

How are the characters presented by Priestley?

Eva Smith / Daisy Renton

The Inspector

Mr Arthur Birling

Mrs Sybil Birling

Sheila Birling

Gerald Croft

Eric Birling

Key Terminology:



An
Inspector
Calls

Explain what the key **themes** are in the play.

Priestley's Key Messages

- 'We are members of one body' and everyone should behave responsibly for the good of society and individuals.
- The class system is an issue – the upper classes seem cold and ignorant of the plight of the lower classes and the hardships they face.
 - The older generation of the upper class seem the most irresponsibly and least community minded / spirited. Priestley suggests they are almost a lost cause.
- The wealthiest (Gerald and Mrs Birling) seem to be the most callous and ignorant of society's least affluent.
- The younger generation are spoilt and selfish, despite their lives of privilege and good education.
- However, the younger generation do seem to regret their mistakes and recognise how and why they need to change – Priestley suggests there is hope.
- Society will learn the lessons of being responsible and equality through 'fire and blood' World War when the class system became an irrelevance.
 - Sometimes Eva Smith isn't talked about as if she is a real person.

How does Priestley use these dramatic devices?

Lighting

Dramatic Irony

Entrances / Exits

Sounds effect i.e. doorbell

Stage directions

Tension