Name:

Haflin

Satire, Irony, and Humor

Date:

Id, Ego, Superego

**Background Information:** Sigmund Freud studied the personality in depth (some of you might know this from your own research or a psychology course), and believed that personality is composed of three distinct elements: the Id, Ego, and Superego. It is possible, with some effort, to apply his theory of personality to those characters in *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Id:

* The “Id” is the “set of uncoordinated instinctual trends”
* According to Freud, it is the only part of our personality present at birth
* The Id acts from the “pleasure principle”🡪it seeks only what will make us happy in the immediate future

**Example:** “I could eat those fourteen Hostess cupcakes, or I could wait until after my race this afternoon. Nah, I think I’ll eat the cupcakes” –Anonymous High School Track Athlete

Super-Ego

* The “Super-Ego” is the moralizing part of our personality
* The Super-Ego reflects those cultural traits that we’ve been taught concerning morality
* It is in constant battle with the Id for control, and craves “doing the right thing”, relatively speaking.
* The Super-Ego aims for perfects with regards to moral behavior

**Example:** We all know that killing another person is wrong, but in some cultures, human sacrifice is a part of life. These people’s Super-Egos haven’t been conditioned to think that such violence is inherently evil.

Ego:

* The “Ego” is the “organized, realistic part [of the psyche] that mediates between the desires of the Id and the Super-ego.
* The Ego allows us to plan for the future and brings instant or delayed gratification by weighing the benefits and consequences for each potential action.

**Example:** “I REALLY want Black Ops 3, but I don’t have the money. I won’t steal it, though, because I could get in serious trouble; I’ll wait until my next allowance” –Anonymous Frustrated High Schooler