

"You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go on in the same old way."

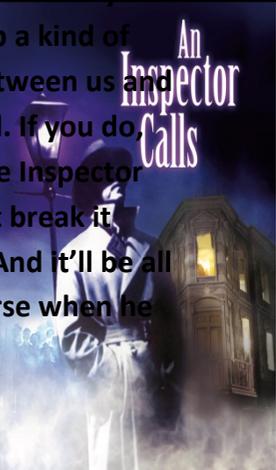
"If we were all responsible for everything we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?"

"Inspector: Well, Eva Smith's gone. You can't do her any more harm. And you can't do her any good now, either. You can't even say 'I'm sorry, Eva Smith.'"

"You mustn't try to

ce build up a kind of wall between us and that girl. If you do, then the Inspector will just break it down. And it'll be all the worse when he does."

An Inspector Calls



"But the way some of these cranks talk and write now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else, as if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive."

Hierarchy

"Shelia: Well, he inspected us alright."



This is a key idea in the play – not only are those on stage 'inspected' but the audience is too!

Mr and Mrs Birling are representations of the older generation who are stuck in their ways and ideas; unwilling to accept their responsibilities and the need to consider their actions and the impact upon others

Marxism

"Shelia: We all started like that – so confident, so pleased with ourselves until he began asking us questions."

Mrs B: You seem to have made a great impression on the child, Inspector.

Inspec: (coolly) We often do on the young ones. They're more impressionable."

Consumerism

"It's the only time I've ever done anything like that, and I'll never, never do it again to anybody."

"Eric: It's what happened to the girl and what we all did to her that n

Labour



Shelia = A representation of the younger generation and those who are willing to accept their responsibilities and alter their actions; considering others in their actions after they have 'inspected' their ways

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

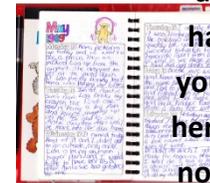
Social Conscience

Irony An Inspector Calls

"Shelia: I behaved badly too. I know I did. I'm ashamed of it. But now you're beginning all over again to pretend that nothing much has happened -"



Responsibility



Inspector = voice of reason, mouth piece for Priestley and social conscience

Control

Capitalism



Ideas of the capitalist businessman looking out for himself and disregarding the wealth fare of the working class labour they employ

"He speaks carefully, weightily, and has a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses before actually speaking."

"If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our guilt."

Power



"Inspector: But just remember this. One Eva Smith has gone - but there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives, their hopes and fears, their suffering and chance of happiness, all intertwined with our lives, and what we think and say and do. We don't live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other. And I tell you that the time will soon come when, if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught in fire and blood and anguish. Good night."

"And I don't see why she should have been sacked just because she'd a bit more spirit than the others. You said yourself she was a good worker. I'd have let her stay."