

## Drama, Writing, and Speech Assignment 2

1. You will be writing a five-paragraph critical essay on one of the questions on *Our Town*, posted with last week's assignment. The essay will be due on the second week of October. Write a four-point outline on the essay, by writing 1) your main idea, which will be a direct answer to one of the study guide questions 2) three points supporting that main idea.
2. You may watch the first act of Thornton Wilder's bizarre, but significant play *The Skin of our Teeth, Act I*. As I mentioned in class, it is a work that looks at the sinfulness and corruption of man, and makes the observation that mankind has escaped destruction by the skin of its teeth (hence the significance of the title). It is a semi-allegorical work that uses anachronistic settings and makes frequent Biblical references and allusions. The main characters are named Mr. and Mrs. Antropus, which is a loose transliteration of the Greek *ἄνθρωπος*, which means "man." Like *Our Town*, it won a Pulitzer Prize.
3. Read Max Beerbohm's essay on *guests and hosts*. Read and complete all the exercises, *except* the writing exercise; however, be ready to discuss a projected topic for a classification and division essay of your own. The essay will not be due until the second week of November.
4. The picture on the right is of Thornton Wilder, taken in 1948, when he was about 51 years old. Thornton Wilder died in 1975.



### Long-Term Assignments

- The five-paragraph essay will be due **the second Friday in October**.
- Remember to plan for **Friday night, the third week in November**, as we watch a production of the play. Please let me know whether you can come or not. Feel welcome to bring desserts or savory foods (if you wish) and name them to indicate themes or any other aspects of the play. I personally will be baking something.