

“Do Now” Work

How does Priestley present Sheila Birling?

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

Read your PETER paragraph from yesterday's lesson. Does it include the following:

- A point linked to the question
- Evidence which is embedded into the sentence
- A technical term or subject terminology (e.g. play, character)
- An exploration of the effect of the evidence
- A word which has been analysed in detail
- A link to the play's context (e.g. 1912, 1945, capitalism, socialism)

In Silence Please



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Read the WAGOLL. Label the following:

- A point linked to the question
- Evidence which is embedded into the sentence
- A technical term or subject terminology (e.g. play, character)
- An exploration of the effect of the evidence
- A word which has been analysed in detail
- A link to the play's context (e.g. 1912, 1945, capitalism, socialism)

In Silence Please



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Revision:

1. Re-read page 3 of the play.
2. How does Priestley show that there may be some tension in Sheila and Gerald's relationship?

Challenge: How do the stage directions reinforce this tension?

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Revision:

1. Re-read page 3 of the play.
2. How does Priestley show that there may be some tension in Sheila and Gerald's relationship?

Sheila says that Gerald "never came near" her last summer. Gerald says he was busy at work, but Sheila's response "that's what you say" implies that she doesn't believe him.

Challenge: How do the stage directions reinforce this tension?

When Sheila speaks, she is "half serious, half playful" which suggests that although she is pretending to tease Gerald, she is also suspicious about his actions.

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Read from page 20 - page 33.

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

January 1911

Sacked
from
Milwards

September
1910

Sacked from
Birling and Co.

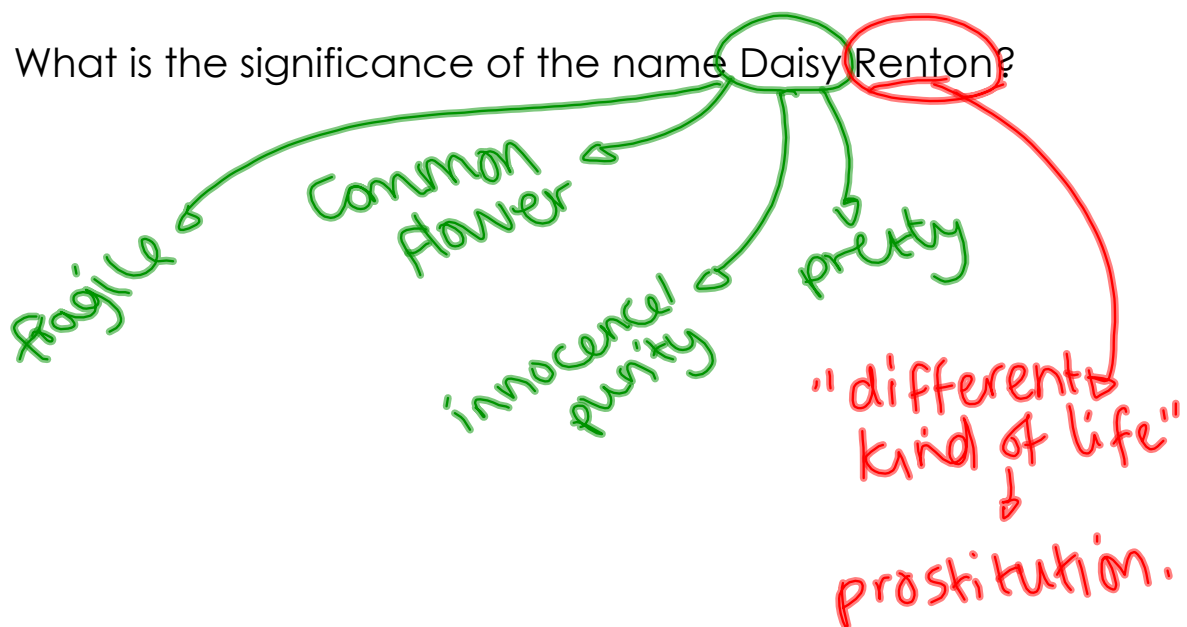
April
1912

Commits
suicide

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What is the significance of the name Daisy Renton?



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Recap: How does Sheila react to the idea that Eva Smith was "cheap labour" (page 19)?

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BOURNVILLE

1. How does Sheila react when she finds out she was involved in Eva's life (page 23)?
2. How are Sheila's reactions different to her father's reaction? Find an example from the text (page 29).
3. How does Sheila use her power as a young middle-class woman (page 23)?
4. How will Sheila change as a result of what happened to Eva Smith (page 24)?
5. How could Sheila be seen as somebody who is still selfish (page 25)?

