**An Inspector Calls**

Is the inspector a ghost in an inspector calls?

Though his name evokes the word 'ghoul', meaning evil spirit or phantom, he is deeply concerned by Eva Smith's suicide and the concept of society. He is, however, ghost-like in the sense that he doesn't officially exist, and appears to have supernatural powers of perception and persuasion.

What happens at the end of An Inspector Calls?

Answer and Explanation: At the end of An Inspector Calls, Gerald Croft returns to the Birlings' home and informs them that Goole is not a registered inspector. ... An inspector is on his way to interrogate the family about their role in the woman's death.

Is Inspector Goole a time Traveller?

4) The Inspector Goole may have been a time traveller and not a real inspector because of the timing of his entry, which is seemed to have been made exactly while Birling was making a very capitalist speech and he would have very much have liked to spoil their celebrations

Why does it matter a 'devil of a lot' to Mr Birling?

It matters a "devil of a lot" to Mr Birling because there would be serious consequences and the whole family would be in a lot of trouble if what they did got released to the public. His whole reputation would be at stake.

What is the moral of Inspector Calls?

An Inspector Calls is a morality play because all of the Birlings and Gerald Croft commit crimes which are similar to the seven deadly sins. Mr Birling is greedy because he wants more money, Sheila is guilty of wrath and envy when she spitefully complains about Eva Smith and so on.

How is Inspector Goole?

Inspector Goole is presented as an omnipotent, powerful figure throughout the play; his presence immediately has the power to change the light and cheerful atmosphere of the Birlings' dinner party. The lighting changes from "pink and intimate" to "brighter and harder" once the inspector arrives.

How does Inspector Goole represent socialism?

Socialism is presented by Priestley as more of a moral imperative than an economic rival to capitalism. In An Inspector Calls Priestley allegorizes what he sees as the morally destructive impact of unrestricted capitalism on people's lives.

Who does Inspector Goole represent?

Inspector Goole is the most important character in the play 'An Inspector Calls' because he is the catalyst for the events that take place in the play. Priestley's intensions were to reveal to his audience the social state of England in 1945. He felt that little had changed since the turn of the century.

How is the inspector presented as omniscient?

The inspector is omniscient; he knows everything, although he is still questioning them. He keeps control of the situation so he can keep track of what's going on and what's being said: “One line of enquiry at a time”

Is Arthur Birling upper class?

Arthur Birling - The patriarch of the Birling family. Arthur is a “rather portentous” man “in his fifties” who owns a profitable manufacturing company. His business success allows the Birlings to live in upper-middle-class comfort.

What is Priestley's message?

Priestley wanted his audience to dislike Mr Birling and to see him as a fool. By rejecting the attitudes held by Mr Birling, Priestley's audience would lead a more responsible, socialist life.

What were Priestley's intentions?

Priestley's intention in writing 'An Inspector Calls' was to make sure that Britain did not repeat the social mistakes of it's past. J.B. Priestley had lived through both the World Wars, and had seen the class barriers eroded with the passing of each one.

What are the main themes in Inspector Calls?

An Inspector Calls Themes

* Wealth, Power, and Influence. The Birlings are a family of wealth and power, who take pride in their high social position. ...
* Blame and Responsibility. The question asked throughout the play is: who is responsible for the suicide of Eva Smith? ...
* Public versus Private. ...
* Class Politics. ...
* Morality and Legality.

What does Mr Birling say before the inspector rings the doorbell?

It is interesting to note that whilst Mr Birling is in the middle of his speech, suggesting that a man should "look after himself and his own-and-", he is interrupted by the 'sharp ring' of the doorbell. This signals the arrival of the Inspector.

Why does the inspector only show the photograph to Mr Birling?

The Inspector reminds Birling that Eva Smith was employed in his works at one point, and, when Birling does still not remember, the Inspector shows him a photograph of her that he says he found in her room. As Gerald and Eric try too to look at the photograph, the Inspector prevents them from seeing it.

What is the inspectors message in An Inspector Calls?

