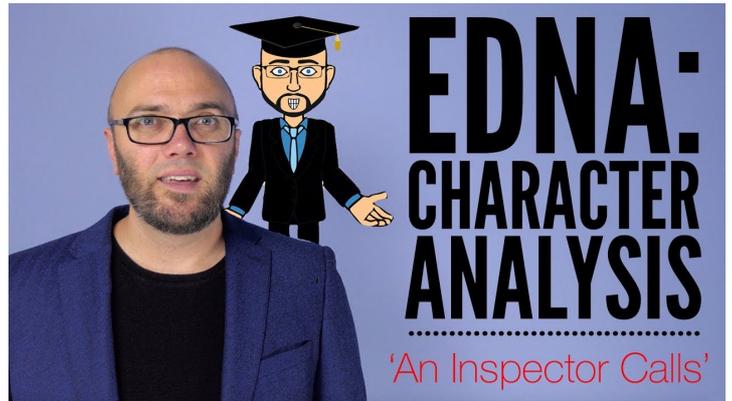


## Edna: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/CtqICljZtcY>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Edna Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) What is the significance of the fact that it is Edna who announces the arrival of Inspector Goole?
- 2) Who changes the lighting in the room when the inspector arrives? What might this symbolise?
- 3) Which two quotations indicate the change in lighting?
- 4) What does Mr Birling's use of monosyllabic, imperative driven sentences tell the audience about his attitude towards Edna?
- 5) Why might Edna's presence on stage feel old-fashioned to a 1945 audience? Would today's audience feel the same way?
- 6) How is Edna left out of the family engagement celebrations?

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

How is Edna similar to Eva Smith?

How is Edna's silence symbolic of the lack of power the working poor had?

EXAM QUESTIONS:

How does Priestley use the character of Edna to explore the importance of social class in *An Inspector Calls*?

Or

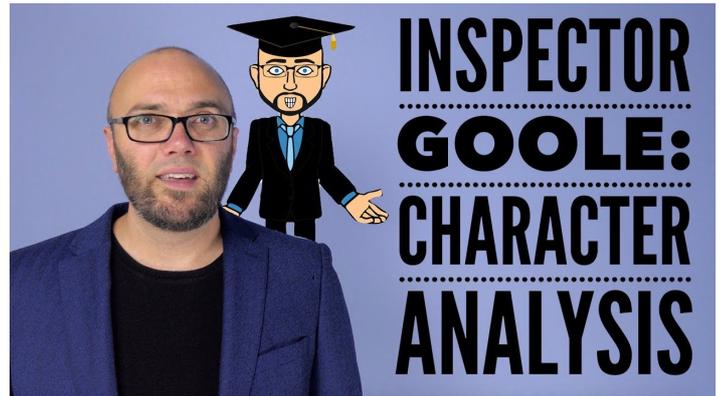
How does Priestley explore the importance of social class in *An Inspector Calls*?

## Inspector Goole: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/FOeASyrxL1c>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Inspector Goole Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) How does Priestley invert the generic expectations of detective fiction in the play? Why does he do this?
- 2) What does Maggie B Gale's quotation tell us about the key ideas behind the play?
- 3) What is anadiplosis? Give an example. How does this device link to the theme of social responsibility?
- 4) How does Priestley present Inspector Goole as vague and ambiguous? Give two examples.
- 5) What message does Inspector Goole present?
- 6) Which lines appear to be from Priestley himself, rather than Inspector Goole? Give two examples.
- 7) What did Sewell Stoke say about Inspector Goole?
- 8) How does Goole use Biblical imagery? Why is this?

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

Sewell Stoke wrote 'Then the bell rings and in comes Inspector Goole (Inspector Priestley, to be more exact)'. How can Inspector Goole be seen as the mouthpiece of JB Priestley?

How does Priestley differ in his presentation of Inspector Goole compared to that of other characters? Why is this?

