

Modern Play - An Inspector Calls - KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

1. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1914-18: WW1, Aged 20, Priestley serves on the front line in France and is wounded.	16. Vocabulary: <u>Capitalism</u> - noun - When you believe the society and the economy should be privately owned to work to the benefit of the individual
2. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1919: awarded place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge to study literature, history and politics.	17. Vocabulary: <u>Socialism</u> - noun - When you believe everyone should be equal in society and provide should be shared for a collective benefit.
3. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1922: begins to work as a journalist in London.	18. Vocabulary: <u>Narcissist</u> - noun - When you love and are obsessed with yourself
4. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1934: writes 'English Journey' about the poorer parts of Britain.	19. Vocabulary: <u>Aristocrat</u> - noun - The highest class of society
5. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1939-45: makes regular wartime radio broadcasts called 'Britain Speaks'.	20. Vocabulary: <u>Culpable</u> - adjective - When you deserve blame for something
6. Context: J.B. Priestley - 1945: writes An Inspector Calls.	21. Vocabulary: <u>Imperious</u> - adjective - When you are arrogant and domineering
7. Context: Play - The play was first performed in Russia (then part of the USSR) in 1945, before being produced in the UK in 1946.	22. Technique: <u>Symbolism</u> - using one thing to represent something other than its literal meaning. The "disinfectant" should, symbolically, make Eva "clean," but it destroys her.
8. Context: Historical - 1912 England - Coal strikes (minimum pay dispute), work strikes, workers' rights, pre WW1, Suffragette movement and class system.	23. Technique: <u>Polemic</u> - provide a powerful way of expressing opinions and arguing against issues that deserve attention. The Inspectors final speech - "We don't live alone. We are members of one body."
9. Context: Historical - 1945 England - Post WW1 and WW2, social levelling, women's rights, workers' rights, trade unions, National Insurance, welfare system and NHS.	24. Technique: <u>Didactic</u> - Delivering an educational message through this morality play that is disguised as a murder mystery..
10. Mr Arthur Birling: Capitalist, Arrogant, Verbose, Stubborn and Industrialist. "Heavy looking, rather portentous man" "A hard-headed practical man of business" "A man has to mind his own business and look after himself...."	25. Technique: <u>Euphemism</u> - words or phrases that soften an uncomfortable topic. Phrases such as 'women of the town'. It is in keeping with the characters since they would use a less blunt way of referring to prostitution.
11. Mrs Sybil Birling: Judgemental, Old money, Traditional, Insincere	25. Edna (minor character): Working class, Social presence,

<p>and Controlling "Rather cold woman... her husband's social superior." "It's disgusting to me."</p>	<p>Oppressed, Marginalised and Obedient. "Edna the parlour-maid is just clearing the table" "Please, sir, an inspector's called."</p>
<p>12.. Mr Gerald Croft: Aristocratic, Secretive, Traditional, Privileged and Evasive "Easy, well-bred young man-about-town." "The hero... the wonderful Fairy prince." "I'm rather more upset – by this business than I probably appear to be "</p>	<p>26. Miss Sheila Birling: Intelligent, Feminine, Emotional, Transformative and Empowered "But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people" "The point is, you don't seem to have learnt anything."</p>
<p>13. Miss Eva Smith/Daisy Renton: Working class, Determined, Vulnerable, Emblematic and Allegorical "She had a lot to say – far too much – so she had to go." "She was very pretty and looked as if she could take care of herself."</p>	<p>27. Master Eric Birling: Irresponsible, Spoilt, Reckless, Immature and Transformative "Not quite at ease half shy, half assertive." "In a way, she treated me – as if I were a kid"</p>
<p>14. Plot Structure: Act 1 - The Birling family and Gerald Croft are celebrating Sheila's engagement to Gerald. Mr B makes pompous speeches outlining his political and social views. He says we should ignore the 'cranks' talking about socialism. The evening is interrupted by the arrival of Inspector Goole making enquiries about the suicide of Eva Smith. Mr B is questioned and admits sacking her for leading strike action for higher wages. Sheila is questioned and admits having Eva sacked from Milwards due to her jealousy. Gerald reacts to the news that she changed her name to Daisy Renton.</p>	<p>28. Inspector Goole: Priestley's mouthpiece, Impressive, Commanding, Social justice and Omnipotent "It's my duty to ask questions." "You see, we have to share something. If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our guilt." "One Eva Smith has gone – but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us." "Fire and blood and anguish"</p>
<p>15. Plot structure: Act 2 - Gerald is questioned and admits keeping Daisy as his mistress for six months. Mrs B tries to bully the Inspector and to control events. Sheila starts to realise that the Inspector's enquiries are well founded, and that her mother might have had some dealings with the girl. While Eric is out of the room, Mrs B is forced to admit that the girl asked for help from her charity, and she refused help. It is revealed that the girl was pregnant. Mrs B lays the blame on the father of her unborn child. Suspicion grows that Eric is the father of the unborn child.</p>	<p>30.Plot Structure: Act 3 - Eric returns and confesses that he got a girl pregnant. He also confesses to stealing money from his father's office. Eric blames his mother for the girl's death. The Inspector makes a dramatic speech about the consequences of selfish behaviour and social irresponsibility. The Inspector, having shown that each had a part in ruining the girl's life, leaves. Between them, Gerald and Mr B gradually prove that the man was not a real police inspector. A telephone call to the Chief Constable establishes that there is no Inspector Goole on the police force. A call to the Infirmary reveals that there has been no recent suicide. Eric and Sheila continue to feel guilty about their own, and their family's, behaviour whilst the others shrug it off. Mr B answers the telephone: a young woman has just died on the way to the Infirmary. An Inspector is on his way to make enquiries.</p>