

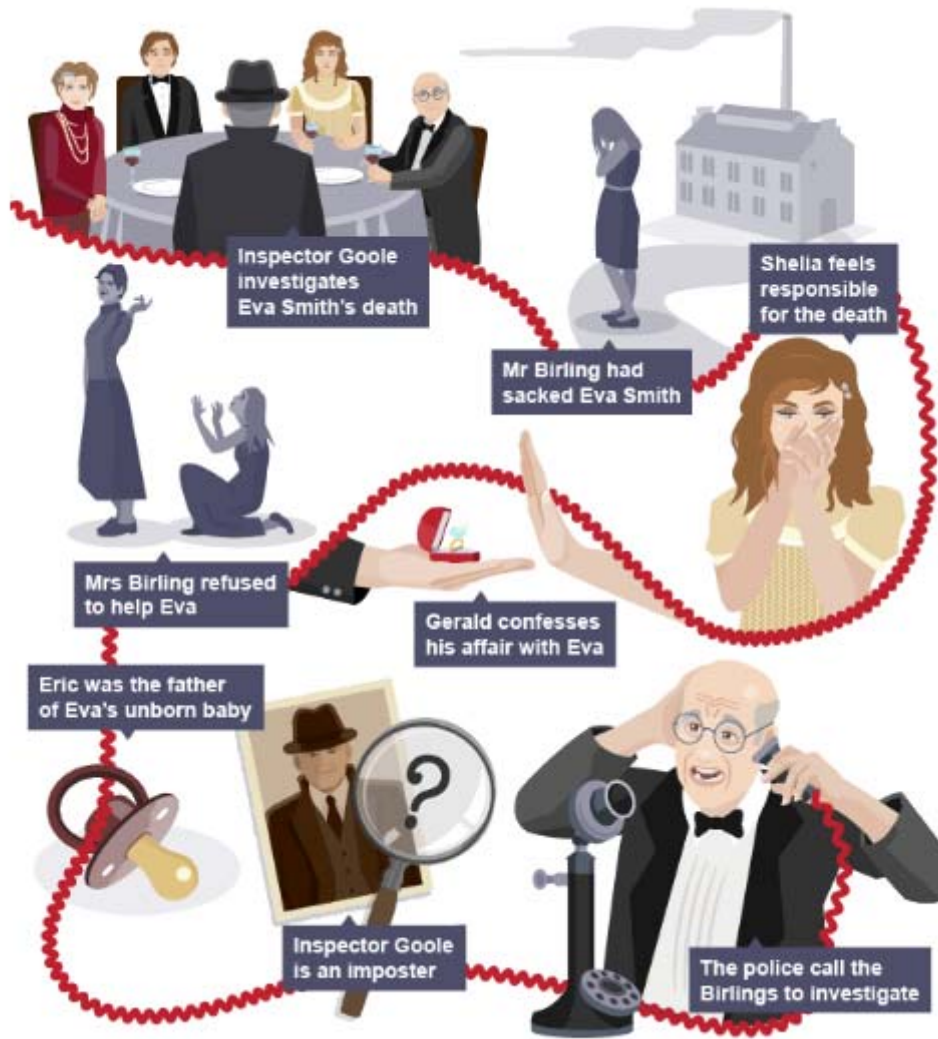
# An Inspector Calls

## Revision Guide

# Contents

1. Plot summary
2. Characters
3. Themes
4. Context
5. Key quotations
6. Example questions and responses

## Plot summary



An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley, is a play that revolves around the apparent suicide of a young woman called Eva Smith. In the play, the unsuspecting Birling family are visited by the mysterious Inspector Goole. He arrives just as they are celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling to Gerald Croft. The Inspector reveals that a girl called Eva Smith, has taken her own life by drinking disinfectant. The family are horrified but initially confused as to why the Inspector has called to see them. What follows is a tense and uncomfortable investigation by an all-knowing Inspector through which the family discover that they are all in fact caught up in this poor girl's death.

