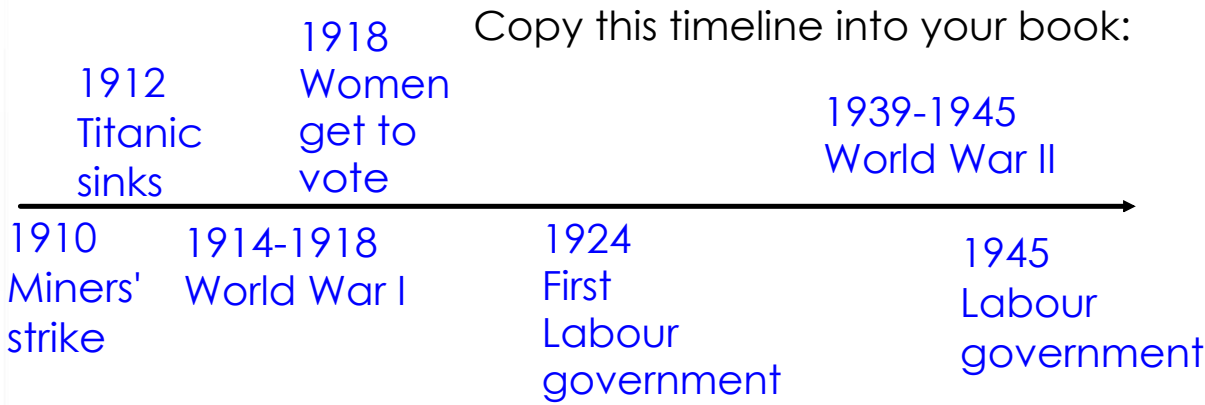


“Do Now” Work

9th January 2018

Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
Be able to explain Priestley's socialist views.

Copy this timeline into your book:



In Silence Please

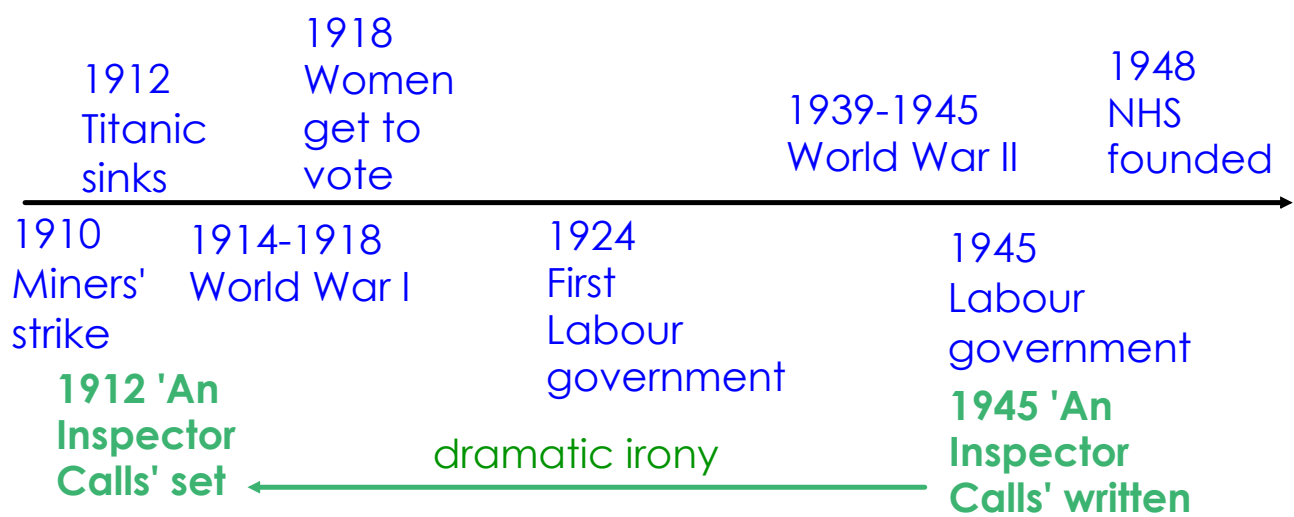


Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
Be able to explain Priestley's socialist views.

J. B. Priestley wrote 'An Inspector Calls' in 1945, but he set the play in 1912.

This allowed him to use **dramatic irony**. This is when the audience knows something that the characters don't know.

Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
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Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
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The class system:

Upper class: the group with the highest status in society, the aristocracy (e.g. Lords).

