

Characters

- Inspector Goole (mysterious, calm, powerful presence)
- Arthur Birling (ambitious, arrogant, dismissive)
- Sybil Birling (cold, judgemental, morally hypocritical)
- Sheila Birling (naive at first, but perceptive, and self-aware)
- Eric Birling (awkward, secretive, rebellious, guilty)
- Gerald Croft (charming, confident, entitled, self-justifying)
- Eva Smith (never seen on stage but central to plot, vulnerable)
- Daisy Renton (never seen on stage but central, victim yet strong-willed)



An Inspector Calls

Key Quotes

- BIRLING 'Unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable.'
- INSPECTOR 'We are members of one body.'
- SHEILA: 'But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people.'
- ERIC: 'You killed her - and the child she'd have had too.'
- SYBIL: 'I accept no blame for it all.'



Main Themes

- Social responsibility
- Class and hierarchy
- Gender roles
- Generational divides
- Morality vs. hypocrisy
- Power and exploitation



Structure and Form

- Well-made play (unity of time, place, action)
- Dramatic irony (Birling's predictions)
- Tension & suspense (arrival of inspector, phone call ending)
- Cliff-hanger ending
- Allegorical elements



Context

- Time written vs. time set: 1945 vs. 1912
- Class system: divisions between upper, middle, working class
- Capitalism vs. Socialism
- Priestley's purpose: political message, morality, responsibility
- Audience reaction: post-WW2 Britain vs. Edwardian society