EXAM QUESTION:

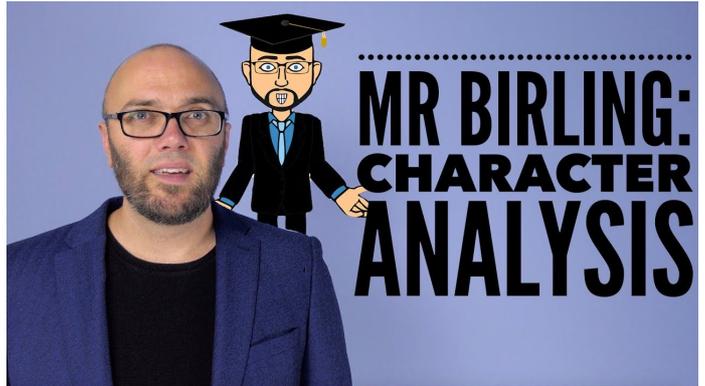
How does Priestley use the character of Inspector Goole to present his message of responsibility?

## Mr Birling: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/KvhiaECGjTY>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Mr Birling Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) How is the drinking of port significant in the play?
- 2) What does Thora Hands explain about the significance of alcohol?
- 3) Who does Birling name-drop to Gerald? Why?
- 4) How is Birling's Act One celebratory speech surprising?
- 5) What are Birling's priorities? How do we know?
- 6) What is capitalism? How does Birling represent it?
- 7) What is dramatic irony? How is it used with the character of Mr Birling?
- 8) Does Mr Birling change by the end of the play?

EXTENSION QUESTION:

In his 1947 book 'Theatre Outlook', JB Priestley wrote: 'In a good theatrical production we are offered a piece of life so shaped and coloured and contrived that everything in it, down to the smallest detail, is significant.' He continues: 'The shape and colour of a room, the way the light falls through a window, the choice of furnishings, the very relation between a chair and a stool, all mean something.' Aside from the aforementioned drinking of port, which other props are used for effect in the play?

EXAM QUESTION:

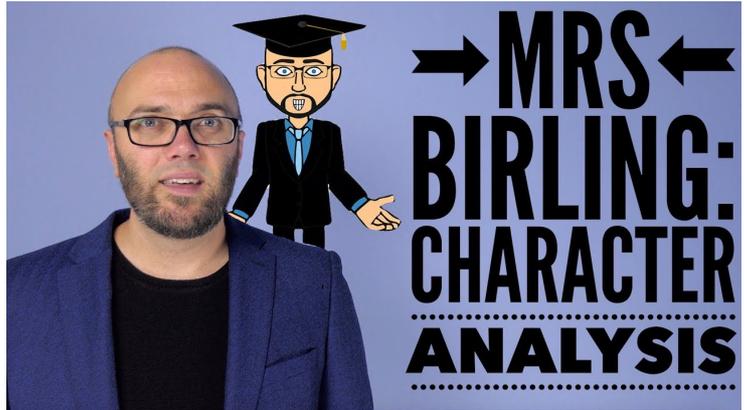
How far does Priestley present Mr Birling as an unlikeable character in *An Inspector Calls*?

## Mrs Birling: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/NRhvVIINlyM>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Mrs Birling Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) How does Mrs Birling act in a bossy and controlling manner in Act One? Give three quotations as examples.
- 2) Why does Mrs Birling name-drop people she knows in the police?
- 3) What is 'corruption'?
- 4) Why does Mrs Birling take longer to admit her guilt than other characters? How does this create tension?
- 5) Why might Mrs Birling be part of the charity committee?
- 6) How is Mrs Birling presented as privilege?
- 7) How does Mrs Birling treat Edna? What does this reveal about Mrs Birling?

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

How does Priestley use the character of Mrs Birling to criticise the class system within society?

In his radio show, Priestley spoke about women who, after the war, were more concerned about their own lives than helping others. He described how he received bitter letters 'from ladies doing nothing in inland resorts, where their energy is all turned inward instead of outward, turning into hostility instead of helpfulness and fun'. How does Mrs Birling fit this description?

