‘An Inspector Calls’ Quotation Revision

How can I learn quotations?

Remember, you can do this!

Revise, revisit and repeat

**Use post it notes**

**Re-visit the texts - highlight**

**Start learning them early**

**Make/Do Quizzes**

**Create flashcards**

**Memorise them**

**Create Quote Posters**

**Repetition**

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| **‘An Inspector Calls’** |
| ***Character*** | ***Key Quotes linked to terminology and event*** |
| **Inspector Goole**https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p0320x0p.jpg | 1. **“We hear the sharp ring of the front doorbell”**

Act 1 – timing – the inspector’s arrival cuts of Mr Birling while he is talking about being selfish.1. **“After all it’s better to ask for the earth than to take it”**

Act 1 – metaphor – warning Mr Birling about his selfish attitude.1. **“A young woman drank some disinfectant and died, after several hours of agony…She lies with a burnt out inside on a slab.”**

Act 1 and 2. Graphic imagery repeated through the play to reinforce Eva’s suffering.1. **“And you think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things?”**

Act 2. To Gerald. Ironic comment about Sheila needing to hear / Eva not being protected at all. 1. **“We have to share something. If there’s nothing else, we’ll have to share our guilt”**

Act 2. Powerful rhetoric. Advice to Sheila.1. **“Your daughter isn’t living on the moon. She’s here in Brumley too.”**

Act 2. Metaphor. Dismissive tone towards Mr Birling’s protests.1. **“She needed not only money but advice, sympathy, friendliness…and you slammed the door in her face.”**

Act 2. Listing. Condemning of Mrs Birling’s callous manner towards Eva.1. **“And my trouble is I haven’t much time. You’ll be able to divide up the responsibility between you when I’ve gone.”**

Act 3. Inspector losing patience with family bickering.1. **“There are millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us…We don’t live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for one another.”**

Act 3. Rule of 3 and inclusive pronouns – Reminding the whole family of the need for community.1. **“The time will come when if men will not learn that lesson, they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish.”**

Act 3. Religious metaphor linking to hell as a punishment for those who do not care for their fellow man.  |
| **Arthur (Mr) Birling**https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p03213mb.jpg | 1. **“I’m talking as a hard-headed, practical man of business.”**

 –Act 1. Alliteration. Thinks practically, coldly, without emotion.  1. **“I say there isn’t a chance of war…the Titanic –unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable.”**

- Act 1 - Repetition and dramatic irony. Priestley makes him look foolish and untrustworthy, so his political views may also be wrong.1. **“One of the happiest nights of my life”**

– Act 1. Personifies capitalism - Looking forward not only to engagement of his daughter to Gerald, but new business links between Crofts and Birlings that may follow. 1. **“There’s a fair chance I might find my way into the next Honours List”**

–Act 1. Excited to increase his privilege and social standing further by being recognised for his work by royalty.1. **“A man has to make his own way – has to look after himself – and his family too.”**

