

# The Importance of Being Earnest

Some ideas of how to start composing lyrics and song

musical hooks or:

how to get the listeners hooked

- rhythm hooks
- melody hooks
- harmony hooks
- lyric hooks
- instrumentation
- tempo
- dynamics
- improvisation and accident: giving the impression of spontaneity
- sound effects
- editing

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- scrutinise the passage from the play which you think offers a "lyric hook"
- the more hooks the play can provide for you, the easier it becomes for you take advantage of those hooks to compose your lyrics
- **example: Algernon and Jack talking about Jack's love for Gwendolen (I-4):**

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- have a close look at the word field in the passage in question
- **attributes mentioned in the text:**
  - (perfectly) delightful
  - (utterly) unromantic
  - romantic

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## words surrounding the concept of **love**

- to flirt with s.o.
- to propose to s.o.
- to be accepted by s.o. / to accept s.o.
- to be in love with s.o.
- to get married (to s.o.) / to marry s.o.

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## words with a somewhat **legal connotation**

- to approve of sth. / s.o.
- to give one's consent
- to divorce / to have a divorce / the Divorce Court
- bachelor

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## **miscellaneous**

- pleasure
- excitement
- the essence of romance

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<b>attributes</b>	<b>love</b>	<b>legal</b>	<b>miscellaneous</b>
•(perfectly) delightful	•to flirt with s.o.	•to approve of sth. / s.o.	•pleasure
•(utterly) unromantic	•to propose to s.o.	•to give one's consent	•excitement
•romantic	•to be accepted by s.o. / to accept s.o.	•to divorce / to have a divorce / the Divorce Court	•the essence of romance
	•to be in love with s.o.	•bachelor	
	•to get married (to s.o.) / to marry s.o.		



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## **contrasts**

- pleasure – business
- (perfectly) delightful – (perfectly) disgraceful

## **phrases with a particular "catchy" quality**

- "I don't see anything romantic in proposing."
- "the essence of romance"
- "Divorces are made in Heaven."
- "Girls never marry the men they flirt with. Girls don't think it right." (I-5)

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## **Girls don't think it right (sung by Algy and Jack)**

Let me warn you, not to throw your flowers in the dirt,  
cause girls would never marry any man with whom they flirt.  
So, Jack, accept the plight  
'cause girls don't think it right.