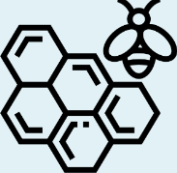


An Inspector Calls – Knowledge Organiser

Plot		Key Characters	
Act 1	Set in April 1912, the Birling family and Gerald Croft are celebrating Sheila Birling's engagement to Gerald Croft with a dinner. Mr. Birling talks to his son, Eric Birling, and Gerald about the importance of every man looking out for himself if he wants to get on in life. Edna (the maid) announces that an inspector has arrived. Inspector Goole says that he is investigating the death of a young woman who committed suicide, Eva Smith. Mr. Birling is shown a photograph of Eva and, after initially denying recognising the woman in the photo, he remembers firing her in 1910 for organising a strike over workers' pay. Sheila then remembers having Eva fired the department store Milwards just because Sheila was in a bad mood. The Inspector reveals that Eva Smith changed her name to Daisy Renton. Gerald reveals to Sheila he had an affair with Daisy Renton.	Arthur Birling	<i>'portentous man...rather provincial in his speech'</i> ; (1) 'hard headed business man'; (1)'unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable'; (1) 'knighthood' (1) 'as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive'; (3) 'the famous younger generation who know it all'
		Sybil Birling	<i>'cold woman and her husband's social superior'</i> (2) 'Girls of that class'; (2) 'I did nothing I'm ashamed of'; (3) 'Now just be quiet so that your father can decide.'
		Gerald Croft	<i>'easy well-bred man about town'</i> ; (1) 'don't say anything to the Inspector'; (2) 'I insisted on a parting gift of enough money'; (3) 'Everything's all right now... <i>(Holds up the ring.)</i> '
		Inspector Goole	(1) <i>'an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness'</i> ; (1) 'a chain of events'; (1) 'better to ask for the earth than to take it'; (3) 'We are members of one body'; (3) 'taught it in fire and blood and anguish'
Act 2	Gerald explains to the Inspector that he had an affair with Eva/Daisy but hasn't seen her since he ended their relationship back in Autumn 1911. Sheila gives her engagement ring back to Gerald. The Inspector turns his attention to Mrs. Birling. Eva approached a charity chaired by Mrs. Birling to ask for help. Eva was desperate and pregnant but help was refused by Mrs. Birling because she was unhappy by the girl calling herself Mrs. Birling. She tells Eva that the baby's father should be made responsible. She then says the same to Inspector Goole - that the father should be held entirely responsible and be made an example of.	Sheila	<i>'pretty girl...pleased with life and rather excited'</i> ; (1) 'these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people'; (1) But she was very pretty...I couldn't be sorry for her'; (2) 'No, he's giving us the rope – so that we'll hang ourselves'; (3) 'You began to learn something. And now you've stopped'
		Eric	<i>'not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive'</i> ; (2) 'You're not the kind of father a chap can go to when he's in trouble'; (3) 'she was pretty and good sport'; (3) 'It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that matters.'
		Eva Smith	Through descriptions of the Inspector – (1) 'she died, after several hours of agony'; (1) 'A nice promising little life'; (3) 'One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us'
Act 3	Eric is revealed as the father. He stole money from Mr. Birling's office to provide money to Eva. The Inspector delivers his final speech and warns the Birling family there will be consequences if they do not listen to his message about taking responsibility. After he leaves, the family begin to suspect that he was not a real police inspector. A phone call to the Chief Constable confirms this. Next, they phone the infirmary to be informed that no suicide case has been brought in. Mr. Birling, Mrs. Birling and Gerald congratulate themselves that it wasn't real and they can continue as before. This attitude upsets Sheila and Eric. The phone rings. Mr. Birling announces to the family that a girl has just died on her way to the infirmary and a police officer is coming to question them.	Context	
		<u>When the play was set (1912) and when it was written (1945)</u> In 1912, just before the sinking of the Titanic, British Edwardian society was completely divided by class. Those with the most money had the most power. Only men who owned property could vote; women couldn't vote. There was not much government support which is why charities were so important. After the second World War, society and Priestley in particular wanted widespread social change. The message of the play is to take this opportunity and rebuild a more equal society- one that looks after it's veterans and the poor, where everyone shares social responsibility.	

An Inspector Calls – Knowledge Organiser

Key Images	Abstracts and Key Vocabulary		Subject Terminology
    	Hypocrisy – a situation where someone believes and acts in a certain way when they really want to act/believe in the opposite.	Positional Power - the power that comes with your position in society or in a business.	Dramatic Irony –when the characters words or actions are clearer to the audience than the other.
	Social Conscience - a sense of concern for the problems and unfairness within society.	Hubris - having too much pride and self-confidence.	Microcosm – is a small society, place or activity which has all the typical features of a much larger one.
	Responsibility – the idea that you have a duty to deal with something or of having control over someone.	Egalitarianism – the idea that al people should have the same rights and opportunities.	Stagecraft – things like lighting, staging, props etc.
	Morality - the difference between right and wrong e.g. good or bad behaviour.	Bourgeoisie – the part of society who have the most money and run the large companies.	Didactic play – a play that is supposed to educate and teach the audience a moral lesson.
	Capitalism - people, not governments, own and run companies. These companies decide which goods and services to provide and become richer.	Empathy – the ability to share someone else’s feelings or experiences by imaging what it would be like to be in that person’s situation.	Foil - something or someone that makes another's good or bad qualities more noticeable.
	Socialism – it is the idea that the money made by the people belongs to the people who make them rather than private owners. It spreads the wealth evenly and treats people fairly.	Materialistic - believing that having money and possessions is the most important thing in life.	Nomenclature - is the devising or choosing of names for things.
	Inequality – the unfair situation in society when some people have more opportunities, money etc. than other people.	Contrite – feeling very sorry and guilty for something bad that you have done.	Whodunit - a story about a crime and the attempt to discover who committed it.
	Transformation - a complete change in something or someone, usually where it can gotten better.	Patriarchy - a society which is controlled by men where they use their power for to get what they want.	Symbolism -the use of symbols to represent/mean an idea.
	Misogyny – a hatred of women or believing that men are better than women.	Evaluative Verbs	
	Social Class - a divide in society that is based on how much money you have.	Dramatises – to make something seem more exciting or surprising.	Emblematic – representing a particular person, group or idea.
		Advocates – puts forward a particular opinion/viewpoint/belief.	Stage Directions – a description or instruction in the text of a play that explains how the play should be performed.
		Evokes – brings about a strong feeling or idea.	Tension - a feeling of nervousness before an important or difficult event.
		Signifies – uses a word or a sign to make the meaning clear.	Biblical Imagery – the use of religious words to describe an idea or situation.