An Inspector Calls

Characters

- **Arthur Birling**  
  A symbol of the capitalist wealthy business owner

- **Sybil Birling**  
  A symbol of the arrogance and pride of the upper class  
  Cares about her reputation

- **Sheila Birling**  
  Starts of naïve and unaware but becomes socially and politically empowered representing the changing roles of women in society

- **Eric Birling**  
  The typical rich and irresponsible son of wealthy parents  
  An outcast from his father: disagrees with his fathers viewpoints and finds it hard to find his place  
  Inspector empowers him to change and speak up to his father

- **Gerald Croft**  
  Upper class, son of a rival business owner  
  Shows those who have the potential to change but ultimately values money and status

- **Inspector Goole**  
  A symbol of socialism and Priestley’s mouthpiece  
  Aims to teach the family a moral lesson about how to behave as a responsible citizen

- **Eva Smith/Daisy Renton**  
  Represents the working class female  
  Someone who was initially quite strong and determined but was worn down by the unjust treatment of her by the surrounding capitalist society

- **Edna**  
  The Birling’s maid  
  Has very few lines and represents the voiceless working class

Plot

- **Act 1**  
  The Birling’s and Gerald Croft are celebrating Sheila and Gerald’s engagement  
  Mr Birling and Gerald talk about capitalist ideas  
  Inspector arrives and reveals Eva Smiths suicide  
  Inspector questions Mr Birling and Sheila Birling  
  It ends on a cliff-hanger which shows that Gerald new Eva by the name Daisy Renton

- **Act 2**  
  The inspector questions Gerald  
  Eric becomes distressed and leaves  
  The Inspector questions Mrs Birling  
  It becomes clear that Eva was pregnant  
  We learn that Eric is the father

- **Act 3**  
  Inspector questions Eric  
  The inspector gives a final speech about community  
  The family learn that the Inspector may not be real