

Set in 1912 Britain in fictional industrial town of "Brumley"

"There are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths"



Context—creates dramatic irony and ridicules the opinions of Arthur Birling.

Written by J.B. Priestley—a Socialist who believed in change for the lower-classes to have a better future and the upper-classes to stop taking a Capitalist hold over money, position and power.

Context—allows the Inspector (Priestley) to voice concerns of things that still are happening or may happen...

Written in 1945 after experience of 2 World Wars and social unrest!

"They will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish."

"We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other"

"The Germans don't want war"

7 DEADLY SINS

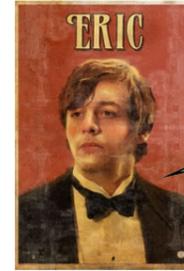


"a rather cold woman"
"her husband's social superior"

"We are learning something tonight."

CHANGE

English Literature Exam: 20th May



"You killed her—and the child she'd have had too—my child."

"We helped to kill her"

"I won't forget."

"early twenties"
"not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive"

GUILT

"We really must stop these silly pretences"



"I suppose we're all nice people now"

"a pretty girl in her early twenties"
"very pleased with life and rather excited"

"So I'm really to blame?"

"But these girls aren't cheap labour—they're people"

"The point is, you don't seem to have learned anything."

"Girls of that class."

"I speak as a hard-headed business man"

The older characters are stuck in their capitalist ways consumed with status, reputation, wealth and greed. They do not change or learn their lesson—they are a warning of current ways of living.

"heavy-looking man"
"rather provincial in his speech"

CORUPTION



"an attractive chap about thirty"
"well-bred young man about town"

SELFISHNESS



"My God! I've suddenly realised—taken it in properly—that she's dead"

"...proof. What proof is there?"

One purpose of the Inspector is to act as Priestley's voice and pass on his message about Socialism, responsibility and necessary change



"impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness"
"dressed in a plain dark suit"
"speaking...carefully and weightily"
"disconcerting habit of looking hard at those he addresses"

MORALS

"Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges"

"...we'll have to share our guilt."

props - suggests wealth 'champagne glasses', 'decanter'

"It's my duty to ask questions"

lighting

"Pink and intimate" whilst family celebrate

"Brighter and harder" once the Inspector arrives

Setting

A large suburban house.



It's a play!

Techniques

Dramatic irony—ridicules Mr Birling

Cliff-hangers at the end of each Act

Stage directions

The curtain falls

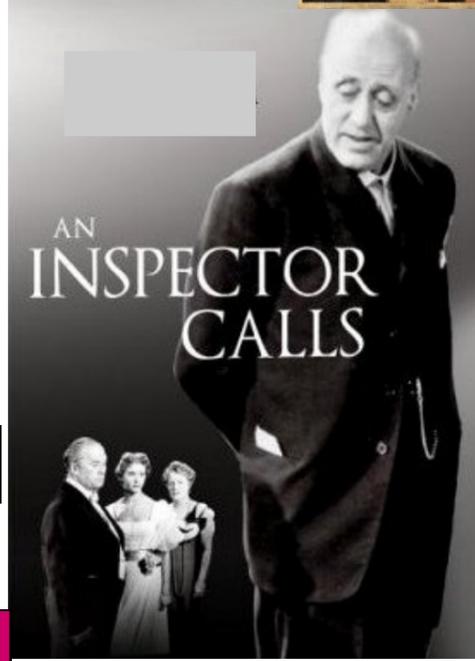
We hear the "sharp" ring of a front door bell.

The telephone rings.

The stage directions used when the characters are speaking are crucially important in suggesting their tone of voice as well as their emotions and personality. Often they are verbs, adverbs or adjectives. Write about them when you include a quote!

(who is crying quietly) That's the worst of it.

(half serious, half playful) Yes - except for all last summer, when you never came near me, and I wondered what had happened to you.



The Birlings celebrate the engagement of their daughter Sheila and Gerald Croft.



Arthur Birling gives a speech about the "nonsense" of community.

The Inspector arrives and informs them of the tragic suicide of Eva Smith.

Firstly he connects Arthur to her revealing he fired her from his factory.

The telephone rings to state an inspector is on his way as a young girl has just died in the infirmary.

"Each of you helped to kill her"



They are all connected by an encounter and misuse of Eva Smith.

Next Sheila had her sacked from Milwards because of her temper and jealousy.

RESPONSIBILITY

"A chain of events"

Along with the older Birlings, Gerald suspects that there is no Inspector and they "let themselves off the hook".

The Inspector leaves the divided family. Gerald returns.

Finally it is unveiled that Eric Birling had made Eva pregnant and stolen from his father's works to support her.

Mrs Sybil Birling refused her charity despite Eva's desperate need.

Plot and key events