1. An inspector arrives at the Birling house. He tells them how a girl called Eva Smith has killed herself by drinking disinfectant - he wants to ask them some questions.
2. The Inspector reveals that the girl used to work in Arthur Birling's factory and he had her sacked for going on strike. Mr Birling refuses to accept any responsibility for her death.
3. The Inspector then reveals that Sheila thought that Eva had made fun of her, complained and got her sacked. Sheila is deeply ashamed and feels responsible for the girl's death.
4. The Inspector forces Gerald to confess to an affair he had with Eva. Sheila respects Gerald's honesty but returns the engagement ring he gave her.
5. It is revealed that Sybil Birling had refused to help the pregnant Eva.
6. It turns out that it was Eric who got Eva pregnant, and stole money from his father to help her.
7. The Inspector leaves. The family ring the infirmary and there is no record of a girl dying from drinking disinfectant.
8. Suddenly the phone rings, Mr Birling answers it, to his horror the phone call reveals that a young woman has just died from drinking disinfectant and the police are on their way to question them about it. The curtain falls and the play ends.

## Characters

### **Mr Arthur Birling**

Mr Birling is the **head of the Birling household**. He has made himself very wealthy by being a **'hard-headed' business man**. He is an active member of the community in Brumley and thinks that he might be in the running for a Knighthood. At the start of the play he comes across as being arrogant, making long speeches about his predictions for the future. He also makes assertions about how a man should look out for number one and not waste time helping others. It is at this exact moment that the Inspector arrives. Sybil, his wife, is his 'social superior' and it is hinted that he is self-conscious about being from a more working-class background. He is **materialistic and possessive** and also has **old fashioned views about women**.

Mr Birling is shaken by the investigation and is shocked by the behaviour of his son Eric. However, he doesn't learn any lessons during the course of the play. When it seems that the Inspector might have been an imposter he is overjoyed and mocks the others for having been 'tricked' by the investigation.

### **Mrs Sybil Birling**

Mrs Sybil Birling is Arthur Birling's wife and right from the opening of the play she is **cold-hearted** and **snobbish** despite being a prominent member of local women's charity. Throughout dinner she tells Sheila and Eric off for things that she considers impolite whilst ignorantly turning a blind eye to her son drinking too much. It is clear that despite Eric being old enough to drink and Sheila getting married, she sees them both as children, not as a young man and woman.

Her **cold, uncaring nature** leads to her downfall as the Inspector forces her to unknowingly condemn her own son.

### **Sheila Birling**

Sheila Birling is Arthur and Sybil's daughter and is in her early twenties. At the start of the play she is celebrating her engagement to Gerald Croft and she is a **giddy, naïve and childish** young lady. The Inspector arrives and she is very shocked by the news of Eva Smith's death, she is also very regretful of her own involvement in the suicide.

As the play continues, she matures, admiring Gerald's honesty, even though he cheated on her. **She shows an assertive side** by standing up to her mother and father and she also shows that she is **insightful and intelligent** - she can see where the Inspector's investigation is going and tries to warn the others.

By the end of the play she has grown up and has realised that her actions can have grave consequences.

### **Eric Birling**

**Eric is the Birlings' son** and is in his early twenties, he is described as being 'not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive'. In other words, **he lacks confidence**. At points he tries to stand up to his father but is talked down. It becomes clear that he is drunk at the dinner table and later it is revealed that he has been drinking too much for quite some time. It turns out that Eric had an affair with Eva Smith and that she was pregnant with Eric's baby when she committed suicide. Eric stole money from his father's business to help Eva. In the final act Eric makes an emotional attack on his parents and their values and shows that **he can be assertive**.

## Gerald Croft

Gerald is described as 'an attractive chap about thirty, rather too manly to be a dandy but very much the easy well-bred young man-about-town'. Mr Birling is very pleased that Gerald is getting engaged to Sheila because his family are upper-class business owners, Mr Birling hopes they can join forces in business.