EXAM QUESTION:

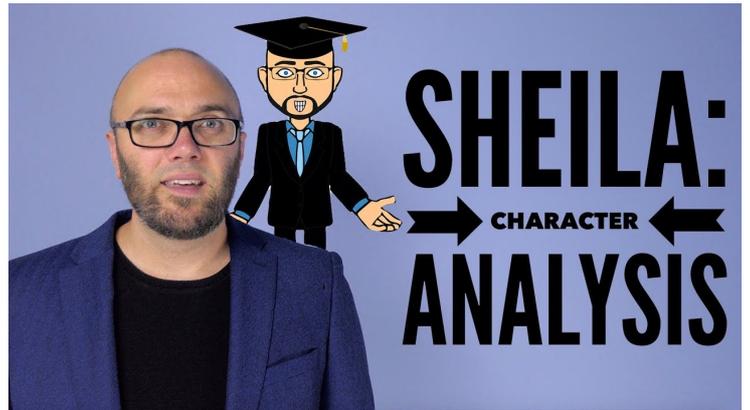
How does Priestley use the character of Mrs Birling to explore the importance of class division in *An Inspector Calls*?

## Sheila Birling: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

[https://youtu.be/0lfHDKhZ\\_aw](https://youtu.be/0lfHDKhZ_aw)

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Sheila Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) How is Sheila initially presented as immature and materialistic?
- 2) How does Mrs Birling treat Sheila as inferior?
- 3) Why is Sheila treated poorly by other characters?
- 4) How is Sheila different to her parents at the end of the play?
- 5) How does Sheila mature by the end of the play? Give two examples from the text.
- 6) How does Sheila take on the role of Inspector Goole after his exit in Act Three?

EXTENSION QUESTION:

What are the similarities and differences between Sheila Birling and Eva Smith?

EXAM QUESTION:

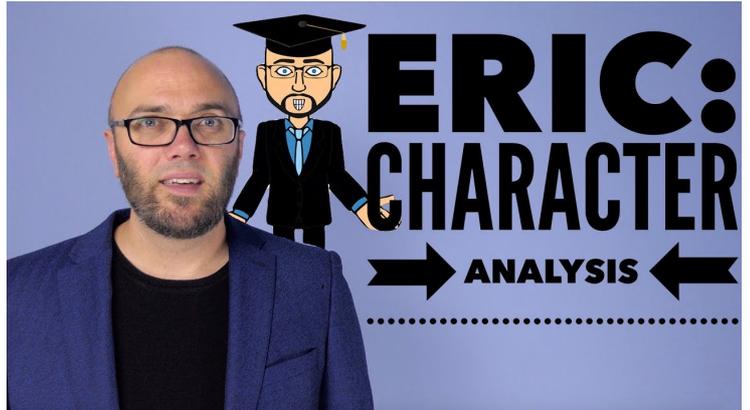
How far does Priestley present Sheila as a character who changes her attitudes towards others during the play?

## Eric Birling: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/ryE3EnENnBI>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Eric Character Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) How do the opening stage directions present Eric as not fully mature?
- 2) What does Sheila's use of informal language suggest about Eric and Sheila Birling?
- 3) How does Eric's free and easy use of alcohol foreshadow the future revelations about his interactions with Eva Smith?
- 4) Why does Eric refer to himself as 'a chap'?
- 5) Why would the word *prostitute* not be used in the play?
- 6) How does Priestley present the distant relationship between Eric and Mr Birling?  
How does Eric's character develop throughout the play? What point might be Priestley be making when we see this change?

EXTENSION QUESTIONS:

How does Priestley use the character of Eric to represent young, impulsive, ignorant middle-class men who exploit working-class women like Eva Smith for their own gratification?

What are the similarities and differences between Eric and Gerald?

