

Lady Bracknell, because her pronouncements are so outrageous.

Indeed she is vain. She loves to be admired although she is not perfect. She displays her ill temper in Act II during her clash with Cecily which is a proof of her lack of perfection. Moreover, she ends up marrying a "wicked" man. She discovers that Jack leads a double life, that he is a liar, and that his many trips to London were for the sake of pleasure. When She asks him why he pretended to have a brother, she adds another question that really provides Jack with the answer he is expected to give.

"Was it in order that you might have an opportunity coming up to town to see me as often as possible?"

When Jack says "Can you doubt it, Miss Fairfax?", Gwendolen says,

"I have the gravest doubts upon the subjects. But I intend to crush them.

This is not a moment of German skepticism."

Despite the fact that Jack is a liar and a pleasure seeker he is not asked to purify himself. It is his name that forms an obstacle to marriage and when he announces that he is going to be re-christened "Ernest", Gwendolen embraces him in delight. The situation is totally absurd. She like other characters contributes to the rich comedy of the play and lends the play a charm.

Points to Remember:

1. She has conventional Victorian ideals.
2. She is artificial, pretentious and vain.
3. She is very frank and forthright in her views.
4. She is both a model and an arbiter of elegant fashion and sophistication.
5. She contributes to the rich comedy of the play.