At the beginning of the play, Gerald comes across as being **confident and charming**. This changes after his affair with Eva Smith is revealed. Gerald gives himself away when he hears that Eva changed her name to Daisy Renton. **He initially is evasive** and tries not to talk too much about it but redeems himself in the eyes of the audience by being more open and honest about it as he talks to Sheila. He lets himself down in the final act by trying to get the family out of trouble, he doesn't seem to have learned from his mistakes.

## Inspector Goole

The Inspector arrives whilst the Birling family are celebrating the engagement of Sheila and Gerald. The stage directions state that he 'need not be a big man' but that he must create an '**impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness**'. The Inspector investigates each family member one at a time and in doing so, reveals the consequences of their behaviour.

He drives forward the drama, with his questions creating shocking moments and gripping cliff-hangers for the audience. By the end of the play it is revealed that he isn't actually an Inspector. It is not entirely clear who he is, Priestley leaves it up to the audience to decide. His name 'Goole' suggests a supernatural or ghost like element, and he seems to know what the characters will say before they do - is he the conscience of the audience? Is he the voice of Priestley? Either way he delivers a frightening message when he leaves, that if people do not take responsibility for each other, the world is doomed.

## Eva Smith/Daisy Renton

We never meet Eva Smith during the course of the play, but she is a very important character. It is her death that is the cause of the Inspector's investigation which in turn drives the drama.

The audience learns about Eva through the Inspector, who has read a letter and a diary she kept. They also learn about her through the characters she came into contact with. A lot of the information about her is inferred - from the incident at Mr Birling's factory we can infer that she was **strong willed**. From her interaction with Sheila the audience can see that Eva had a **sense of humour**. Her relationship with Gerald, when she changed her name to Daisy Renton, reveals her sensitivity. By the time she reaches Eric and Sybil, Eva is **desperate and resourceful** in trying to get herself help.

Eva is always referred to in a positive light by the characters that met her but the Inspector never lets the audience or the Birlings and Gerald forget her gruesome death. The Inspector's final speech reveals Priestley's lesson that there are millions of Eva Smiths being exploited and this must not continue.

Characters across the Play

Character	How do they behave at the beginning?	How do they react to the inspector?	How have their opinions and attitudes changed?
<b>Mr Birling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrogant, egotistical, only cares about himself.</li> <li>- Feels everyone is responsible for themselves,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Not used to being questioned.</li> <li>- Rude to the inspector.</li> <li>- Refuses to accept any responsibility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Still feels he has done nothing wrong.</li> <li>- Unconcerned for Eva Smith and other workers.</li> <li>- Still confident.</li> </ul>
<b>Mrs Birling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cold.</li> <li>- Treats Eric and Sheila like young children.</li> <li>- Dismissive of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shocked by the Inspector's questioning.</li> <li>- Rude towards him.</li> <li>- Refuses to accept responsibility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thinks the responsibility lies with the father.</li> <li>- Agrees that she was prejudiced against the girl.</li> <li>- Please with her self</li> </ul>
<b>Sheila</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Naïve. Doesn't seem to understand the world.</li> <li>- Excitable. Concerned with material things,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is a ashamed of her behaviour.</li> <li>- Recognises that she is responsible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regrets what she has done</li> <li>- Claims she helped kill Eva.</li> <li>- Wants to change and wants her family to accept responsibility.</li> </ul>
<b>Eric</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A bit of a drunk.</li> <li>- Argumentative.</li> <li>- Doesn't understand his father.</li> <li>- Awkward - not at ease with his family.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Also ashamed of his behaviour.</li> <li>- Regrets his behaviour and wishes he hadn't done what he'd done.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is angry with his family for failing to recognise what they have done and the part they have played in Eva's death.</li> <li>- Understands that he was responsible</li> </ul>
<b>Gerald</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Typically upper classes.</li> <li>- Similar to Mr Birling.</li> <li>- Sycophantic. Trying to impress Birling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Admits to knowing Daisy, eventually.</li> <li>- Appears to have some feelings for her</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Appeared to have felt guilty but is then triumphant when he thinks the Inspector was a hoax.</li> <li>- Celebrates 'getting away with it'.</li> </ul>

