

Fat Southern Men in Summer Suits by Liam Rector

Introduction:

"Style is the hallmark of a refined individual, for it is through clothing that we present ourselves to the world, our true selves veiled in a symphony of fabric and design. Let our garments be the embodiment of our wit, our taste, and our impeccable manners, for in the realm of fashion lies the power to both enchant and deceive, to captivate and reveal, making it an art form as vital as any in the pursuit of earnestness."

- Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Directions: Follow the steps provided below:

1. Read "[Fat Southern Men in Summer Suits](#)" by Liam Rector, paying particular attention to the literary elements and techniques Rector uses to develop the complex associations the speaker makes with summer suits and the "fat southern men" who wear them.
2. Choose an article of "[dandy-style clothing](#)" that - in your opinion - you associate with one of the themes from *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This piece of attire does not necessarily need to come directly from the play; simply choose any piece of clothing that symbolizes or reflects your understanding of the meaning of the work as a whole.
3. Using that article of clothing as a central concept, create a poem similar in sentiment/style to "Fat Southern Men in Summer Suits" in which you relate a piece of attire to some larger understanding or meaning. In this particular case, your poem needs to relate back to or reiterate one of the overarching themes or messages of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. **Your poem needs to consist of no less than 100 words.**
4. Underneath your poem, write a brief rationale of your piece. In your response, discuss how the literary elements and techniques in your poem reiterate, reflect, highlight, or underscore one of the themes of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Be sure to use specific pieces of evidence from *both* the play and your poem to support your response. **Your response should consist of no less than 100 words.**

Poem

**Your poem needs to consist of no less than 100 words.*

Rationale

**Your response needs to consist of no less than 100 words.*