

- “Look inspector, you’re not trying to tell us that – that my boy – is mixed up in this – ”
 - The use of dashes show the audience that she is hesitating, and that she is shocked to find out the truth about Eric and Eva Smith. This proves that Eric was very secretive and his parents had no idea about Eric’s alcoholism. The repetition of “that” shows Mrs. Birling’s shock and her inability to vocalise her thoughts.
- “Eric enters, looking extremely pale and distressed. He meets their inquiring stares.”
 - The visual imagery shows how Eric’s anxiety to be questioned by the inspector is manifesting itself in his physical appearance.
- “Curtain falls quickly”
 - The scene ends at a point of high dramatic tension. This creates suspense for the audience to keep them interested.

Act 3:

Description:

- Isolated, Regretful, Irresponsible, Unloved, Sensitive

Quotes:

- “I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty – and I threatened to make a row”.
 - The dash shows the reader how hesitant Eric is as he is telling his family about his encounter with Eva Smith, this suggests he is regretful about what he has done. It also shows his selfishness as he is trying to make excuses for his actions to avoid the consequences.
- “She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away – yes, and you killed her – and the child she’d have had too – my child – your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you - ”.
 - The repetition of the personal pronoun “you” shows Eric’s rage at his mother, as he is emphasizing that Eva’s death is her fault, shifting the blame off himself. The use of dashes also suggests that Eric is upset about what has happened, which shows that he is regretful about his actions.
- “Oh for God’s sake! What does it matter now whether they give you a knighthood or not?”
 - The rhetorical question shows the generational difference between Eric and Birling as Eric is more focused on the family’s actions which resulted in Eva Smith’s death, whereas Birling is only concerned with his own public image.

- “(bursting out) What's the use of talking about behaving sensibly. You're beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all. And I can't see it like that. This girl's still dead, isn't she? Nobody's brought her to life, have they?”
 - Eric’s experience with the Inspector causes him great emotional turmoil, unlike some of the other characters.
 - Eric suddenly shows how he has been affected emotionally by Eva's death. He asks the stark question 'This girl's still dead, isn't she?' He is clearly distressed and understands the gravity of the situation, he can’t understand why the others don’t.

Relationships with other characters:

Person	Quote	Explanation
Mr Birling	‘Because you’re not the kind of father a chap could go to when he’s in trouble.’	• he doesn’t seem to have his father’s affection or approval. • His parents care more about avoiding a public scandal than they do about Eric.
Mrs Birling	‘I’m absolutely ashamed of you.’ ‘(almost threatening her) You don’t understand anything. You never did. You never even tried’.	• she is clearly a poor mother. She has no idea about the fact that Eric likes to drink. • He is angry with her for turning Eva Smith away from her charity, and effectively killing her grandchild.
Sheila	‘Sheila’s right’	• they do not seem particularly close at the start. • they share the same view at the end of the play as they have both learned their lesson.
Gerald	(Mr Birling to Gerald) ‘You’re just the kind of son-in-law I always wanted’	• he may be jealous of the fact that Mr Birling seems to be much more interested in Gerald than his own son.
Inspector	‘My God – I’m not likely to forget’	• he respects him as he is willing to take on board the Inspector’s views.
Eva Smith	‘well, I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty – and I threatened to make a row.’	• he abused his power over her by forcing his way in to her lodgings • he regretted what he did when he realised the consequences.

Character Significance:

He was part of the 'chain of events', having a fling with Eva Smith and getting her pregnant. He treated her 'as if she were an animal, a thing, not a person.' At the start of the play, he was just like the others – abusing his power over a working class girl. However, he accepts responsibility, and like Sheila, feels very guilty about what he did. He is ashamed of his behaviour and shows that he is capable of changing for the better. 'The fact remains that I did what I did.' Therefore, the audience is more likely to forgive him. He represents (with Sheila) the younger generation – Priestley saw them as 'more impressionable' – after all, they were the future.

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Page 11 of 17