## Themes

The consequences of the Birlings' actions highlight Priestley's ideas on social responsibility - do we look after one another in society? The difference between the younger and older characters' reactions to Eva Smith's death shows how Priestley viewed different generations. He viewed the younger generation as hope for the future and this is why both Sheila and Eric learn a lesson from the Inspector. How the male characters behave towards the females in the play highlights important points on gender and inequality. Class issues are also dealt with by having a middle-class family involved in the death of a working-class girl.

### **Social responsibility**

An Inspector Calls was first performed in the UK just after the end of World War Two, in 1946. It was a time of great change in Britain and many writers were concerned with the welfare of the poor. At that time there was no assistance for people who could not afford to look after themselves. Priestley wanted to address this issue. He also felt that if people were more considerate of one another, it would improve quality of life for all. This is why social responsibility is a key theme of the play. Priestley wanted his audience to be responsible for their own behaviour and responsible for the welfare of others.

In An Inspector Calls, Priestley explores social responsibility through:

- the treatment of Eva Smith
- how each character does or doesn't take responsibility for their behaviour
- the Inspector's lessons

### **Age**

Age is an important theme in An Inspector Calls. Priestley uses it to show how he believed that there was hope in the younger generation's ability to learn and change.

The older characters' opinions and behaviours are stubbornly fixed. Mr Birling refuses to learn and Mrs Birling cannot see the obvious about herself and her children. Eric and Sheila however are younger - they accept their mistakes and offer the chance for a brighter future.

In An Inspector Calls, Priestley explores the theme of age through:

- Sheila and Eric's response to Eva's death
- Mr and Mrs Birling's response to Eva's death
- how the older characters perceive the younger ones

## **Gender**

An Inspector Calls was written after World War Two. As many British men went away to fight during the war, their positions in work had to be filled by women. This helped change existing perceptions. Men had to acknowledge the fact that women were just as capable as them. As a result of this, many women enjoyed a newfound freedom that working and earning money allowed them.

Not all men saw this change in attitude as a good thing and stayed stuck in the past. Priestley explores the impact of these new gender roles through the independence of Eva Smith and the sexist attitudes of Mr Birling.

In An Inspector Calls Priestley explores the theme of gender through:

- how Mr Birling and Gerald Croft view women
- how Mrs Birling treats Eva Smith
- how Eva Smith is portrayed as independent and outspoken before her death

## **Class**

Before World War Two, Britain was divided by class. Two such classes were the wealthy land and factory owners and the poor workers. The war helped bring these two classes closer together and rationing meant that people of all classes were eating and even dressing the same. The war effort also meant that people from all classes were mixing together. This was certainly not the case before.

Priestley wanted to highlight that inequality between the classes still existed and that the upper-classes looked down upon the working-class in post-war Britain.

In An Inspector Calls, Priestley explores the theme of class through the treatment of working-class Eva Smith by the wealthy Birlings and Gerald Croft when she is in the following situations:

- when she is a factory worker
- when she works in a shop
- when she is effectively homeless
- when she is potentially a single mother



## Context

When the play was written after World War Two in 1945, there was no form of welfare from the government to help the poor. J B Priestley believed in socialism, the political idea based on common ownership and that we should all look after one another. **Mr Birling** represents greedy businessmen who only care for themselves. Priestley uses him to show the audience that the Eva Smiths of the world will continue to suffer if people like Birling remain in positions of power.

The hardships of wartime challenged the class structure in Britain. Due to rationing of food and clothes, people of all classes were eating and dressing the same. They were also fighting side by side, and so class barriers came down. **Sybil Birling**, like her husband Arthur, represents a type of middle-class snobbery that existed prior to the World Wars. Priestley hoped that these sorts of attitudes would die out, and uses Mrs Birling to show how they can lead to cold and thoughtless behaviour.


