LADY WINDERMERE’S FAN
by Oscar Wilde  Condensed by Barbara L. Wilson

In the morning-room of Lady Windermere’s home, young Lady Windermere is entertaining Lord Darlington, one of her husband’s acquaintances. While taking tea, Lord Darlington tells Lady Windermere that he hopes they can be great friends. He also intimates that Lord Windermere has seen cause of late in the company of a woman of questionable character. But Lady Windermere does not grasp this allusion to her husband.

morning-room (英) 女儿房中所用之地方； intimate 娇愛；暗示

Their conversation is interrupted by the announcement that the Duchess of Devourkirk and her daughter, Lady Agatha Carlisle, have come to call. After Lord Darlington leaves, the Duchess, without any preamble at being so, always informs Lady Windermere that Lord Windermere is seeing a Mrs. Edylone who is looked down on by members of London society.

Duchess (英) 公爵夫人；come to call 来访；without any preamble 不加任何前言

Their conversation is interrupted by the announcement that the Duchess of Devourkirk and her daughter, Lady Agatha Carlisle, have come to call. After Lord Darlington leaves, the Duchess, without any preamble at being so, always informs Lady Windermere that Lord Windermere is seeing a Mrs. Edylone who is looked down on by members of London society.

Duchess (英) 公爵夫人；come to call 来访；without any preamble 不加任何前言

Horified by this disclosure, Lady Windermere appears convinced her husband’s infidelity when she observes several noticeable indications of large payments of money to Mrs. Edylone from Lord Windermere. When Lady Windermere confronts her husband with her evidence, he admits knowing Mrs. Edylone but denies ever seeing her alone, intimates with her. But Lady Windermere does not believe him. She is further confirmed in her guilt when Lord Windermere asks her to extend an invitation to Mrs. Edylone for a birthday ball to be held that evening in Lady Windermere’s honor. Lady Windermere refuses her husband’s request and sends the invitation herself.

Horified (英) 震惊；infidelity 不忠；intimate 与...亲近

Riddles
1. Why is the letter T like an island?
2. What is both a horse and an even number?
3. What is the answer to the question “What is this?”
4. Why are all people not equal?
5. Can you think of a word in English which contains all the vowels - a, e, i, o, u?

Answers:
1. Because it is in the middle of the ocean.
2. Because there are two different types of equality.
3. Because there is no unique answer.
4. Because they are always found in the same location.
5. Yes, the word is "unanswerable."