

A revision list for *An Inspector Calls*:

Key Themes

1. Social Responsibility

- How the play encourages collective responsibility.
- Inspector Goole as Priestley's voice for social change.

2. Class and Society

- Division between the upper and working classes. -critique of capitalist attitudes.

3. Gender Roles

- Expectations and treatment of women.
- How Sheila and Sybil represent different aspects of women's roles in society.

4. Generational Conflict

- Contrasts in attitudes between the older and younger generations.
- Role of the younger generation in embracing change.

5. Morality and Judgment

- How each character reacts to the Inspector's interrogation.
- The play's cyclical structure and moral message.

6. Capitalism vs. Socialism

- Arthur Birling's speeches vs. the Inspector's message.
- The play's critique of capitalist ideologies.

Key Characters

1. Inspector Goole

- Mysterious figure, possibly symbolic (moral guide, ghost, or Priestley's voice).
- Key quotes:
 - "We are members of one body."
 - "Each of you helped to kill her."

2. Arthur Birling

- Arrogant, self-centered businessman; embodiment of capitalism.
- Key quotes:
 - “A man has to make his own way.”
 - “Unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable.”

3. Sybil Birling

- Represents cold-hearted upper-class attitudes.
- Key quotes:
 - “Girls of that class.”
 - “I did nothing I’m ashamed of.”

4. Sheila Birling

- Undergoes significant character development; of hope.
- Key quotes:
 - “These girls aren’t cheap labour—they’re people.”
 - “I’ll never, never do it again to anybody.”

5. Eric Birling

- Struggles with guilt and responsibility; challenges his parents’ views.
- Key quotes:
 - “You’re not the kind of father a chap could go to.”
 - “We did her in all right.”

6. Gerald Croft

- the entitled attitudes of the privileged.
- Key quotes:
 - “She was young and pretty and warm-hearted.”
 - “Everything’s all right now, Sheila.”

7. Eva Smith/Daisy Renton

- Symbolic of the exploited working class.
 - No direct appearance but central to the plot.
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Key Moments

1. The Inspector's Arrival

- Disruption of the Birlings' celebration.
- Establishing the theme of collective.

2. Sheila's Realization

- Sheila's transformation from naive to self-aware.
- Foreshadows generational change.

3. Mrs. Birling's Interrogation

- Irony of her blaming the father of Eva's child (Eric).
- Highlights class prejudice.

4. Eric's Confession

- Emotional and dramatic turning point.
- Exposes the failures of upper-class families.

5. The Final Twist

- Discovery that Inspector might not be real.
 - Telephone call announces a real inspector is coming.
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Key Techniques

1. Dramatic Irony

- Mr. Birling's statements about the Titanic and war.
- Highlights his ignorance and hubris.

2. Symbolism

- Eva Smith as a representative of the working class.
- The Inspector as a moral force or conscience.

3. Cliffhangers and Tension

- End of each act creates suspense
- 4. **Foreshadowing**
 - Sheila's early remarks about the future hint at her transformation.

4. Language and Tone

- Contrasts in how characters speak reflect their attitudes and priorities.

Quotes to Memorize

1. Inspector Goole

- “We are responsible for each other.”
- “There are millions and millions of Eva Smiths.”

2. Arthur Birling

- “The way some of these cranks talk and write now you’d think everybody has to look after everybody else.”

3. Sheila Birling

- “It’s you two who are being childish—trying not to face the facts.”

4. Mrs. Birling

- “I accept no blame for it at all.”

5. Eric Birling

- “We all helped to kill her—and that’s what matters.”