

REVISING THEMES IN 'AN INSPECTOR CALLS'

CHARACTER	RESPONSIBILITY	GENDER	AGE	CLASS	WEALTH, POWER & INFLUENCE
Mr Birling	A man has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own. If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward'	'Clothes mean something quite different to a woman...not only something to make 'em look prettier, but a token of their self-respect. 'Nothing to do with you, Sheila. Run along' The girl had been causing trouble in the works. I was quite justified.	The famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke.' "Why, you hysterical young fool - get back - or I'll -" But you youngsters just remember what I Said. We can't let these Bernard Shaws and H.G.Wellses do all the talking.	If you don't come down sharply on these people, they'd soon be asking for the earth. I have an idea that your mother – lady croft – while she doesn't object to my girl – feels you might have done better for yourself socially -	Perhaps I ought to warn you that he's an old friend of mine, and that I see him fairly frequently. We play golf together sometimes up at the west Brumley. And this girl. Eva Smith, was one of them, she'd had a lot to say – far too much – so she had to go. Look, Inspector – I'd give thousands – yes, thousands-
Mrs Birling	I blame the young man who was the father of the child she was going to have...he ought to be dealt with very severely I'm sorry she should have come to such a horrible end. But I accept no blame for it at all.	I think Sheila and I had better go into the drawing room and leave you men When you're married you'll realize that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on their business	They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are. What an expression, Sheila! Really the things you girls pick up these days!	Oh – she had some fancy reason. As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money! She was giving herself ridiculous airs. She was claiming elaborate fine feelings that were simply absurd in a girl in her position..	I wasn't satisfied with the girl's claim – she seemed to me not a good case – and so I used my influence to have it refused... I did my duty. You know of course that my husband was lord mayor only two years ago and that he's still a magistrate
Gerald	For god's sake – don't say anything to the inspector. I'm sorry, Sheila. But it was all over and done with, last summer...I don't come into this suicide business. There isn't any such inspector. We've been had	And I've told you – I was awfully busy at the works all that time. (surprised) Well, I never said I hadn't. I don't see why. I think miss Birling ought to be excused any more of this questioning. She'd nothing more to tell you. She's had a long exciting and tiring day	she looked young and fresh and charming and altogether out of place down here. Old Joe Meggarty, half-drunk and goggle-eyed, had wedged her into a corner with that obscene fat carcass of his--	I hate those hard-eyed dough-faced women. But then I noticed a girl who looked quite different. She was very pretty. You seem to be a nice well-behaved family.	I did for a time. Nearly any man would have done. Getting a bit heavy-handed, aren't you, inspector?
Eric	'you're beginning to pretend nothing much has happened' "I don't see much nonsense about it when a girl goes and kills herself. You lot may be letting yourselves out nicely, but I can't.	Yes. I wasn't in love with her or anything – but she was pretty and a good sport. No. she didn't want me to marry her. Said I didn't love her – and all that. In a way, she treated me – as if I were a kid.	My child – your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you Because you're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble – that's why. I hate these fat old tarts round the town	Why shouldn't they try for higher wages? I'd have let her stay. Oh – for God's sake! What does it matter now weather they give you a knighthood or not?	I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty – and I threatened to make a row. she'd no money left – so I insisted on giving her enough money to keep her going – until she refused to take any more--
Sheila	'We really must stop these silly pretences. This isn't the time to pretend that Eric isn't used to drink. "All right Gerald, you needn't look at me like that. At least I'm trying to tell the truth."	You not only knew her but you knew her very well. Otherwise, you wouldn't look so guilty. Sorry! It's just that I can't help thinking about this girl – destroying herself so horribly – and I've been so happy tonight.	'Mother, I think that was cruel and vile' Mother, she's just died a horrible death – don't forget.	"But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people." Yes, she was a lucky to get taken on at Milwards.	'I told him that if they didn't get rid of that girl, I'd never go near the place again.' 'I was absolutely furious I was very rude to both of them.'
Inspector	Each of you helped kill her. Remember that. We are responsible for each other. Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges.	No. She wanted to end her life. She felt she couldn't go on any longer. She wasn't pretty when I saw her today, but she had been pretty – very pretty.	There are a lot of young women living that sort of existence in every city and big town in this country, miss Birling. I've thought that it would do us all a bit of good if we tried to put ourselves in the place of these young women counting their pennies, in their dingy little back bedrooms.	It's better to ask for the earth than to take it. She was still Eva Smith when Mr Birling sacked her – for wanting twenty-five shillings a week instead of twenty-two and six.	<i>He creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness...He speaks carefully, weightily.</i> "Don't stammer and yammer at me again, man. I'm losing all patience"
GCSE Exam Style Question	How does Priestley present the theme of responsibility?	How does Priestley present attitudes to women?	How does Priestley present conflict between young and old?	How does Priestley present attitudes to class?	How does Priestley present the importance of power, wealth and influence?