EXAM QUESTION:

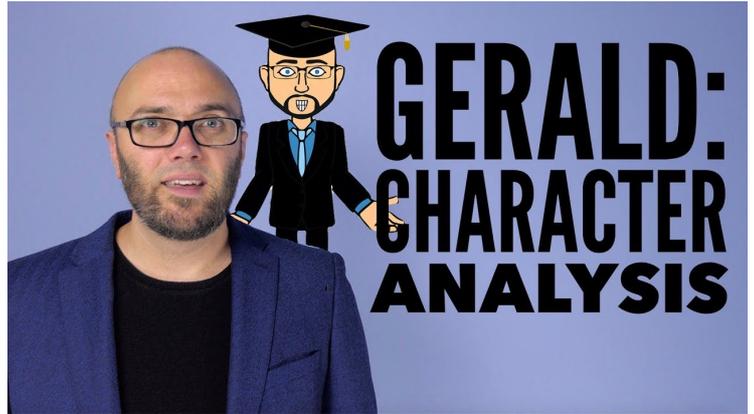
How does Priestley use Eric to explore the difference between the younger and older generations in 'An Inspector Calls'?

## Gerald Croft: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

[https://youtu.be/8TdZtpuDB\\_Q](https://youtu.be/8TdZtpuDB_Q)

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Gerald Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) What do the opening stage directions suggest about Gerald Croft?
- 2) How might a communist audience in Moscow respond to the character of Gerald?
- 3) How might a British audience in 1946 respond to the character of Gerald.
- 4) How is Gerald similar to Mr Birling?
- 5) How is Gerald similar to Eric Birling in his description of the women at the Palace Theatre bar?
- 6) When does Gerald seem to show remorse for his actions?
- 7) Does Gerald learn the inspector's message of social responsibility? Why do you think this is?

EXTENSION QUESTION:

'Gerald Croft is Priestley's tool to reveal the flaws of the upper classes. He represents the aristocracy who in 1912 exploited the working classes, especially working-class women like Eva Smith.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

EXAM QUESTION:

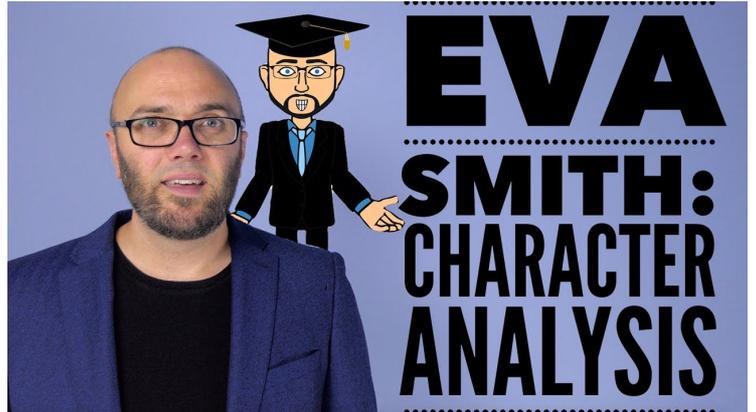
How does Priestley use the character of Gerald Croft to explore the theme of social class?

## Eva Smith: Character Analysis

To be completed whilst watching Mr Bruff's YouTube analysis video:

<https://youtu.be/gK9ReKavPnw>

Alternatively, on YouTube, search for: 'An Inspector Calls': Eva Smith Analysis (animated).



Questions:

- 1) What is the symbolic significance of the name Eva Smith?
- 2) What is the symbolic significance of the name Daisy Renton?
- 3) Give three examples of Eva Smith being described in terms of her physical appearance.
- 4) How does Priestley show the way in which women were objectified by men in Edwardian England?
- 5) How is Eva Smith used to present a double standard between men and women in Edwardian England?
- 6) How is the character of Eva Smith used to convey Priestley's message of social responsibility?

EXTENSION QUESTION:

How does Priestley use Eva's lack of voice and presence on stage to symbolise the lack of power held by women and the working class in Edwardian England?

EXAM QUESTION:

How far does Priestley present Eva Smith as an important character in the play?