

An Inspector Calls Knowledge Organiser

Act 1	Act 2	Act 3	Key Characters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play is set in the dining room of a suburban house in Brumley owned by Mr Birling, a business owner. The family are celebrating Sheila Birling and Gerald Croft's engagement. When the women leave, Arthur Birling, lectures his son, Eric, and Gerald about world affairs and politics. An Inspector arrives to investigate the suicide of a girl called, Eva Smith. Arthur Birling is shown a picture and remembers that he sacked Eva for leading a workers strike. He feels justified for this. The Inspector shows Sheila a photograph and also discovers that Sheila also had Eva sacked from her next job in a department store. Sheila regrets this. The Inspector reveals that Eva changed her name to 'Daisy Renton'. Gerald acts guilty. Sheila and Gerald are left alone and Gerald tries to convince Sheila that they don't need to tell the Inspector that he knew Daisy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerald explains that he had an affair with Eva, but has not seen her since Autumn 1911. Sheila gives the engagement ring back to Gerald. The Inspector turns his attention to Mrs Sybil Birling – who confesses, after seeing a photograph that she also had contact with Eva (although under a different name). Eva, pregnant and desperate, approached a charity for help. Sybil refused to help her because Eva listed her name as "Mrs Birling". Mrs Birling does not regret anything and believes that the child's father should be held responsible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric is revealed as the father of the child. He slept with Eva several times although the exact nature of the relationship is unclear. He has stolen money from Birling's office to help Eva and turns on his mother when he learns that she was uncharitable. The Inspector tells them that they are all partly to blame for Eva's death and warns them of the consequences of not being responsible for each other. After he leaves, the family begin to question what happened, and whether the Inspector was a 'real'. Two phone calls confirm that he is unknown at the police station and that no suicide case has been brought in today. Arthur, Sybil and Gerald celebrate and congratulate themselves. Eric and Sheila are upset. A phone rings. A girl has died. A police officer is coming. 	<p>Mr Arthur Birling: Mr Birling is the arrogant and selfish leader of the Birling family; he doesn't believe in community, feels he was right to fire Eva, and feels no guilt for her death. <i>Capitalist, Arrogant, Verbose, Stubborn, Industrialist</i></p> <p>Mrs Sybil Birling: Mrs Birling is a cold woman, who dislikes people of a lower class. She admitted to being prejudiced against Eva. She feels like she did nothing wrong, and wants to forget the whole thing. <i>Judgemental, Old money, Traditional, Insincere, Controlling</i></p> <p>Sheila Birling: Sheila Birling begins the play as immature and sheltered, but throughout the play she becomes more socially conscious and feels deep regret for what she did to Eva. <i>Intelligent, Feminine, Emotional, Transformative, Empowered</i></p>
Act 1 Quotes	Act 2 Quotes	Act 3 Quotes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "When you're married you'll realise that men ... sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on business" Mrs Birling to Sheila "Your father and I have been friendly rivals in business for some time now - though Crofts limited are both older and bigger" Mr Birling "for lower costs and higher prices" Mr Birling "I speak as a hard-headed business man" Mr Birling "In twenty or thirty years time - let's say, in 1940...There'll be peace and prosperity" Mr Birling "a man has to make his own way - has to look after himself" Mr Birling "as if we're all mixed up together like bees in a hive - community and all that nonsense" Mr Birling "The Germans don't want war. ... Everything to lose and nothing to gain by war." Mr Birling "unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable" Mr Birling "A man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own." Mr Birling "Please, sir, an inspector called." "Yes Sir" Edna "Chain of events" Inspector Goole "I don't come into this suicide business" Gerald "But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people." Sheila "So long as we behave ourselves, don't get into the police court or start a scandal – eh." Mr Birling "One person and one line of inquiry at a time" Inspector Goole "It's my duty to ask questions." Inspector Goole "If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?" Mr Birling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "You mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl." Sheila "Nothing but morbid curiosity." Mrs Birling to Sheila "Yes, I think it was simply a piece of gross impertinence." Mrs Birling "Why should you do any protesting? It was you who turned the girl out in the first place." Inspector Goole "I didn't install her there so that I could make love to her. I made her go to Morgan terrace because I was sorry for her." 