

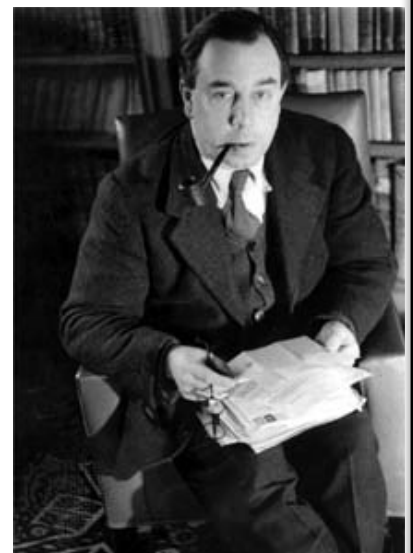
Inspector Calls Workbook



Name: _____

About the Author: John Boynton Priestley

Write down background Information on the author



Historical and Social Context of “An Inspector Calls”

About the Author: John Boynton Priestley

Edwardian England

Political Revolution and
change: SOCIALISM

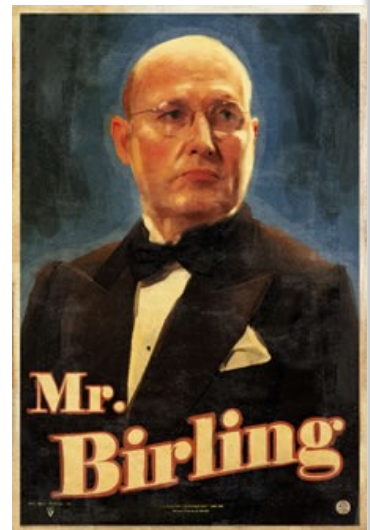
What is Capitalism/
Conservatism

Men and Women

Employment and the
Welfare System

Equality

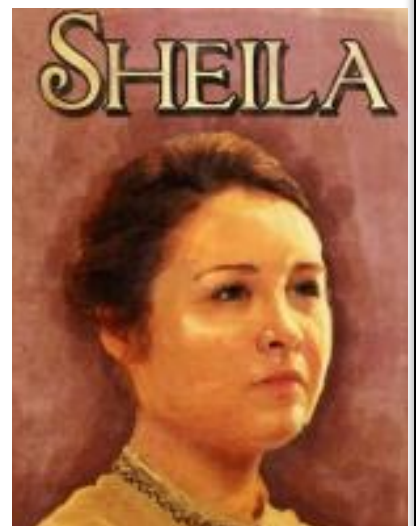
Character Profiling: Arthur Birling



Character Profiling: Sybil Birling



Character Profiling: Sheila Birling



Character Profiling: Eric Birling



Character Profiling: Gerald Croft



Character Profiling: Edna

Character Profiling: Inspector Goole

Who is he?

Where did he come from? Why?

What does/ could his name suggest?

When does he come into the play?

How does he command and lead the play?

How does he compare to an ordinary Policeman?

What moral message is he trying to teach us?



Character Profiling: Eva Smith/ Daisy Renton

ACT 1 - Summary

ACT 2 - Summary

ACT 3 - Summary

Inspector Calls: A well made play

“An Inspector Calls” is often classified as a well-made play. Such plays have the following features:

1. Exposition – the opening is designed to provide a gentle introduction to the story, introducing characters and setting the scene.
2. Entrances & Exits – these are timed carefully in a well-made play so that they heighten the tension and drama.
3. The Obligatory Scene – A well-made play will contain a scene or scenes where a secret is revealed. This also adds to the tension and drama.
4. The Climactic Curtain – acts and/or scenes will end on a cliffhanger, a point when things are particularly tense or dramatic.
5. Mistaken Identity – the well-made play often features mistaken identity or issues surrounding identity.
6. Plot – the plot focuses on one story-line. There are no real sub-plots or deviations from the primary focus.
7. The Dénouement – the ending of a well-made play is both logical and plausible. Is this true of ‘An Inspector Calls’? Why might Priestley have broken away from the criteria at this point? Why would he undermine his audience’s expectations in this way? Does the ending shock or surprise the audience? Does the ending leave the audience questioning the play’s meaning more?

How to answer your questions

Techniques to answer Questions		
P	Point	
E	Evidence	
E	Explain	
E	Evaluate	
L	Link	

Example:

Grade C and above

(P) Priestley portrays the character of Arthur Birling as foolish and arrogant when he describes the Titanic as (E) 'absolutely unsinkable.' (E) Priestley here uses dramatic irony to emphasize Birling's misplaced over confidence in technological advancement. The (E) audience watching in 1945 know that he will be proved incorrect by the events of 1912. Effectively this use of irony undermines his other comments such as... (L) and makes us question his judgement and nature.

(P) Mrs Birling is portrayed by Priestley as an extremely selfish and vindictive woman (E) "She seemed to be not a good case and I used my influence to have it refused" (E) Her comments reveal to the audience how she is willing to abuse her power or 'influence' based on her prejudices towards Eva and women of the lower classes. (E) Effectively her charity work is just a mask to enhance her reputation and alleviate her conscience like. In my opinion her real motives (L) are self interest and when she takes personal offence to Eva's 'impertinent' use of her surname she is determined to get her turned down.