**Sheila**, like **Eric**, allows Priestley to show his opinions on youth. He felt that there was hope in the young people of post-war Britain. He saw them as the ones who would help solve the problems the country had with class, gender and social responsibility. This is seen in how Sheila is deeply affected by Eva's death, she accepts responsibility straightaway and promises to never behave in such a way again. This is not the case with the older characters, Mr and Mrs Birling and even Gerald do not accept responsibility and we do not get the impression that they will change.

J B Priestley uses **Eric** as he does **Sheila** - to suggest that the young people of a post-war Britain would be the answer to a hopeful future. With Eric he also addresses some concerns he had about the dangers of immoral behaviour. Through Eric, Priestley shows that excessive drinking and casual relationships can have consequences.

Priestley uses **Gerald** to attack the upper-classes of post-war Britain. He shows that despite outward appearances, Gerald is described as an 'attractive chap' and 'well-bred'. This class of people were still capable of questionable behaviour. Gerald has an affair and initially tries to avoid telling the truth. Priestley also suggests that they saw themselves above the problems of the working-classes - Gerald tries to get himself and the Birlings out of trouble.

**Inspector Goole** sheds a light on all the concerns that Priestley had at the time of writing *An Inspector Calls* around age, gender, class and social responsibility. Priestley uses the Inspector to make the audience question their own behaviour and morality and hopes that they will learn some lessons as the Birlings do. The issues the Inspector highlights are just as relevant to a modern day audience.

An Inspector Calls was **written in 1945** but was **set in 1912**.

- 
- **1894:** Priestley born in Bradford to middle class parents.
  - **1906:** General Election landslide victory for Liberals. 10 million workers are living in chronic destitution (population 33 million).
  - **1912:** The Titanic sets sail and sinks. The year in which 'An Inspector Calls' is set. Priestley is 18 years old.
  - **1914:** Start of the WW1. Priestley serves in the trenches of France. Income tax doubled to pay for the war.
  - **1918:** End of First World War: 10 million dead. Women vote for first time in UK election. Abolition of workhouses proposed.
  - **1936:** The Great Depression. Mass unemployment.
  - **1939:** Hitler starts the Second World War. Civilian deaths are higher than in any previous war.
  - **1942:** Welfare State proposed – social security from the cradle to the grave.
  - **1945:** End of the Second World War. 55 million dead including 6 million Jews. Priestley writes 'An Inspector Calls'.

## Key Quotations

### Mr Arthur Birling

- **"It's exactly the same port your father gets."**
- "there isn't a chance of war"
- "the Titanic... unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable"
- **"there'll be peace and prosperity and rapid progress everywhere."**
- "There's a fair chance that I might find my way into the next Honours List. Just a knighthood, of course."
- "there's a very good chance of a knighthood - so long as we behave ourselves, don't get into the police court or start a scandal - eh? (*Laughs complacently*)"
- **"(solemnly) ...a man has to make his own way – has to look after himself – and his family too, of course"**
- "the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everyone else..."
- **"as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense."**
- "a man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own."
- *"(angrily to Eric)* You're the one I blame for this."
- **"I've got to cover this up as soon as I can"**
- *"(jovially)* But the whole thing's different now. Come, come, you can see that can't you?"
- "We've all been had, that's all."
- **"(pointing to Eric and Sheila) Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke –"**