Being a socialist Priestley believed in responsibility, both individual and collective believing that for every action there is a consequence and Priestley try to portray this message in his play 'An Inspector Calls' which was written in 1945 within a week of World War Two ending but is set before World War One.

How much money did Eva Smith want?

Arthur describes why he dismissed Eva: she was the normal wage, but joined with other laborers to ask for a raise of three shillings a week.

Who killed Eva in An Inspector Calls?

Inspector Goole killed Eva Smith. After he left the Birling household Inspector Goole killed Eva Smith and framed it to seem like a suicide.

How does the lighting change when the inspector arrives?

Priestley uses a change in lighting to show the change in atmosphere that the Inspector's arrival brings: 'The lighting should be pink and intimate until the INSPECTOR arrives, and then it should be brighter and harder. ' The sharp ring of the doorbell interrupts Birling's speech about social responsibility.

How is Mr Birling selfish?

Priestley questions the morality of the Birling and Croft family and points out behaviours that are selfish. ... With a lack of lawful minimum wage, Birling can set whatever wages he wants. But his selfishness in reaping the rewards for himself leads him to pursue a business policy of 'lower costs'. This means lower wages.

Who is to blame for Eva Smith's death?

Mr. Birling is partly to blame for the death of Eva Smith because after she came back from her holiday and went on strike Mr. Birling fired her. 'And so was the strike.

Is Sheila Birling a socialist?

Sheila Birling was created by Priestly to convey his socialist political views about the way Britain and society ran. Two years before the First World War 1912 was a time when the country was split by class divisions. ... Women were not seen as equal to men in society.

Why is Mr Birling's speech ironic?

Priestley uses dramatic irony to make Mr Birling look unreliable and foolish as he is wrong about the Titanic, war and labour. Priestley does this to make the audience distrust Mr Birling. If Mr Birling is wrong about history, his capitalist views may also be wrong.

What is the structure of an inspector calls?

An Inspector Calls is written in three acts. Priestley cleverly structures the acts so that they end on gripping cliff-hangers. There is also a final climax and then a twist at the very end. This use of structure helps to keep the audience gripped and on the edge of their seats.

How does Sheila react when Gerald gives her the ring?

she is unhappy with Gerald's absence during the summer. she is pleased with her engagement ring and seems to be in love with Gerald.

**An Inspector Calls - Significance of the Ending**

In effect, ‘An Inspector Calls’ has arguably three endings, or climaxes. The first is the final speech of the Inspector, before he exits dramatically, walking ‘straight out’. The second is as the family think it all may have been a ‘fake’. The third represents the justice in the final words of the play.

Priestly ensures that the Inspector says little in the way of moral judgment until just before he exits. This in itself increases dramatic tension – the audience is waiting for a confrontation which is dependent on all the facts of the story finally emerging. His final speech is based on the great moral authority he has gained through the entirety of the play and is in a sense cathartic. As an ‘Inspector’, he is symbolic of the moral and legal authority of the police force. ‘Inspecting’ carries the idea of sifting carefully though the actions of the Birlings in a detailed and objective manner. Priestley adds objectivity and legal precision to the Inspector’s character; thus by the climax of his investigation, we, the audience, instinctively trust his moral conclusions also. There is a sense of relief in hearing the Birlings finally being condemned for their actions.

The Inspector’s final speech is, in tone, almost a sermon. The frequent use of blunt, short diction is combined with imperatives which make him seem almost a preacher or a prophetic figure, as he tells the Birlings to “remember this”, and tells them that “We are responsible for each other.” Although he uses often the first person plural to emphasise their common humanity, he is also accusatory with his use of ‘you’ as he threatens them with what will come if they fail to learn this lesson. The imagery Priestley draw from is biblical by nature. From the Eucharist service, the Inspector uses the biblical metaphor that we are all “members of one body”. The well-known nature of this metaphor makes it seemingly self-evidently true to the audience. The apocalyptic imagery that follows is equally well-known, as the Inspector promises “fire and blood and anguish”. The tricolon is heavily emphatic and emotive – the Birlings’ rejection of it, which follows swiftly, creates a further sense of their moral vacuity. This sermonic end to the Inspector’s presence onstage makes him seem a didactic mouthpiece for the play – he speaks in effect as much to the audience as to the Birlings. Although it is a relatively brief and restrained speech, nonetheless it is a powerful end – it seems – to the drama.