–Act 1. Self-centred outlook. 1. **“If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we’d had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn’t it?”** –Act 1. Abandonment of social responsibility.
2. **“It’s my duty to keep labour costs down.”** – Act 1. Shows Mr Birling’s capitalist outlook. He sees his workers as a commodity rather than people.
3. **“I was quite justified.”** – Act 1. Mr Birling thinks his decision to sack Eva was correct.
4. **“If you don’t come down sharply on some of these people, they’d soon be asking for the earth”** –Act 1. Noun phrase “these people” shows he sees himself differently to the working class. The adverb “sharply” implies he thinks the working class should be punished. The hyperbolic phrase “asking for the earth” shows he doesn’t understand the working class.
5. **“Look Inspector, I’d give thousands, thousands…”** – Act 3. Repetition. Offering money to try and sort the problem when it’s way too late. He still thinks money is what can solve the problem rather than caring for others.
6. **“There’ll be a public scandal –and who here will suffer from that more than I will?”** –Act 3. Rhetorical question. Primary concern all the way through the play that his reputation will suffer.
7. **“Probably a socialist or some sort of crank. He talked like one”** –Act 3. Dismissive of visitor now he believes him not to be a proper Inspector.
8. **“I’ll admit he gave me a bit of a scare.”**  - Act3. Relief that it all seems to be false.
9. **“A girl has just died – on her way to the infirmary.”** –Act 3. Revelation that the events seem to be replaying themselves for real this time?
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| **Sybil (Mrs) Birling** https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p0320tql.jpg | 1. **“Girls of that class-”** –Act 1. Generalisation. Dismissing working class girls as all the same, destined for bad things.
2. **“So far you seem to be conducting the inquiry in a rather peculiar and offensive manner.”** –Act 1. Adjectives. Her irritation that the Inspector is not treating them with the respect usually given to their social class.
3. **“Sheila, don’t talk nonsense** –Act 2. Refusing to accept Sheila’s acknowledgment of blame for events.
4. **“I don’t think we want any further details of this disgusting affair.”** Act 2. Adjective. Constantly refers to any misbehaviour as vile/disgusting, and not for a woman of her class to be associated with.
5. **“She called herself Mrs Birling –a piece of gross impertinence”** Act 2. Disbelief regarding Eva’s referral to herself as Mrs Birling in a desperate attempt to get money.
6. **“I think she had only herself to blame.”** Act 2 – absolving herself of any blame for the events.
7. **“I consider I did my duty.”** Act 2 – she thinks she is a charitable woman.
8. **“I was perfectly justified.”** Act 2 – the adverb ‘perfectly’ implies she has no doubts that she was right.
9. **“As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money”** Act 2. Further condescension towards Eva, a girl from the working class.
10. **“You’re behaving like a hysterical child.”** –Act 2. Simile. Telling off Sheila for her defiant, challenging attitude.
11. **“The rude way he spoke to Mr Birling and me. It was quite extraordinary.”**- Act 3. Doubting whether the Inspector was real or not, and in disbelief at his lack of respect for her and her husband.
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| https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p0320xst.jpg**Sheila Birling** | 1. **“These girls aren’t cheap labour –they’re people.”** –Act 1. Metaphor. Reminding her father that his workers should be treated like human beings.
2. **“Shut up Eric. It’s the only time I’ve ever done anything like that, and I’ll never, never do it again to anybody.”** –Act 1. Repetition. Her huge feelings of guilt.
3. **“Were you seeing her last spring and summer when you hardly came near me and said you were so busy?”** – Act 1 –Directly addressing Gerald about his affair.
4. **“I can’t believe –I won’t believe it’s simply my fault that in the end she committed suicide. That would be too horrible.”** Act 2. Accepting some blame, but finds it too distressing to accept total responsibility.
5. **Mother –You mustn’t try and build up a kind of wall between us and that girl.”** Act 2. Metaphor. Warning to mother about the need to think of Eva as a human being.
6. **“No –he’s giving us the rope so that we’ll hang ourselves.”** Act 2. Metaphor. Perceptive understanding of how the Inspector is dealing with the family.
7. **“I want to understand…I wouldn’t miss it for worlds”** –Act 2. Partially enjoying seeing Gerald humiliated and having to reveal details of the affair with Eva.
8. **“I’m not a child, don’t forget. I’ve a right to know.”** – Act 2 – Constant reminder to parents that she is mature enough to understand things, and her generation is also more open to new ideas.
9. **“That’s probably the best thing you’ve said tonight. At least it’s honest.”** –Act 2. Sarcastic dig at Gerald. Appreciative of when he tells the truth.
10. **“Gerald, I think you’d better take this with you. (She hands him the ring)”** – Act 2. End of the short-lived engagement?
11. **“You and I aren’t the same people who sat down to dinner here.”** – Act 2. The relationship has changed, but there is a hint that they might be able to patch things up as a result of Gerald’s honesty.
12. **“The point is, you don’t seem to have learnt anything…It’s you two who are being childish –trying not to face the facts.”** – Act 3. Accusing parents of not learning a thing.
13. **“Was he really a police inspector?”** – Act 3 – Perceptive – starting to wonder whether the Inspector was genuine.
14. **“If it didn’t end tragically, then that’s lucky for us. But it might have done.”** –Act 3. Understands the warning shot.
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| **Eva Smith /****Daisy Renton / Mrs Birling**https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p0320ty0.jpg | 1. **“She’d had a lot to say – far too much – so she had to go.”** – Act 1. Birling explaining reason she was fired –linked to pay rise request.
2. **“With no work, no money, no relatives, lonely, half starved, she was feeling desperate”** – Act 1. Inspector reminds Birling of her terrible position after losing her job at Birling and Co.
3. **“She enjoyed being among pretty clothes…a fresh start”** – Act 1. Inspector informing Sheila of Eva’s excitement at getting the job at Milwards.
4. **“She felt there’d never be anything as good again for her –so she had to make it last longer.”** – Act 2, with new name Daisy Renton, the end of her affair with Gerald she accepted but it hit her hard.
5. **“She was here alone, friendless, almost penniless, desperate.”** – Act 2 – repetition of desperate from Act 1 reinforces the harsh conditions working class girls had to face.
6. **“She’d come to you for assistance because she didn’t want to take stolen money.”** – Act 2. The reason she went to Mrs Birling was Daisy had moral standards and was not happy at Eric stealing money to support her.
7. **“Just used her … as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person.”** – Act 3. Shows that Eric used his power over her and didn’t consider her feelings.
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| **Eric Birling**https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/images/ic/480xn/p03212gp.jpg | 1. **“He’s been steadily drinking too much for the last two years.”** Act 2. Sheila about Eric.
2. **“I wasn’t in love with her or anything –but I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport,”** – Act 3. Eric’s lack of real care/affection for Daisy.
3. **“Just used her for the end of a stupid drunken evening, as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person.”** – Act 3. Similes. The Inspector condemning his drunken, sexual behaviour.
4. **“She didn’t want me to marry her. Said I didn’t love her – and all that. In a way she treated me as if I were a kid.”** – Act 3. Simile. Daisy saw through Eric’s intentions and lack of maturity. She had enough dignity to not insist on a false marriage, and also to protect Eric.
5. **“I insisted on giving her money to keep her going”** –Act 3. Eric gave her money to help her, and due to the fact she was pregnant.
6. **“Because you’re not the kind of father a chap could go to when he’s in trouble – that’s why.”** Act 3. The relationship between Eric and his father is not a helpful, understanding one.
7. **“Then – you killed her. She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away.”** – Act 3. His accusation towards his mother about her awful uncaring behaviour.
8. **“You don’t understand anything. You never did.”** – Act 3. Again directed towards Mrs Birling –shows her lack of understanding of real life matters.
9. **“You’re beginning to pretend now that nothing’s really happened at all. I can’t see it like that. The girl’s still dead, isn’t she?”** –Act 3. Like Sheila, Eric has learnt his lesson. His parents haven’t.
10. **“I don’t give a damn now whether I stay her or not.”** – Act 3. He is not bothered by his father’s threat to kick him out of the house.

