

An Inspector calls Essay

An Inspector calls is written by J.B Priestley, Priestley explores the big difference in the ideas of the 2 generations by portraying some aspects of the Birling family in a good light with the younger generation. One of this generations is the elder one which is represented by Mr and Mrs Birling. The younger generation is represented by Eric and Sheila. This elder generation represents the capitalist sector of society which played an important role in the 19th century but was going to be replaced in the 20th century by Socialism. Priestley's intention to set the book around the sinking of the Titanic and WW1 is so that he can demonstrate his Socialist political critique of the perceived selfishness and moral hypocrisy of middle-class capitalist society. Priestley focused on making the parent's lack of social awareness, at the beginning also Sheila and Eric. But the difference is that Eric and Sheila later, when they finally realize Eva may be many persons, begin to feel guilty and wonder what if tis "suicide" thing was truth and they all had to do in one woman's death, Instead Mr and Mrs Birling begun to worry on the scandal they would have.

All around the book there is proof that the elder generation supports the idea of capitalism. Such as when Mr Birling begins talking about what he did to Eva when she worked for him, before talking about that, he mentions that he didn't wanted to accept any responsibility because it would be impossible to them all to be guilty for 1 girl's death. He also mentions that the reason for getting Eva dismissed is that if he would have agreed to pay more to the workers he would have lost a 12 percent of the income in paying just 2 more shielings than average to each worker, this shows he was selfish and very concerned about his business such as capitalists do. You also realize that Mrs Birling is capitalist because when she did not accept Eva into her committee because she prejudiced Eva because of her appearance and she did not care about mainly public interests but hers.

Also there is a very particular discussion between Sheila and Mrs Birling, in the beginning of act 2 while they are wondering how the girl committed suicide, Mrs Birling tries to build a socially based wall between them (capitalists) and the poor Eva (Socialist). But Sheila Jumps out defending her Socialist position by telling her mother that even though they built a wall the inspector will try to break it. After that Mrs Birling continues presuming that her husband was going to be Lord Mayor and talking about her family as if it was perfect (such as capitalist thoughts of the world, of it being a perfect place, ignoring poverty and unhappiness of others). And Sheila reveals to her that Eric, Mrs Birling so perfect son (for her) had been drinking a lot often, which Mrs Birling denies to accept.

I personally believe that Eva smith belongs to the Socialist Sector of the society, her claims for high wages and leadership in the strike show the struggle between capitalists and the workers