Birling’s absence of moral epiphany is enacted in the second ‘ending’ of the play in the ‘huge sigh of relief’ he emits when he discovers that the Inspector is not actually from the police station. He rejects the Inspector’s final words through this stage direction which creates a dramatic hyperbole that it is impossible for the audience to miss. Eva Smith’s name suggests that she represents all of the ordinary humanity, Eva suggesting Eve of Genesis, symbolically the mother of humanity, and Smith being a stereotypical working-class surname. Thus Birling’s ‘huge’ indifference is, symbolically, to the suffering of any human being, particularly those who are his socially inferior. Indeed, his estimations of people’s worth have been entirely based on their money or their social connections; early on in the play he attempts at first to threaten the Inspector by explicitly ‘warning him that the Chief Constable, Colonel Roberts, is an ‘old friend’ of his. Birling’s ‘relief’ therefore is that his place in society is not damaged after all – even though it is based on corruption and inhumanity towards whose who are weaker and more socially vulnerable than him. Thus Birling has learned nothing at all in the play.

**Significance of Mr Birling**

Birling is the head of the household and the director of a business. These two establishments unite to corruptly result in the death of Eva Smith – who symbolises the ‘thousands’ like her who live in poverty. Birling symbolises materialistic and self-serving Capitalism.

Priestley uses Birling’s style of speech to undermine the audience’s respect for him, and to undercut subtly the outward confidence of his ‘easy manner’. He speaks often with interrupted diction, Priestley frequently gives him dashes and pauses and incomplete sentences. For example, he hesitates when referring to Gerald’s parents, ‘Sir George and – er – Lady Croft.’ This certainly suggests not only that he is socially out of his depth, but also a sense of intellectual uncertainty, as though Birling lacks the intelligence that more precise diction would imply. His speech about the good economic climate of 1912 and how war will not happen is peppered with dashes and hesitations. The audience is well aware, through dramatic irony that global conflict in World War One would soon follow and that Birling is wrong which further undermines his credibility. Here, his broken diction suggests a lack of logic and reason. The overall effect is to suggest that Birling is intellectually weak, and blusters and brags; he is characterised as arrogant and inept. His stumbling manner of speaking is juxtaposed with the confident fluency of the Inspector, who seems all the more trustworthy in comparison.

A key device used by Priestly in the characterisation of Birling is bathos. When speaking of Shiela and Gerald’s engagement he says that this is ‘one of the happiest nights of [his] life’. Love and marriage would naturally bring joy. But within a few lines he goes on to say how it means that the Crofts and Birlings will, because of the marriage, be able to work together ‘for lower costs and higher prices’. The explicit focus on the mundane matter of money is at the speech’s climax, making it clear that this is the underlying reason for Birling’s excitement. The transition from love to money is bathetic and reveals that lurking beneath the fine dinner and ‘easy manners’ of Birling is greed and self-interest. Although first this is merely comic, it becomes morally significant as the play progresses. The pattern  of bathos is repeated throughout. When he discovers that Eric has stolen moeny, his initial fury seems appropriate – until he reveals that the reason for his anger is how difficult it will be to ‘cover this up’. He seems at first to agree with Sheila that Mrs Birling’s treatment of Eva is ‘cruel and vile’, but it turns out that he is concerned because he fears that ‘the press might take it up’. He is shaken and angry at the end of the play, but ultimately not for moral reasons, but for his fear for his ‘knighthood’. Priestley uses the comical element of the bathos to make Birling a somewhat ridiculous figure. However, symbolically he represents those at the top of the social hierarchy who have the power to influence the lives of ‘millions’.

If the Inspector is the protangonist of the play, Birling is the antagonist. Priestly makes him the antithesis of the Inspector. Birling has authority which is based on money and social prestige, whereas the Inspector has authority which derives from morality and justice. The rank of ‘Inspector’ falls beneath Mr Birling socially as former Mayor of Brumley. Class structures are integral to the drama.