### Mrs Sybil Birling

- "You're looking tired dear. I think you ought to go to bed – and forget about this absurd business."
- **"Girls of that class-"**
- "You know of course that my husband was Lord Mayor only two years ago and that he's still a magistrate-"
- *"(with sudden anger, to Inspector)* Well, come along – what is it you want to know?"
- **"(with dignity) Yes. We've done a great deal of useful work in helping deserving cases."**
- **"naturally that was one of the things that prejudiced me against her."**
- "It didn't take me long to get the truth – or some of the truth – out of her."
- **"I did nothing I'm ashamed of."**
- "I've done nothing wrong – and you know it."
- **"I accept no blame at all."**
- "If he refused to marry her – and in my opinion he ought to be compelled to – then he must at least support her"
- "He should be made an example of. If the girl's death is due to anybody, then it's due to him... make sure that he's compelled to confess in public his responsibility."
- "As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money!"
- **"I wish I'd been here when that man first arrived. I'd have asked him a few questions before I allowed him to ask us any"**
- **"I was the only one that didn't give in"**
- "Gerald you've argued this very cleverly and I'm most grateful"

## Sheila Birling

- *"(coming in, closing door)* you knew it was me all the time, didn't you?"
- **"I felt rotten about it at the time and now I feel a lot worse."**
- **"(miserably) So I'm really responsible."**
- *"(Suddenly, to Gerald)* All right, Gerald, you needn't look at me like that. At least, I'm trying to tell the truth. I expect you've done things you're ashamed of too."
- "Yes, but it didn't seem to be anything very terrible at the time. Don't you understand? And if I could help her now, I would –"
- *"(stormily)* ...It's the only time I've ever done anything like that, and I'll never, never do it again to anybody."
- **"he's giving us the rope - so that we'll hang ourselves."**
- **"I behaved badly too. I know I did. I'm ashamed of it. But now you're beginning all over again to pretend that nothing much has happened!"**
- "I suppose we're all nice people now"
- "it doesn't much matter who it was who made us confess. And it was true, wasn't it? ...That's what's important – and not whether a man is a police inspector or not."
- "Eric's absolutely right. And it's the best thing any one of use has said tonight and it makes me feel a bit less ashamed of us."
- **"You're beginning to pretend all over again."**
- "The worst part is. But you're forgetting one thing I still can't forget. Everything we said had happened really had happened. If it didn't end tragically, then that's lucky for us. But it might have done."
- **"(passionately) You're pretending everything's just as it was before."**
- **"You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go in the same old way."**
- "I remember what he said... it frightens me the way you talk, and I can't listen to any more of it."

## Eric Birling

- *"in his early twenties, not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive."*
- *"(Takes decanter and helps himself.)* Mother says we mustn't stay too long... I left 'em talking about clothes again... Women are potty about 'em."
- "By Jove, yes. And as you were saying, Dad, a man has to look after himself."
- **"He could have kept her instead of throwing her out."**
- "And I don't see why she should have been sacked just because she's a bit more spirit than the others... I'd have let her stay."
- *"(uneasily):* I'm sorry – but you see – we were having a little party – and I've had a few drinks, including rather a lot of champagne – and I've got a headache – and as I'm only in the way here – I think I'd better turn in."
- **"You know, don't you?"**
- *"(bitterly)* You haven't made it any easier for me, have you, Mother?"
- "I'm not very clear about it, but afterwards she told me she didn't want me to go in but that – well, I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty – and I threatened to make a row."
- "Oh – my God! – how stupid this all is!"
- **"Because you're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble."**
- *"(nearly at breaking point)* Then – you killed her... you turned her away – yes, and you killed her – and the child she'd have had too – my child – your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you –"
- **"You're beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all...The girl's still dead, isn't she?"**
- **"But don't forget I'm ashamed of you as well – yes both of you."**
- "It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters. And I still feel the same about it, and that's why I don't feel like sitting down and having a nice cosy talk."
- **"(shouting) And I say the girl's dead and we all helped to kill her – and that's what matters –"**

## Gerald

- **“All right, if you must have it”**
- “I noticed a girl who looked quite different. She was very pretty.”
- **“(distressed) Sorry – I – well I’ve suddenly realized – taken it properly – that she’s dead –**
- “Gave me a glance that was nothing less than a cry for help”
- “She was desperately hard up and at that moment was actually hungry”
- “I didn’t install her there so that I could make love to her”
- **“(hesitatingly) I didn’t feel about her as she felt about me”**
- “I wasn’t telling you a complete lie”
- “It wasn’t disgusting”
- “She didn’t blame me at all. I wish to God she had now. Perhaps I’d feel better about it.”
- **“As I’m rather more – upset – by this business than I probably appear to be – and – well, I’d like to be alone for a while.”**
- **“I don’t think he was an Inspector at all”**
- 'Everything's all right now Sheila'
- “what about this ring?”

