

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 off 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 father's 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 Smith's suicide
Inspector questions Mr Birling and Sheila Birling
It ends on a cliff-hanger which shows that Gerald knew 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