

Characters	
<b>Inspector</b>	Priestley's mouthpiece; advocates social justice
<b>Mr Birling</b>	Businessman, capitalist, against social equality
<b>Mrs Birling</b>	Husband's social superior, believes in personal responsibility
<b>Sheila</b>	Young girl, comes to change views and pities Eva, feels regret
<b>Eric</b>	Young man, drinks too much, rapes Eva, regrets actions
<b>Gerald</b>	Businessman, engaged to Sheila, politically closest to Birling
<b>Eva</b>	Unseen in play, comes to stand for victims of social injustice

### Key quotes

<b>Birling's confidence</b>	'We're in for a time of steadily increasing prosperity'
<b>Birling on society</b>	'the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else'
<b>Sheila's recognition</b>	'but these girls aren't cheap labour – they're <i>people</i> '
<b>Sheila's regret</b>	'it's the only time I've ever done anything like that, and I'll never, never do it again to anybody'
<b>Sheila on the Inspector</b>	'we all started like that – so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began asking us questions'
<b>Sheila on Eric</b>	'he's been steadily drinking too much for the last two years'
<b>Inspector on guilt</b>	'I think you did something terribly wrong – and that you're going to spend the rest of your life regretting it'
<b>Mrs Birling defends herself</b>	'she was claiming elaborate fine feelings and scruples that were simply absurd in a girl in her position'
<b>Eric explains</b>	'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'
<b>The Inspector says</b>	'but each of you helped to kill her. Remember that'
<b>Inspector's message</b>	'there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering, and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives, with what we think and say and do. We don't live alone.'
<b>Birling's confidence</b>	'the famous younger generation who know it all'

Plot	
<b>Act 1</b>	Sheila and Gerald's engagement is celebrated
<b>Act 1</b>	Birling says there will be no war; references Titanic
<b>Act 1</b>	Inspector arrives; a young girl has committed suicide
<b>Act 1</b>	Birling threw her out after strike; Sheila had her fired for laughing
<b>Act 2</b>	Gerald had an affair with Daisy Renton
<b>Act 2</b>	Mrs Birling refused to give charity to Eva; blames father
<b>Act 3</b>	Eric's involvement revealed; possible rape hinted at
<b>Act 3</b>	Inspector leaves. Gerald returns; met policeman, no Inspector G
<b>Act 3</b>	Telephone rings; an inspector is coming

### Theatrical Stagecraft: Dramatic Devices

<b>1. Dramatic irony</b>	the audience knows what the characters don't
<b>2. Stage directions</b>	Instructions for the actors; often revealing
<b>3. Setting</b>	Constant throughout but subtle changes e.g. lighting
<b>4. Tension</b>	Builds up throughout the play
<b>5. Cliff-hanger</b>	The ending allows the audience to make up their minds

### Key concepts and context

<b>1912</b>	Play is set here; just before WWI and sinking of the Titanic
<b>1945</b>	Priestley wrote the play then; start of the welfare state and ideals of social equality made real
<b>Social responsibility</b>	Or socialism; we must all look after each other
<b>Capitalism</b>	Business should make money no matter the human cost; we are all responsible only for ourselves
<b>Class</b>	Upper and lower social classes are segregated
<b>Age</b>	Old vs young; new and old ideas counterposed
<b>Attitudes to women</b>	Patriarchal leading to misogyny

## Year 11- An Inspector Calls