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| **Gerald Croft**Related image | 1. **‘I know we’d have done the same thing’** – Act 1. Gerald supports Mr Birling’s decision to sack Eva Smith.
2. **‘I don’t come into this suicide business.’** – Act 1. Gerald assumes he isn’t involved.
3. **‘We can keep it from him.’** – Act 1. Gerald thinks he can hide the truth from the inspector.
4. **‘I’m rather more – upset – by this business than I probably appear to be – ‘.**– Act 2. The audience thinks Gerald has started to change, but he is the one who discovers Inspector Goole was fake and he celebrates this with Mr and Mrs Birling.
5. **‘had some affection for her and made her happy for a time.’** – Act 2. The inspector isn’t as hard on Gerald as Mr and Mrs Birling**.**
6. **‘Everything’s all right now Sheila. (Holds up the ring.) What about this ring?’** – Act 3. Gerald assumes that everything can go back to normal once the inspector is discovered to be fake.
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Mr Birling

* Represents power and money – he can get what he wants because he has money
* Shows how the rich feared the poor and were suspicious of their actions
* The rich are protective of their own and their money and fear losing it
* Earned his money through hard work so expects people to work hard in life – represents new money
* Represents the old class system – money made you powerful and important
* Shows how the older generation will refuse to change their mind
* Represents a capitalist’s view of the world – only interested in money.