'It wasn't disgusting" Gerald "She didn't blame me at all" Gerald "I rather respect you more than I've ever done before." Sheila to Gerald "My God!... I've suddenly realised - taken in properly - that she's dead-" Gerald "I'm rather more – upset – by this business than I probably appear to be –" Gerald 'Please don't contradict me like that'. Mrs Birling to Sheila. "Girls of that class" Mrs Birling 'If you think you can bring any pressure to bear upon me, Inspector, you're quite mistaken. Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation.' Mrs Birling. "First, the girl herself. ... Secondly, I blame the young man who was the father of the child... He should be made an example of." Mrs Birling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "I wasn't in love with her or anything – but I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport." Eric "The money's not the important thing. It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters." Eric "I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty" Eric "You're not the kind of father a chap can go to when he's in trouble" Eric "We are member of one body. We are responsible for each other." Inspector Goole "One Eva Smith has gone... but there are millions... of Eva Smiths... all intertwined with our lives... if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish." Inspector Goole 'There isn't any such inspector. We've been had" Gerald 'Everything's alright now Sheila. [holds up the ring] what about this ring? Gerald to Sheila 'We've no proof it was the same photograph and therefore no proof it was the same girl' Gerald "You're beginning to pretend that nothing's really happened at all" Eric 'The fact remains that I did what I did' Eric "The point is, you don't seem to have learnt anything." Sheila to Mr Birling "Probably a Socialist or some sort of crank." Mr Birling about Goole "Between us we drove that girl to commit suicide." Sheila "I don't care about that, the point is that you don't seem to have learnt anything" Sheila "The famous younger generation who know it all." Mr Birling 	<p>Eric Birling: Eric Birling is used to being spoken down to by his father; he doesn't feel comfortable around his family and drinks heavily. He also feels regret for what he did to Eva. <i>Irresponsible, Spoilt, Reckless, Immature, Transformative</i></p> <p>Gerald Croft: Gerald seems like the perfect man, but as the play continues we see he is manipulative and controls everyone around him. He feels some regret for what has happened, but wants to move on once the truth is revealed. <i>Aristocratic, Secretive, Traditional, Privileged, Evasive</i></p> <p>Eva Smith/ Daisy Renton: Eva Smith, who changes her name to Daisy Renton, is mistreated in her life, and represents all working-class people who are mistreated by the rich. <i>Working class, Determined, Vulnerable, Emblematic, Allegorical</i></p> <p>Inspector Goole: The Inspector 'gives an impression of massiveness, solidity, and purposefulness'; he is an imposing figure who draws the truth out of the Birlings and Gerald; he acts as Priestley's mouthpiece to convey his social message. <i>Priestley's mouthpiece, Impressive, Commanding, Social justice, Omnipotent</i></p>

Context	Dramatic Techniques		Themes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Boynton Priestley was born 13th September 1894 and died 14th August 1984. He was born in an extremely respectable suburb of Bradford and went to Belle Vue Grammar School. He lived a life much like the Birlings in 'Inspector Calls'. At 16, he left school to work as a clerk in a wool firm (Helm and Co). This made him aware of what life was like for the working-class. Priestley also served during the First World War, making him exposed to the horrors of war. He was also a radio broadcaster in WW2. By 1930-1940, Priestley became concerned about the consequences of social inequality. During 1942, he and others set up a new socialist political party, the Common Wealth Party, which merged with the Labour Party in 1945. Priestley was influential in developing the idea of the Welfare State. Capitalism is a profit driven society where people are concerned for themselves and the government promotes self- prosperity. Socialism is a society that is less about the self but more about the community. The government puts mechanisms in place to support society. There were strong distinctions between upper and lower classes, and women were subservient to men in society. After the Second World War ended in 1945, class distinctions had been greatly reduced by the two wars, and women had