

Circle words that apply to The Inspector

Capitalist Charitable Selfish

Rich Socialist Argumentative

Kind Naïve/innocent Loving

Feels Responsible Aware

Pessimistic Optimistic Proud Arrogant

Questions to answer on character

For each one: full sentences, try to prove with a quotation and analysis

Easy

- ✓ What is your opinion on who the Inspector is?
- ✓ The Inspector's name is 'Goole'. What connotations are there in his name?
- ✓ Why does he want to interview each person in turn?
- ✓ Why do the parents react to him more aggressively?

Medium

- ✓ Why does the Inspector appear to the family?
- ✓ How does the Inspector build tension within the play?
- ✓ Why does he foreshadow the war with 'fire and blood and anguish' to the family? How would a 1940s audience react to this?
- ✓ What does he teach the Birlings about social responsibility?
- ✓ Why does he get so frustrated with the family? Focus on the stage directions.

Hard/challenge

- ✓ The Inspector uses short sentences, especially during the family's confessions. What does this show about his character?
- ✓ Why do you think the Inspector wants justice for Eva?
- ✓ Why does the family seek to discredit the Inspector rather than just take on that social responsibility?
- ✓ The Inspector's final speech uses dramatic irony and foreshadowing. Is it idealistic to think that the war could have been stopped if we had more social responsibilities? Explain your answer.

The Inspector – Character Analysis

Key Quotations

Act One

'The Inspector need not be a big man, but he creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity, and purposefulness'

'Yes, she was in great agony.'

'the Inspector imposes himself between them and photograph'

'It's my duty to ask questions.'

'burnt out her insides...few friends...lonely...half-starved...'

Act Two

(About Sheila) 'she'll be alone in her responsibility, the rest of tonight, all tomorrow, all the next night –'

'You see, we have to share something. If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our guilt.'

(On creating impressions) '(Coolly) We often do on the young ones. They're more impressionable.'

'(sharply) Come along, Mr Croft. What happened?'

'(Harshly) Yes, she's dead. Go on!'

(To Mrs Birling) '(Severely) Do you want me to tell you – in plain words?'

Act Three

'And my trouble is that I haven't much time. You'll be able to divide the responsibility between you when I'm gone.'

(To Eric) 'Just used her for the end of a stupid drunken evening, as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person. No, you won't forget.'

'You can't even say "I'm sorry Eva Smith."'

'there are millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, they hopes and fears...'

'We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.'

'they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish.'

Character Development

Using the quotations, how does the character act/change?

Act One



Act Two



Act Three