

# An Inspector Calls

**ALL:** Develop *understanding* of the play's characters

**MOST:** *Analyse* Priestley's stage directions

**SOME:** *Evaluate* what we learn about the key characters from these directions

# Act One: first impressions

Re read the opening stage directions, carefully.

They are incredibly detailed and precise. This is the audience's first impression of the family and Priestley clearly wants to create a particular impression.

1. What information is given about each character?
2. What evidence is there to imply that the family has been prosperous?
3. What suggests that the house is not welcoming?

# Act One: first impressions

Read P.7-11 considering the family's interaction before Inspector Goole arrives.

1. Write a paragraph about each character.

2. Select and copy 3 quotations which sum up the character at the start of the play.

3. Why is it important that the audience sees the characters interacting before the inspector arrives?

# Homework

**Due:**

**Focus:**

Close reading and understanding of opening section of the play.

Write 2 pages supporting points with evidence

**Question:**

What does Priestley suggest about the Birling family in the opening section of the play? How is this impression created?

# Who says this? To whom? What does it tell us?

“ – so long as we behave ourselves, don't get into the police court or start a scandal-eh” p8

“ - Except for all last summer, when you never came near me” p3

“ But the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense.” p10

“...clothes mean something different to a woman” p9

“ When you're married you'll realise that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on their business” p3

“unless Eric's been up to something” p10

“You're just the kind of son-in-law I always wanted...working together for lower costs and higher prices” p4

# Birling's Speech p6-7

In pairs, re-read Birling's speech. Answer the following questions, using quotations to support your ideas.

1. What do you notice about the amount Birling says, in comparison to the others? What does this tell you about Birling?
2. List the things Birling feels optimistic about.
3. List the things that the audience knows Birling is wrong about.
4. How does Birling's family worries or concerns seem trivial?
5. Why do you think Priestley included details like the "unsinkable" Titanic?
6. As the audience knows how wrong Birling is, what impression are they left with of his character?

# Sheila

“She’s got a nasty temper sometimes” p5

“I think it’s perfect. Now I really feel engaged” p5

“Sorry! It’s just that I can’t help thinking about this girl – destroying herself so horribly – and I’ve been so happy tonight” p17

“(staring at Birling, agitated) When was this?” p 20

“(excited) Oh - Gerald - you’ve got it – is it the one you wanted me to have?” p5

“Oh – how horrible! Was it an accident?” p17

“(to Birling) I think it was a mean thing to do. Perhaps that spoilt everything for her.” p19

“But these girls aren’t cheap labour – they’re people” p 19

# Controlled Conditions Assessment

Week beginning 31st January

Explore the ways a central character is presented and developed in the text you have studied.

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# Sheila

1. What do these quotations show you about Sheila's character?
2. How does the Inspector's presence begin to change her character?
3. How does: "But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people" contradict her father's attitude?
4. Select 5 quotations which show that Sheila's character is continuing to change.

# The Inspector



*"...creates a force an  
impression on  
massiveness..."*



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# Act One - starter

Look at the questions on P72 in the 8th edition.

In register order, you will be allocated a question.

When I call your name in the register, give your answer to your question.

In pencil, write each answer next to the question in your copy of the book.

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# Act Two

Focus: Pages 27 - 34

As we are reading, underline examples of:

Attitudes which show women as the weaker sex.

Sheila defying her mother.

Sheila trying to warn her mother.

Changes in Sheila's mood (stage directions).

Sheila being sarcastic (stage directions).

# Gerald

## Character Development

1. How is Gerald described in the opening stage directions?
2. In pages 2-11, highlight everything Gerald says.
3. What do you notice about his language?
4. Once the Inspector arrives (p. 17-19), how does Gerald behave?
5. How did Gerald know of Eva/Daisy?
6. Select any quotations which show he cared for her, in a way.
7. How do we know that Eva/Daisy was upset by the relationship ending?
8. Why does Sheila say "I rather respect you more" to Gerald, after his confession?

At the end of Act 2, Birling, Sheila, Gerald & Mrs Birling have confessed their involvement in Eva Smith/Daisy Renton's death

At this point in the play, who do you consider to be most guilty?

Birling

Sheila

Gerald

Mrs Birling

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# Act Three

In your groups, read Eric's confession (P50-57).

Discuss the following questions and write your answers in your books.

1. How did Eric know Eva?
2. Why do you think the Inspector dealt with Eric last?
3. Why is Eric angry with his parents?
4. Why does the Inspector leave at this point?

# Act Three

In your groups, read (P53 – 63).

Discuss the following questions and write your answers in your books.

1. How does each member of the family react once the Inspector has gone?
2. Find a quotation to show this. Add it to your character diagram

In your groups, read (P63 – 72).

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## Act Three

The Inspector says about Gerald:

"Not that young man, Croft, though he at least had some affection for her and made her happy at the time."

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## Act Three

The Inspector also says,

“We can't live alone... We are all responsible for each other.”

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# An Inspector Calls

One of the themes of the play is **responsibility**; the idea that we are all connected and how we behave has an impact on other people. Therefore, it is our responsibility to treat people fairly & kindly.

You will analyse this theme using two extracts from the play.

1. Answer the questions on the sheet.
2. Skim the extracts and select quotations about responsibility.
3. Sheila feels the weight of her responsibility more than the others: Find 5 quotations which show this.

# Morality

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# An Inspector Calls

You should have the following in your books:

✓ An information page on each character

✓ A grid showing who is to blame for Eva Smith's death

✓ Answers to questions on Act 1 (supply lesson) & Act 3

✓ Notes on the introduction

✓ A passage based answer

✓ BBC Bitesize notes

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