earned a more valued place in society (they had filled in for men whilst they were away at war). After 1945, there was a greater desire for social change. Attitudes towards social and moral responsibility changed rapidly in the time between when the play was set (1912) and the time when the play was written (1946). In 1912, the general attitude of those with social and economic sway was towards looking after oneself and one's family. The Titanic – RMS Titanic was a British passenger liner that sank in the North Atlantic Ocean in the morning hours of 15th April 1912. As around 1,500 people died, it was one of the deadliest commercial maritime disasters in modern history. The Titanic was designed to be the pinnacle of both safety and comfort, and due to its enormous size and quality was frequently labelled 'unsinkable.' Morality Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaches the characters and audience a lesson Characters are 'types' rather than 'real' people Protagonist is an everyman (represents a section of society) There is always an 'Equity' character- one that both prosecutes and executes Well- made play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A central misunderstanding clear to the audience but unknown to the characters A pattern of increasingly intense action and suspense A series of ups and downs in the main character's fortunes Detective fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detective character works through leads and clues to find the answers Typical settings include big country houses with wealthy characters There is a mystery to uncover in the end Time Play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The movement of time is the most important part of the play The audience experience time alongside the characters A focus on realistic experiences 	Dramatic irony	Birling's speeches, Mrs. Birling's witless implication of Eric.	Social responsibility	<p>"We are responsible for each other" Inspector</p> <p>"Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities" Inspector</p> <p>"It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that mattered." Eric</p>
	Stage directions	Instructions for the actors; often revealing – such as the lighting change when the Inspector arrives: "Pink and intimate then brighter and harder"	Capitalism	<p>"These silly capital vs labour agitations." Birling</p> <p>"A man has to make his own way" Birling</p>
	Setting	Constant throughout but subtle changes e.g. lighting; characters on/off stage	Class	<p>"A girl of that class" Mrs Birling</p> <p>"Well, we've several hundred young women there, y'know, and they keep changing." Birling</p>
	Tension	Builds up throughout the play ; interrogation of characters, personal relationships, secrecy	Age	<p>"the famous younger generation" Birling</p> <p>"What's the matter with that child?" Birling</p> <p>"Just keep quiet, Eric" Birling</p>
	Cliff- hanger	Eric's reappearance in Act 3; the ending allows the audience to make up their minds	Gender & attitudes to women	<p>"I hate those hard-eyed dough-faced women" - Gerald</p> <p>"And you think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things?" Inspector</p> <p>"She had far too much to say, far too much" Birling</p>
	Foreshadowing	Symbolism (The Titanic), Mr. Birling's "knighthood", war	How to answer the question:	
	Time- lapse	Set in 1912, written in 1945; audience in a privileged position.	How will the question look:	<p>Quote</p> <p>Explain the important of (theme/ character) elsewhere in the play.</p> <p>In your answer, you must consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where Is shown The effects Has within the play <p>You must refer to the context of the play in your answer.</p>
The 4 th Wall	The Inspector's final speech addressed directly to audience.			
Authorial Intent- Why did Priestley write the play?		How to structure your response:	<p>An introduction and at least 3 paragraphs.</p> <p>Introduction:</p> <p>What is the message of the play and why is the theme important.</p> <p>Main Body:</p> <p>In each paragraph you must include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A clear point At least one quote in each paragraph- don't repeat quotes Explain how this relates to the theme/ question Link to context (what influenced Shakespeare) Explain the effect on both a modern audience (us now) and an Edwardian audience (the audience of the time) Go back to the question again and consider Priestley's intention 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To challenge upper class perceptions of poverty in sustain and further social reform. To highlight the importance of morality and to promote social responsibility. To solidify the end of exploitation of the working classes and the oppression of women. To promote a socialist ideology and to condemn capitalist values. 				Marks/ Timings