

Year 10 Knowledge Organiser – An Inspector Calls



Looking back: Context in war poetry.
Dramatic conventions and analysis in R and J.

Looking forward- Morality in Jekyll and Hyde,
Dramatic structure in Macbeth

PLOT STRUCTURE

- Act One**
- 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 arrive 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.

- Act Two**
- 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.

- Act Three**
- 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 showed 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 telephone 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.

Characterisation	Key Quotes
Mr Arthur Birling ✓ Capitalist ✓ Arrogant ✓ Verbose ✓ Stubborn ✓ Industrialist	"Heavy looking, rather portentous man" "A hard-headed practical man of business" "Just a knighthood, of course." "A man has to mind his own business and look after himself...." "Look - there's nothing mysterious - or scandalous - about this business..."
Mrs Sybil Birling ✓ Judgemental ✓ Old money ✓ Traditional ✓ Insincere ✓ Controlling	"Rather cold woman... her husband's social superior." "Please don't contradict me like that" "It's disgusting to me." "Unlike the other three, I did nothing I'm ashamed of or that won't bear investigation." "He didn't make me confess - as you call it."
Miss Sheila Birling ✓ Intelligent ✓ Feminine ✓ Emotional ✓ Transformative ✓ Empowered	"But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people" "I had her turned out of a job" "At least I'm trying to tell the truth. I expect you've done things you're ashamed of." "Why - you fool - he knows!" "The point is, you don't seem to have learnt anything."
Master Eric Birling ✓ Irresponsible ✓ Spoilt ✓ Reckless ✓ Immature ✓ Transformative	"Not quite at ease half shy, half assertive." "I wasn't in love with her or anything - but I liked her - she was pretty and a good sport -" "In a way, she treated me - as if I were a kid" "You're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble." "You're beginning to pretend that nothing's really happed at all. And I can't see it like that."
Mr Gerald Croft ✓ Aristocratic ✓ Secretive ✓ Traditional ✓ Privileged ✓ Evasive	"Easy, well-bred young man-about-town." "You seem to be a nice well-behaved family" "You're just the kind of son-in-law I always wanted." "The hero... the wonderful Fairy prince." "I'm rather more upset - by this business than I probably appear to be -"
Miss Eva Smith ✓ Working class ✓ Determined ✓ Vulnerable ✓ Emblematic ✓ Allegorical	"A lively good-looking girl - country bred... and a good worker too." "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." "Now she had to try something else." She went away "to be alone, to be quiet, to remember all that had happened."
Inspector Goole ✓ Priestley's mouthpiece ✓ Impressive ✓ Commanding ✓ Social justice ✓ Omnipotent	"Massiveness, solidity and purposefulness." "But after all it's better to ask for the earth than to take it." "It's my duty to ask questions." "A nice promising life there, I thought, and a nasty mess somebody's made of it." "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"

1914-18: WW1, Aged 20, Priestley serves on the front line in France and is wounded.

1919: awarded place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge to study Literature, History and Politics.

1922: begins to work as a journalist in London.

1934: writes 'English Journey' about the poorer parts on Britain.

1939-45: makes regular wartime radio broadcasts called 'Britain Speaks'.

1945: writes An Inspector Calls.



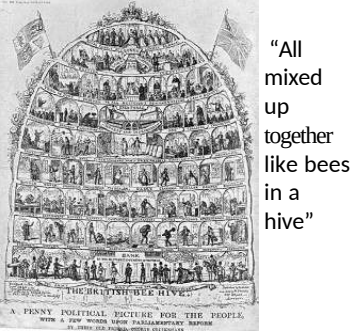
1912 England

- Work strikes
- Workers' rights
- Pre WW1
- Suffragette movement
- Class system

1945 England

- Post WW1 and WW2
- Social levelling
- Women's rights
- Workers' rights
- Trade unions
- National Insurance
- Welfare system

- Key Terms:**
- ✓ Stage directions
 - ✓ Didactic
 - ✓ Polemic
 - ✓ Dramatic irony
 - ✓ Foreshadowing
 - ✓ Entrances and exits
 - ✓ Props
 - ✓ Hierarchy
 - ✓ Social expectations
 - ✓ Cliff-hanger
 - ✓ Characterisation
 - ✓ Timings
 - ✓ Interruptions
 - ✓ Tone
 - ✓ Irony
 - ✓ Imagery
 - ✓ Symbolism
 - ✓ Euphemism
 - ✓ Nepotism
 - ✓ Privilege



- Key Concepts and Themes:**
- ✓ Mystery
 - ✓ Social responsibility
 - ✓ Truth and lies
 - ✓ Hypocrisy
 - ✓ Wealth, power and influence
 - ✓ Rights and responsibilities
 - ✓ Public versus private
 - ✓ Morality versus legality
 - ✓ Young versus old
 - ✓ Capitalisation versus socialism
 - ✓ Individual and collective responsibility
 - ✓ Love, sex and consent