

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.

## 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.

## 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."