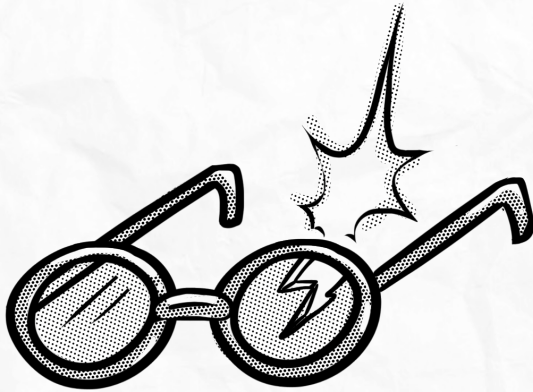


GCSE An Inspector Calls

J B Priestley



KnowIT

Characters

- How does Mr Birling feel about the idea of **community**?
- How does Sheila feel about what she has done?
- Why does Gerald try to hide what he has done?
- Why does Mrs Birling pretend not to know Eva Smith?
- Why does Eric get so angry with his mother?
- Why is The Inspector so different to the Birlings?

Genre

- Give a reason why the play is a traditional **murder mystery**.
- Give a reason why the play is not a traditional murder mystery.
- What is the **mystery** that is being investigated?
- Why use a 'fake' Inspector?

Stage Directions

- Why does the lighting change from '*pink and intimate*' to '*brighter and harder*' when The Inspector arrives?
- How do the Birlings react to The Inspector often '*cutting in*'? Why does he do it?

What do the Quotes Tell Us About...?

- Mrs Birling – '*I didn't understand*'
- Mr Birling – '*A man has to make his own way.*'
- Gerald – '*I didn't ask for anything in return.*'
- Inspector – '*If there's nothing else we'll have to share our guilt.*'
- Sheila – '*You mustn't try to build up a wall between us and that girl.*'

Plot

- What does each character do to Eva Smith?
- Why does Sheila do what she does to Eva Smith?
- Why does Eva change her name to Daisy Renton?
- Why does Gerald end his affair with Daisy Renton?
- Why is Mrs Birling determined not to help Eva?
- What happens when the family realise The Inspector is not real?

Themes

- Give an example of how the play shows **socialist** views?
- Provide three examples of how the younger generation (Sheila and Eric) see things differently to their parents.
- Family is frequently discussed in the play – provide two examples of this.

Character Relationships

- Describe Sheila's relationship with Gerald.
- What kind of relationship does Eric have with his parents?
- What reasons does Mrs Birling give for her refusal to help Eva?
- Why does Eric feel ashamed of the others?
- How do you think The Inspector feels about the Birling family?