Mrs Birling

* Highlights how women didn’t always sympathise with other women
* Shows how people only care for their family and their reputation
* Shows how people are only kind and charitable when it suits them
* Shows how women abused their power too
* Gives the audience an ideas of what Sheila could become
* Shows how that the inequalities was caused by both genders – not just men treating women badly

Eva Smith

* A symbol of the poor and how the rich mistreated them
* Shows how resourceful the poor had to be to survive
* She was a victim of all parts of society – together they indirectly killed her
* She represented an ‘everyman’ figure – she could be replaced by any type of person as she has very little individual personality
* The only control she had was in her death
* She is a foil – she is used to make the other characters look bad in comparison

Gerald Croft

* Highlights how the men treated relationships with women – quick to start or end a relationship
* Shows how men are only concerned with their desires – no sense of concern or care for a woman’s well-being
* Shows the rich peoples’ carefree attitude towards the poor – not his concern – they served a function
* Represents ‘old money’ – money that has been passed down through a family. He will inherit his parents’ money.
* He shows how the rich had nothing to fear. He is the complete opposite of Eva Smith. She does things to survive. He will survive no matter what he does.

Sheila Birling

* Represents the childish behaviour of the young and their arrogance – think they know best.
* A symbol of a possible future – both Sheila and Eric are the characters that want to learn from the events in the play and improve.
* Shows how women are changing – Mrs Birling is rigid in her thoughts but Sheila is willing to listen and change
* Becomes an adult during the play – learns that actions have consequences
* Sheila is the character that changes the most in the play – Why?

Eric Birling

* Contrasts with Sheila. Can’t cope with his actions. Sheila accepts her actions.
* Copes with things by hiding things and stealing money.
* Shows some guilt towards what has happened and, in some ways, he hates what he has become.
* Eric’s behaviour before the play reflects that of the other men, but through the course of the story, has regrets and wants to be somebody different.
* Shows a new way of dealing with relations with the poor – a relationship between rich and poor

Inspector Goole

* Represents the rules and order of society – the police
* Multiple roles – judge / conscience / god-like figure who sees all
* He is the one figure that connects the poor and the rich together – he forces the links and connections – reveals what they want to keep hidden
* Neither a rich nor a poor person – almost classless. It takes a classless character to make an unbiased opinion
* Not a real person – suggesting that there is something else trying to fix things

Social Injustice

* We see both rich and poor people living unhappy lives – suggesting that things are not working well now.
* A change is needed to fix what happened and will happen to other Eva Smiths
* The choices and decisions made by the rich affected Eva’s life. One small change and her life would be better.
* The unfairness seems to be inherited from parents
* Several types of injustice – rich/ poor, male/female, young/old, strong/weak
* The young, poor females don’t have a voice in society.

Gender

* The destruction of a young woman is at the heart of the play.
* To survive, Eva Smith plays different female roles. As a woman she has to adapt to survive. The men don’t.
* Very few female figures in the play – more men than women.
* Eva Smith and Edna are the only two females with a job. What connects them?
* Three main roles of women in the play – mother, wife and daughter. Men are more respectful to those roles.
* A young female is dead at the end of the play and a young female has started to change – Sheila and Eva linked

Responsibility

* Priestley wanted the rich to be more responsible for the poor
* Each is partly responsible for Eva Smith’s death – not one character is fully responsible – it is a shared responsibility
* Eva Smith would be alive if everybody took some responsibility
* Priestley didn’t just want one or two people to be responsible for others – that’s why he made all the characters almost equally responsible
* The whole play is about questioning. Questioning who is responsible – the Inspector isn’t just questioning the death but questioning the responsibility of the weak in society

Techniques

* Dramatic irony – the audience knows something the characters on stage don’t
* Photograph – used to slowly unpick the puzzle
* Structure – each character’s connection is revealed at a time – shaped around the characters – each one more shocking than the others
* Adverbs – how the characters speak is often more important than what they say
* Exits and entrances – when the characters are off stage this creates tension as they don’t know the full story when they return
* Secrets – each character has a secret and this is a cause of tension in the play
* Politeness – the characters are usually polite, but it is telling when they aren’t polite
* Timing – the timing of the doorbell ringing and the telephone ringing are important

Different sides in the play

* Young / Old
* Male / Female
* Family / Strangers
* Capitalist / Socialist
* Middle class / Working class
* New money / Old money
* Strong / Weak
* Boss / Workers
* Rich / Poor
* Optimistic / Pessimistic