in modern drama the writer gives big space to stage direction , before or after conversation you see stage directions written in italics بالمائل , you do not find stage direction in the 16thc drama or in the classical drama, but you find it in modern drama the writer might bit one whole page for stage direction ,

[They converse together. LORD WINDERMERE moves uneasily about the  
room watching MRS. ERLYNNE.]

He is unhappy of her presence, what happens after that when Margret sees that she becomes pale, she told herself a cowered she cannot insult Mrs. Erlynne , she went out to talk to Darlington and she complains to him about Arthur that he puts her under pressure, she starts to think that the idea of Darlington is right that he told her in act one , that if a lady is being betrayed by her husband she has the right to betray him, he is bohemian he does not care that marriage is sacred, she starts to think about sin lightly because Arthur buts her under pressure , she starts to think about not taking sin as an issue of morality or immorality , she thinks of sin as a consolation to herself as a mean to realize and achieve spiritual happiness , she does not think of sex, she wants him as a friend but he wants her as a lover and we will see that.

Mrs. Erlynne was very happy at the party and she was entertaining herself, after talking to a widow named lady Jedburgh, she is an old lady , she talks to her and then she goes to Arthur and tells him that she is bored of talking to lady Jedburgh, what does this shows about her character???

Mrs. Erlynne is a hypocrite , intolerant with old ladies , she is not very kind , she has no patients , she is a pleasure seeker , she wants to be introduced to the society, men of ladies of the society اذكروا هذي النقطة في واجب تحليل الشخصيات

Then she tells Augustus that lady Plymdale is very jealous of her because Mr. Dumby is interested in her , so she is jealous of her she knows that she is having an affair, Mrs. Erlynne is an experienced lady, she understands the people and how they feel , she shows Augustus that she is indifferent with him and in reality she wants to marry him, and he tells Arthur that , and then we will know that she wants to marry him because he is a lord and he will help her gain social respectability as a lady.

After that she leaves Augustus and she goes to Arthur, and asks him to dance with her because she wants to tease Augustus, what is this??? What kind of woman is she???

She is clever and smart , she wants to make Augustus more jealous , to propose to her quickly , and who is jealous also??? Margret , she sees Erlynne dancing with Arthur and she is a playful woman and her moves with Arthur were not respectable by dancing , because she is teasing Augustus, she does not know that she is teasing Margret as well. Margret got upset from her husband and got more angry. She feels that people are mocking her.

Lady Plymdale is a type of what???

she represents social hypocrisy, marital infidelity, this lady tells Mr. Dumby the one she has an affair with, she asks him to take her husband when he goes to lunch to Mrs. Erlynne, because she knows that Mr. Dumby is invited for lunch at Mrs. Erlynne's house.

What is her plan???

She tells him that her husband has been annoying her all the time , so she has no time to spend with Dumby, so she tells him that she wants her husband to be emotionally attracted to Mrs. Erlynne, he can have an affair or not دا ما يهماهاش ماعندهاش مشاكل المهم she wants her husband to be away from her she wants some lady to occupy his mind so that she can have enough time with Dumbyشايفين ذا ديرتي بلان .

Margret goes to Darlington , this is a very important conversation , she tells him that she cannot bare Arthur anymore she sees Arthur dancing with Mrs. Erlynne that playful woman خلاص هيا مش أدره تتحمل she cannot continue. What is the reaction of Darlington ??? Darlington does not calm her downدا شعللها he instigates her against her husband , he tells her that her husband does not deserve her ما يستاهلهاش he tells her that Arthur betrays her بيؤل لها دا بيخونك معاها

Margret tells him that she really needs his friendship, so he tells her that he offers her not friendship but he offers her love, he wants her as a beloved, not as just a friend, he shocks her, and he keeps on convincing her, he addresses her dignity بيخاطب كرامتها and asks her to leave the house, he offers to marry her , and she thinks that Arthur might come back to her , so he tells her you should not accept if that happens. Darlington tells her that she should despise Arthur , and then he tells her to choose between him and Arthur he pressurized her to chooses between him and Arthur within few hours and he tells her that he will travel abroad and he will live there for ever .

What type of character is Darlington???

He is utilitarian personنفعي in the 19th c the British philosopher Jeremy Bingham proclaims his philosophy of utilitarianism مذهب المنفعة الحسية Bingham said that the government must respect the individual utility because individual utility produces pleasure and the individual pleasure leads to public pleasure , this gave raise to capitalism .

Jeremy Bingham's influence on literature , there are utilitarian characters and hedonist characters , utilitarian characters like Darlington he uses Margret to achieve his own pleasures, he loves her and he wants her although she is a married woman , he does not think of her family and her child he only thinks about himself, and he uses the chance that she is very mad with Arthur , when she is angry with Arthur he instigates her to leave the house.