Middle class: professional people and business owners

Working class: people who work for businesses, especially manual labour or industrial work

In 1912, the class system was clear. This was not the case in 1945.

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There were a lot of changes between 1912 (Edwardian Britain) and 1945 (post-war Britain).

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/clips/zk7b4wx>



1912	1945
Class division (upper class, middle class, working class)	Classes mixed (evacuation of children, the army, clothes rations)
Patriarchal society - middle class women should get married, and working class women were seen as cheap labour.	Women worked during the war, and they earned a more valued place in society.
First World War would start in two years. Many people didn't believe war would happen.	Second World War ended in May. People were recovering from six years of warfare, danger and uncertainty.
The ruling classes saw no reason to change society.	There was a desire for social change after the war. The Labour party won the election over Winston Churchill and the Conservatives.

Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
Be able to explain Priestley's socialist views.

J. B. Priestley was a **socialist**, and he wrote 'An Inspector Calls' to pass on his **socialist** message.

In the play, Priestley uses the character Inspector Goole as a mouthpiece for his **socialist** message.

Socialism is a political system which promotes the idea that the means of production, distribution and exchange should be owned by the community as a whole.

This quotation is from the play, and summarises Priestley's **socialist** ideas:

"We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other."

Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
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'An Inspector Calls' is about the middle-class Birling family. The Birlings are **capitalists**, and Mr Birling owns a business.

J. B. Priestley tries to make the Birlings look foolish. He doesn't want the audience to trust their viewpoints.

Capitalism is a political system in which a country's trade and industry is controlled by private owners for profit.

This quotation is from the play, and it shows Mr Birling's capitalist viewpoint:

"you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense."

Capitalism suits Mr Birling because as a member of the middle class, he keeps making money and gets richer. It doesn't benefit the working class.

Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?
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1. What is the class system?
2. What is socialism? What do socialists believe?
3. What is capitalism? What do capitalists believe?

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Characters - you need to know the characters

Mr Arthur Birling
Mrs Sybil Birling
Miss Sheila Birling
Mr Eric Birling
Mr Gerald Croft
Inspector Goole
Edna
Eva Smith
Daisy Renton

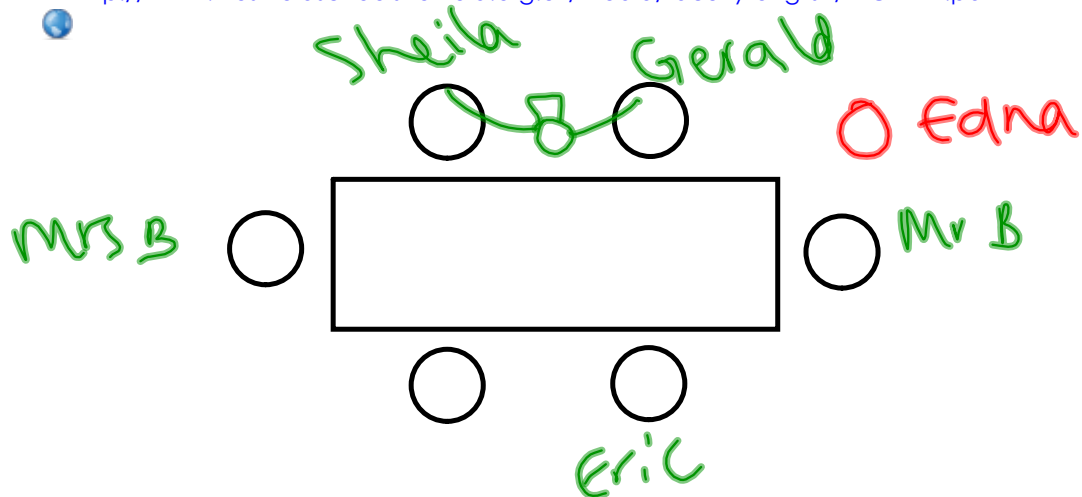
What do you find out about these
characters from the stage
directions at the start of the play?

Which characters start on stage,
and where are they on stage?

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Link to the text:

<http://www.westfieldschoolsheffield.org.uk/media/faculty-english/AIC-TEXT.pdf>



Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?

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suburban house	- a residential area (outskirts of a city)
prosperous manufacturer	- successful business owner
portentous man	- overly solemn or serious to impress
provincial in his speech	- unsophisticated in what he's saying
her husband's social superior	- Mrs Birling is from a higher social class
dandy	- a stylish / fashionable man

