

“Do Now” Work

How does Priestley present Mrs Sybil Birling?

Be able to identify the ways Sybil is presented and explore the effect.

1. Gerald says, "After all, y'know, we're respectable citizens and not criminals."

What does this suggest about him?

2. Look at the following quotations:

Inspector: (sharply) Yes, she's dead.

Sheila: And probably between us we killed her.

Mrs B: (sharply) Sheila, don't talk nonsense.

What do you learn about the attitudes of the younger and older generations here?

Challenge: Who else has said "nonsense" before?

In Silence Please



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Read from page 41 - 49.

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Eva Smith's timeline: 'A CHAIN OF EVENTS'

	January 1911	September 1911	March 1912
	Sacked from Milwards	Gerald ends affair. Eva goes away.	Asks Mrs Birling's committee for help.
September 1910	March 1911	November 1911 (p39)	April 1912
Sacked from Birling and Co.	Meets Gerald	Returns from seaside	Commits suicide

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1. What does Mrs Birling say about class on page 30 and page 47? What are her views about the working class?
2. Who does Mrs Birling work for (page 44)? Why do you think Mrs Birling does this work?
3. What does Mrs Birling say about "duty" on page 44? How might the audience react?
4. Why does Mrs Birling think her actions were "justified" on page 46 and page 47?
5. Who does Mrs Birling think is responsible for Eva/Daisy (page 46 and page 48)?

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1. What does Mrs Birling say about class on page 30 and page 47? What are her views about the working class?

"Girls of that class" and "As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money." This implies that she thinks Eva had no morals.

2. Who does Mrs Birling work for (page 42)? Why do you think Mrs Birling does this work?

Brumley Women's Charity Organization. Mrs Birling thinks she is charitable, but she uses her power there to stop deserving cases getting help.

3. What does Mrs Birling say about "duty" on page 44? How might the audience react?

"I consider I did my duty."

4. Why does Mrs Birling think her actions were "justified" on page 46 and page 47?

She thinks she was "perfectly justified" because she thought Eva was lying about her name, her situation and the stolen money.

5. Who does Mrs Birling think is responsible for Eva/Daisy (page 46 and page 48)?

The father of her child.

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Mrs Birling (Sybil)	Sheila Birling
Mrs B: I don't understand you, Inspector Inspector: You mean you don't choose to do, Mrs Birling (p41)	Sheila: I don't understand you Inspector: There's no reason why you should (p29)

1. Why does Inspector Goole react differently to Sybil and Sheila?

Mrs Birling	Mr Birling
Mrs B: I think I was justified Mrs B: I was perfectly justified Mrs B: I consider I did my duty	Birling: I was quite justified Birling: It's my duty to keep labour costs down

2. Why does Priestley use the same words for Mr and Mrs Birling?

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"An Inspector Calls is a play about people being selfish." Write about two characters in An Inspector Calls whom you think are selfish.

(30 marks)

[AO4: 4 marks]

How does Priestley present ideas about social responsibility in *An Inspector Calls*?

(30 marks)

[AO4: 4 marks]

How does Priestley present Mrs Sybil Birling?

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Mrs Birling's lack of social responsibility is shown throughout the play by her refusal to accept any blame for what happened to Eva Smith. Mrs Birling thinks she was "perfectly justified in advising [her] committee not to allow her claim". She repeats the adjective "justified" several times in Act 2 to excuse her actions. This stubborn, selfish attitude is emphasised further by the adverb "perfectly". Mrs Birling shows off her social power by linking the committee to the possessive pronoun "My" and using the verb "allow", reminding the audience that she could have helped if she had wanted to.

How does Priestley present Gerald Croft
Be able to identify the ways Gerald is presented and explore the effect.