## Inspector Goole

- **“he creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness.”**
- “He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses before actually speaking.”
- *“(Cutting through massively) Like a lot of these young women who get into various kinds of trouble, she’d used more than one name.”*
- *“INSPECTOR interposes himself between them and the photograph.”*
- “It’s the way I like to go to work. One person and one line of inquiry at a time. Otherwise there’s a muddle.
- **“After all it’s better to ask for the earth than to take it.”**
- **“I’m waiting... To do my duty”**
- **“Each of you helped to kill her”**
- “there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us”
- “all intertwined with our lives”
- **“We don’t live alone. We are members of one body”.**
- **“We are responsible for each other.”**















## How does Priestley present ideas about how we should treat other people in 'An Inspector Calls'?

The audience is first introduced to the topic of how we should treat one another early in the play when Mr Birling is lecturing the family about how to be successful in life during their family dinner celebration. Mr Birling appears selfish and only concerned with himself and his family. He says that he thinks the miners going out on strike doesn't mean there will be any further problems with the labour force. Mr Birling seems unaware and uncaring of the difficulties facing the working class at the time in Edwardian England and the fact that he labels their protest as "Wild talk" suggests that he sees their claims as excessive and unnecessary as that is what we associate with the idea of 'wild'. This would make the audience dislike Mr Birling for his uncaring attitude.

Furthermore, he then goes on to explain how developing capitalism should be our focus, describing a new ship, "the Titanic" and how it is "unsinkable". Because this was set in 1912 before the Titanic sunk but performed in 1946, dramatic irony is created with the audience knowing that in fact the ship does sink. This presents Mr Birling as not only being more aware of the luxuries in life, but it also makes him seem foolish. Priestley may be doing this to ridicule Mr Birling's selfish and uncaring treatment of the working class.

The idea of not caring for others is explored further by Priestley when the audience sees how different characters treated Eva Smith and how this treatment contributed to her eventual suicide. In addition to Mr Birling sacking Eva from his employment for daring to ask for higher wages, his daughter, Sheila, gets her sacked from her next employment because she was jealous of her. When Sheila is talking about her she always uses the pronoun 'She' which shows her jealousy as she does not want to even credit her with a name. However, unlike her father who refused to accept any responsibility, Sheila understands how her treatment of Eva contributed to Eva's downfall and shows her regret when she says that she wishes she could help her now. This awareness of her social responsibility and the offer of help would make the audience more sympathetic towards Sheila because she can see the error of her ways.

Respect and the lack of respect when we treat others is another idea presented through the play. Both Eric and Gerald do not respect Eva and use her for their own sexual gratification. Gerald was attracted to her because she was, "pretty" but he admits, "I didn't feel about her as she felt about me". This shows how he used her for his own pleasures without any real thought of her feelings.

Another idea presented about how we should treat each other is the idea of being patient and understanding. When Eva turns to Mrs Birling and her Charity Committee Mrs Birling is cold and impatient, and lacks understanding of Eva's difficulties. When Eva explains her situation, Mrs Birling says that she doesn't believe her and describes her as "a girl of that sort". Using "that sort" shows how Mrs Birling was cold and prejudiced against her because of her social class, but also her lack of understanding and willingness to be socially responsible for others that are less fortunate. An audience would have been shocked at her lack of compassion in 1946 as this was immediately after people had come together during the war, but I think a modern audience would still react in a similar way as the issues and ideas discussed are still relevant today.