Challenge:

- What do Mr Birling and Mrs Birling assume about Eva Smith? (pages 16, 20 and 30)
- What does Sheila mean when she says: "But we really must stop these silly pretences"?
- What does impertinent mean? Why does Sheila call it a "silly word"?

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Recap: How does Sheila react to the idea that Eva Smith was "cheap labour" (page 19)?

Sheila says, "But these girls aren't cheap labour, they're people" which suggests she doesn't see them as a commodity like her father.

1. How does Sheila react when she finds out she was involved in Eva's life (page 23)?

Sheila says, "So I'm really responsible?" She asks a question rather than making a statement as she is learning about responsibility, but by asking the question, she shows that she understands something about responsibility.

2. How are Sheila's reactions different to her father's reaction? Find an example from the text (page 29).

She says, "I know I'm to blame - and I'm desperately sorry." The adverb "desperately" shows she feels remorse unlike her father.

3. How does Sheila use her power as a young middle-class woman (page 23)?

Sheila threatens to "persuade" her mother to "close" their account at Milwards. As a wealthy, middle-class customer, she is able to get what she wants.

4. How will Sheila change as a result of what happened to Eva Smith (page 24)?

She says "I'll never, never do it again." The repetition of "never" shows her guilt about what she did.

5. How could Sheila be seen as somebody who is still selfish (page 25)?

She says "I feel now I can never go there again" which shows she is worried about how other people will see her rather than Eva.

Challenge:

- What do Mr Birling and Mrs Birling assume about Eva Smith? (pages 16, 20 and 30)

Mr and Mrs Birling assume the worst about Eva:

- Mr B: "Get into trouble? Go on the streets?"
- Mr B: "And then she got herself into trouble there, I suppose?"
- Mr B: "There must have been something wrong."
- Mrs B: "Girls of that class"
- What does Sheila mean when she says: 'But we really must stop these silly pretences'?
- This means that Sheila knows the Birlings need to stop pretending they're a "nice, well behaved family".
- What does **impertinent** mean? Why does Sheila call it a "silly word"?
- Impertinent means rude or not showing proper respect. Sheila thinks it's silly because it's her own family who are being impertinent, not Inspector Goole or Eva Smith.

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How does Priestley present **Sheila Birling** in *An Inspector Calls*?

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

How does Priestley present **the relationship between Sheila Birling and Gerald Croft** in *An Inspector Calls*?

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

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Evidence	Technique / Effect on the audience / Context
Sheila: If I could help her now, I would - Inspector: (harshly) Yes, but you can't. It's too late. She's dead. (p24)	
Sheila: I know I'm to blame and I'm desperately sorry (p29)	
Sheila: (She gets close to him, wondering) I don't understand about you Inspector: (calmly) There's no reason why you should (p29)	
Mrs B: You seem to have made a great impression on this child, Inspector Inspector: We often do on the young ones. They're more impressionable (p30)	
Mrs B: Girls of that class... Sheila: (slowly, carefully now) You mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl (p30)	

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WAGOLL:

Priestley presents Sheila as someone who begins to understand Inspector Goole's message: 'You mustn't try to build up a kind of wall between us and that girl'. The metaphorical 'wall' represents the class division in Edwardian Britain. Sheila warns her mother not to 'try to build' a wall between their middle class family and the working class Eva Smith, suggesting that Sheila is beginning to understand Inspector Goole's socialist message about equality and disregard her family's capitalist views. This is emphasised by the stage directions as Sheila says this line 'slowly' and 'carefully' which suggests Sheila is trying to make her mother understand what she's saying. Priestley could have shown this change in attitude in Sheila as she voices the attitudes of the younger generation in the play. In addition, Sheila recognises that if Mrs Birling does 'build up a kind of wall' between the family and Eva Smith, Inspector Goole will 'just break it down'. This suggests that through his interrogation, Inspector Goole will collapse the argument for a class system and show the characters and audience the importance of equality. The adverb 'just' implies that it is not difficult for Inspector Goole to break down the wall. Priestley therefore suggests that the argument for a class system is not strong as it can be broken easily.

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Peer assessment:

Reading Skills
The paragraph is a PETER paragraph
Where appropriate, technical terms are used
A word or phrase is analysed in detail (precise quotation)
Signpost phrases are used (e.g. suggests, implies not means!)
Layers of meaning (multiple interpretations) are explored
Quotations are embedded into the sentence
The context of the play is explored
The writers surname is used

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