

“Do Now” Work

How does Priestley use Inspector Goole as a mouthpiece for his socialist message?

Be able to identify techniques in Goole's final speech and explore the effect.

1. What do you think today's title means?

Recap: What is socialism?

Recap: Why did Priestley write 'An Inspector Calls'?

In Silence Please



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Read page 56

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Inspector Goole's Final Speech - page 56

'But just remember this. One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives. Their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives, with what we think and say and do. We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you the time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish. Good night.'

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How is Goole's speech like a political speech?

"We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this Island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old."

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We know the battle ahead will be long, but always remember that no matter what obstacles stand in our way, nothing can withstand the power of millions of voices calling for change.

We have been told we cannot do this by a chorus of cynics who will only grow louder and more dissonant in the weeks to come. We've been asked to pause for a reality check. We've been warned against offering the people of this nation false hope.

But in the unlikely story that is America, there has never been anything false about hope. For when we have faced down impossible odds; when we've been told that we're not ready, or that we shouldn't try, or that we can't, generations of Americans have responded with a simple creed that sums up the spirit of a people.

Yes we can.

It was a creed written into the founding documents that declared the destiny of a nation.

Yes we can.

It was whispered by slaves and abolitionists as they blazed a trail toward freedom through the darkest of nights.

Yes we can.

It was sung by emigrants as they struck out from distant shores and pioneers who pushed westward against an unforgiving wilderness.

Yes we can.

It was the call of workers who organized; women who reached for the ballot; a President who chose the moon as our new frontier; and a King who took us to the mountaintop and pointed the way to the Promised Land.

Yes we can to justice and equality. Yes we can to opportunity and prosperity. Yes we can heal this nation. Yes we can repair this world. Yes we can.

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Some features of political speeches:

- a) Listing things in threes (e.g. 'Government of the people, by the people, for the people.')
- b) The use of contrastive pairs (e.g. 'That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind.')
- c) That talking positively about 'us' or 'we' makes the audience identify with what is being said.
- d) That talking negatively about 'them' makes for a strong speech.
- e) The use of the first person singular 'I' to make the audience feel the speaker is sincere.
- f) The use of powerful or memorable words and phrases.
- g) The rhythm of the language (e.g. the length of sentences, the effect of pauses.)

How many of these can you find in Inspector Goole's final speech?

Challenge: What is the effect of using these techniques?

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'But the way some of these **cranks** talk and write now, 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**. But take my word for it, you youngsters – and I've learnt in the good hard school of experience – that **a man has to** mind his own business and **look after himself** and his own – and -'

'But just remember this. One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all **intertwined** with our lives, with what we think and say and do. We don't live alone. **We are members of one body**. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you the time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish. Good night.'

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Challenge questions:

Why does Priestley choose to have an inspector as the person giving the message? What are the connotations of 'inspectors'?

Why doesn't Eva Smith appear on stage? Why, for example, isn't the play performed as a series of flashbacks, so we can relive Eva's life?

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How does Priestley present the Inspector in *An Inspector Calls*?

(30 marks)

[AO4: 4 marks]

How does Priestley present the different attitudes of Mr Birling and the Inspector?

(30 marks)

[AO4: 4 marks]

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Priestley uses the Inspector to explore social responsibility through the comments he makes about society: "We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other." This pattern of three statements repeats the plural pronoun "we" to emphasise socialist values of joint responsibility. The short sentences emphasise the messages that we should all respect and help each other, and this is captured in the metaphor "one body".

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