



| A Characters | | |
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| 1 | Arthur Birling | Head of the family and prominent business owner. |
| 2 | Sheila Birling | Daughter of Arthur and Sybil. Engaged to Gerald Croft. |
| 3 | Gerald Croft | He is the fiancé of Sheila and son of a manufacturer and business rival to Mr Birling. |
| 4 | Sybil Birling | The matriarch of the family and Mr Birling's social superior. |
| 5 | Eric Birling | Son of Arthur and Sybil. Works part-time for the family business and has a drinking problem that he attempts to hide |
| 6 | Inspector Goole | A Police Inspector who turns up to investigate the death of a young woman. |
| 7 | Eva Smith/Daisy Renton | Her death is the cause of the Inspector's investigation. We do not meet her in the play. |
| 8 | Edna (the maid) | A minor character who is employed at the Birling's house and represents the plight of the working class. |
| B Context | | |
| 1 | J.B. Priestley | The playwright served in the infantry between 1914-1919. He saw frontline service in France, narrowly escaped death and experienced a gas attack. He later said the war had an important effect on his views and writing |
| 2 | Time periods: 1912 & 1945 | Written in 1945, immediately after WWII, but set in 1912 before the start of WWI. These time periods signalled huge social and political changes. |
| 3 | Class division | The characters provide a scrutiny of how higher classes treat and exploit the working class. Reputation and social status drive the Birlings actions. |
| 4 | Gender | Priestley offers a critique of how men exploit women but also how the gender roles were beginning to be challenged and changed in the attitudes and actions of the younger generation. |
| 5 | Socialism | A socialist writer, like George Bernard Shaw and H. G. Wells. His own experiences had helped convince him that we are responsible for each other. |

| C Plot | | |
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| Act 1 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The family celebration and business benefits of the engagement Mr Birling's 'the state of the nation' speech Enter Inspector Goole Birling's interrogation and treatment of Eva Smith as a factory worker Sheila on trial Turning point: Eva Smith changed her name to Daisy Renton and Gerald admits his affair in private to Sheila and the scene ends on a question. | |
| Act 2 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Family tensions: Sheila insists on staying to hear Gerald's interrogation Mrs Birling gets it all wrong. She dismisses the inspector and reveals her prejudices Gerald confesses his actions, starting at the Palace Bar The end of the affair: Gerald muses on his actions and Sheila ends the engagement Mrs Birling's lack of guilt during her interrogation. Drama peaks with Eric's silent return and we can infer he is the father of Eva/Daisy's unborn baby. | |
| Act 3 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Eric reveals all and explodes when he hears his mother's role Inspector Goole takes charge and takes his leave after asserting social responsibility as the key message The family divides with blame and doubt. The older generation strive to cover the scandal and the younger generation feel the full guilt. Who was the inspector? Was he a hoax? Is it all the same girl? No suicide, no girl? The Birlings and Gerald congratulate themselves on averting a scandal, teasing Eric and Sheila about their reaction when the phone rings. | |
| D. | Theme | Quotation |
| 1 | Socialism | We don't live alone. We are members of one body – we are responsible for each other. (Inspector Goole) |
| 2 | Capitalism | A man has to make his own way – has to look after himself. (Mr Birling) |
| 3 | Guilt & shame | But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're <i>people</i> . (Sheila) |
| 4 | Ignorance | I must say, we <i>are</i> learning something tonight. (Mrs Birling) |
| 5 | Collective responsibility | It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters. (Eric) |



VOCABULARY

**Excellence.
No Excuses.**

An Inspector Calls

Year: 10

AC: 1

| | Word | Definition | Synonyms | Antonyms | Etymology |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| 1 | Conscience | a person's moral sense of right and wrong, viewed as acting as a guide to one's behaviour. | Moral sense, standards, values, principles, ethics, creed, scruples. | Immoral, callous, unrighteous | Latin <i>conscientia</i> , from <i>conscient-</i> 'being privy to', from the verb <i>conscire</i> , from <i>con-</i> 'with' + <i>scire</i> 'know'. |
| 2 | Exploitation | the action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work. | Misuse, ill treatment, manipulation, oppression, using, profiteering, taking advantage, abuse | Inclusion, treated well, fairness, equality | Borrowed from French exploitation , from exploiter (exploit), from Latin <i>explicō</i> (unfold, deploy). |
| 3 | Prejudice | dislike, hostility, or unjust behaviour deriving from preconceived and unfounded opinions. | Prejudgement, discrimination, preconception | Impartiality, without favouritism, disinclination, broad mindedness | from Latin <i>praejudicium</i> , from <i>prae</i> 'in advance' + <i>judicium</i> 'judgement'. |
| 4 | Responsibility | the state or fact of being accountable or to blame for something. A moral obligation to behave correctly towards or in respect of. | Culpability, liability, duty, charge, take ownership of, | Irresponsible, guiltless, blameless , above reproach | rom Latin <i>respons-</i> 'answered, offered in return', from the verb <i>respondere</i> (see respond). |
| 5 | Hypocrisy | the practice of claiming to have higher standards or more noble beliefs than is the case. | Pietism, sanctimony, insincerity, falsity, pretence, posturing | Honesty, sincerity, genuineness, good faith, truthfulness | from Greek <i>hupokrisis</i> 'acting of a theatrical part', from <i>hupokrinesthai</i> 'play a part, pretend', from <i>hupo</i> 'under' + <i>krinein</i> 'decide, judge'. |
| 6 | Inequality | difference in size, degree, circumstances | Imbalance, disproportion, polarity, disparity, discrepancy, divergence | Equality, uniformity, justness, fairness, even-handedness, impartiality | from Old French <i>inequalite</i> , or from Latin <i>inaequalitas</i> , from <i>in-</i> 'not' + <i>aequalis</i> (see equal). |