

## Drama, Writing, and Speech Assignment 2

1. You will be writing a five-paragraph critical essay on one of the questions on *Our Town*. 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. Finish reading *Our Town* and look over the questions in your study guide.
3. Watch the first act of Thornton Wilder's bizarre, but significant play *The Skin of our Teeth, Act I*. 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. We will watch only the first act of this play.
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.