The party is about to finish and people started to leave , the duchess Arabella goes to Margret to thank her for the party and for making her have Hooper and she tells her that Hooper has proposed to her daughter , but she was not happy because he wants to take her daughter to Australia and she wants them to marry and stay with her in England , so before leaving she tells her that Mrs. Erlynne is really a good lady and then she leaves with Agatha and Hooper, lady Plymdale leaves also and she gives satirical remarks to Margret because Arthur dances many dances with Mrs. Erlynne, as if she is insulting Margret making fun of her , Mr. Dumby and Mr. Cecil Graham both of them they satirize Mr. Hooper because he behaved in an immoral way with Agatha , they believe that he does not conform to the Victorian principles .

Mr. Dumby and Cecil Graham are not really good people but they care about appearances , they are hypocrites, they do immoral things but secretly .

Arthur talks to Mrs. Erlynne and Margret watches them and she was very sad and upset Erlynne tells Arthur that she has not seen Margret since 20 years this information is very important , this is Margret's 21st birthday , this means that the last time she saw her Margret was 1 year old .

Margret was watching in pain , she is not happy to see her husband talking to Mrs. Erlynne , she over hears Mrs. Erlynne asking Arthur to give her 2000 sterling pounds every year to make her attractive to Augustus , because she plans to marry Augustus , she told him that he proposed to her .

Margret says a soliloquy p.42:

LADY WINDERMERE. To stay in this house any longer is impossible.  
To-night a man who loves me offered me his whole life. I refused  
it. It was foolish of me. I will offer him mine now. I will give  
him mine. I will go to him! [Puts on cloak and goes to the door,  
then turns back. Sits down at table and writes a letter, puts it  
into an envelope, and leaves it on table.] Arthur has never  
understood me. When he reads this, he will. He may do as he  
chooses now with his life. I have done with mine as I think best,  
as I think right. It is he who has broken the bond of marriage--  
not I. I only break its bondage.

Darlington left and told her that if you don't come with me you will never see me again , she will lose his love بيخليها تقارن بين زوج مابيحباهاش وبيخونها وبين إنسان عاشق she went to the door to leave but came back sat and wrote a letter to Arthur , and then she left to Darlington's house.

Mrs. Erlynne goes to say goodbye to Margret , she finds the letter and she opens it and read it , and then she is shocked , she asks the servant where is Margret , and the servant Parker tells her that she has left the house.

P.43:

Life doesn't repeat its tragedies like that! Oh, why does this horrible fancy  
come across me? Why do I remember now the one moment of my life I  
most wish to forget? Does life repeat its tragedies? [Tears  
letter open and reads it, then sinks down into a chair with a  
gesture of anguish.] Oh, how terrible! The same words that twenty  
years ago I wrote to her father! and how bitterly I have been  
punished for it! No; my punishment, my real punishment is to-  
night, is now! [Still seated R.]

She takes the letter and she hides it from Arthur , Arthur saw the letter with her , he recognized the handwriting of his wife , Mrs. Erlynne is very smart she told him that Margret had written an address for her , and she took the letter , she does not show it to Arthur. Arthur asks her about Margret so she tells him that she went upstairs to her room because she wants to sleep , and then she says a soliloquy after Arthur had left her :

MRS. ERLYNNE. Thanks! What can I do? What can I do? I feel a  
passion awakening within me that I never felt before. What can it  
mean? The daughter must not be like the mother--that would be  
terrible. How can I save her? How can I save my child? A moment  
may ruin a life. Who knows that better than I? Windermere must be  
got out of the house; that is absolutely necessary. [Goes L.] But  
how shall I do it? It must be done somehow. Ah!

The first time the audience know that Mrs. Erlynne is the mother of Margret , and this passion she is talking about is motherhood which she is feeling and experiencing it for the 1st time .

لازم اطلع آرثر من البيت عشان مايكتشفش أن مارغريت مش موجودة she asks Augustus to keep him out the whole day and if he does not obey her he will not see her face again and he agrees , he took Arthur out of the house , he does not know why he obeys her because he wants to marry her , and this is the end of act 2.

Assignment: discus the characterization in Oscar wild's lady Windermere's fan.

Write a Saudi Arabian experimental play. (realism-reflects the society ,social or anti social, implicit )

What do you think of the soliloquies in the play???

I see it as something negative how come a modern play is full of soliloquies, Oscar wild should have used impressionistic monologues, soliloquies are explicit you do not expect the audience to be cultured, we can consider soliloquies as weakness in his plays.

Read the papers for impressionism, silence is technique, symbolism , experimentation means ante realistic .

Impressionism = characters make illogical reaction , you can make hedonist or bohemian characters, you can make dreamlike atmosphere , use symbols = the fan what do you have as a symbol in Saudi Arabia, + grotesque elements , the sense of quilt was we saw in Mrs. Erlynne she left her daughter for 20 years , she wants to save her , she wants to expiate her sin , the use of the idealistic sense ex. Pure friendship , sacrifice اكتبوا مسرحيه من 2 صفحة وممكن 2 يشتركون مع بعض وتسلم بعد الإجازة