Themes : An Inspector Calls

The Generation Gap - who is more capable of change?		
Older Generation	VS	Young Generation

Responsibility and being responsible		
Birling	VS	Inspector
Individual Responsibility		Collective Responsibility
Capitalism/ Conservatism		Socialism
1912 - Individualism	VS	2012 - Governemnt Big Society campaign

What do you think?		
Money	VS	Morals

Love		
Arthur Birling	VS	Sybil Birling
Gerald Croft		Sheila Birling

Pride and Social Status - Marriage - Partnership		
Croft Family	VS	Birling Family

Lies - Confession		
Deceit to oneself	VS	Deceit to one another

Duty		
Inspectors Duty to investigate	VS	Characters duty - to themselves?

Gender Equality		
Women and Men in 1912	VS	Women and Men NOW

Dominance

Inspector Goole

VS

Mr Birling

Authority

Command

Power

Powershift

Influence

Justice

Morals

Social Class		
Social Class	VS	Death of a girl

Social Class		
Birlings	VS	Crofts

Dramatic Conventions

Dramatic Tool	Evidence	Explanation	Link
Doorbell (When the Inspector arrives)			
The Inspectors arrival			
“Give us some more light” (Light as in evidence/ truth or light as in make the room more brighter)			
Mr Birling attempts to regain his authority - How?			

An Inspector Calls - Key Quotations

Quote	What does it tell us?
"You're squiffy " – Sheila to Eric (Act 1)	
"I speak as a hard-headed business man." (Act 1)	
"If you don't come down hard on these people they'll soon be asking for the earth! "	
" Unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable. " Mr Birling (Act 1)	
"We really must stop these silly pretences. " Sheila to Mrs Birling (Act 2)	
"Girls of that class. " Mrs Birling to the Inspector (Act 2)	
"She was very pretty – soft brown hair and big dark eyes. " Gerald (Act 2)	
"You're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble." Eric (Act 2)	

<p>“We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.” The Inspector (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“Everything’s all right now, Sheila.” Gerald to Sheila (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“Each of you helped to kill her.” The Inspector (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“Look Inspector, I’d give thousands...” Birling to the Inspector (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“We are responsible for each other.” The Inspector (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“Look at the way he talked to me...” Birling (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“By Jingo! A fake!” “How do you know it’s the same girl?”</p>	

<p>“That doesn’t matter to me.” Eric (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“I suppose we’re all nice people now.” Sheila (Act 3)</p>	
<p>“That was the police. A girl has just died – on her way to the infirmary.”</p>	

A young woman has committed suicide

The events leading up to her death were as follows:



- 1. Whilst working in a factory, in bad conditions and for low pay, she was part of a group which organised a strike. Her employer sacked her for being a trouble maker.**



- 2. She then got a job as a sales assistant in an expensive clothes shop. An important customer (in a bad mood) thought she was giggling at her, and used her influence to get the girl sacked.**



- 3. She then became despondent and thought about becoming a prostitute. She got picked up in a bar by a man who pitied her and 'kept' her for several months. She fell in love with him, but he was forced to dump her because he was engaged to be married.**



- 4. She went back to the same bar, thinking again of becoming a prostitute to earn a living, when she was picked up by a younger man, who saw her twice, but then left her.**



- 5. She found she was pregnant and applied for help to a charity. The head of the charity refused her help because she didn't believe her.**

WHO IS TO BLAME FOR HER DEATH?

Thoughts and Ideas	My thoughts...
How does JP Priestley drop clues in the play to help the audience guess what is coming up?	
What important does the Inspector have and how does the author portray him?	
Does the author portray his views on society through the Inspector?	
How is social equality and responsibility shown throughout the play?	
The generation gap: Is the author suggesting that young people can save humanity? If so, how does he do this?	
1912 vs 2012 - 100 years on, has anything changed? If so, what?	
At the time of the play (set in 1912) there are no trade unions. Did Eva Smith represent what a 'modern day trade union' would have looked like? (When she led the strike against low pay in Birlings factory)	

<p>Birling introduces 'Gerald Croft' to the inspector - why? What impact did Birling want to have by doing this?</p> <p>Did it work?</p>	
<p>Is the Inspectors name a homophone? Goole i.e. Ghoul? (ghost)</p> <p>What do you think of this idea?</p>	
<p>Is Eva Smith a representative/ agent of change?</p> <p>(womens votes/ equal pay/ trade unions)</p>	
<p>Does the author give us hope at the end of the play?</p> <p>Do you think characters will have learnt their lesson?</p>	
<p>The play ends on a cliffhanger- what do you think happens next?</p>	
<p>When the Inspector asks Birling if he remembers the girl - he hesitates..</p> <p>Would you forget a girl who caused havoc in your company which led to a strike?</p>	
<p>Is the family 'together' and happy?</p>	
<p>What happens when the inspector says "One line of enquiry at a time".</p>	

How does the author build up the story - one character at a time?	
The characters think they are safe. Who do you think is most vulnerable?	
Compare and contrast the reactions of Eric and Sheila when they find out who the girl is. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do they do/ respond/ think/ feel - What impact does this have on their parents? - How about Gerald - how does the news impact him? Change of tone for Gerald - why? First he was ok about it all... 	
Who do you think has a change of heart? and why?	
Mrs Birling - listens to daughter when she is asked to drink to their engagement news.	
What does she believe about status and the marriage of Gerald and Sheila?	

Other areas to think about:

Dramatic Conventions

Dramatic Irony

Symbolism

Euphemism

Imagery

Themes

Social Status

Tone	Pitch	Plot

Tone	Pitch	Plot