

## The Inspector Key Quotations

"he creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness. ....He speaks carefully, weightily" p 11

"A chain of events" p 14

"Why?" p 14- he questions Birling's refusal of a wage increase.

"(dryly) I don't play golf" p 17

"with no relatives to help her, few friends, lonely, half-starved, she was feeling desperate" p 19

"If there weren't the factories and warehouses wouldn't know where to look for cheap labour" p 19

Inspector: " these young women counting their pennies in their dingy little back bedrooms." P.20

Inspector: "And so you used the power you had, as a daughter of a good customer and also of a man well known in the town, to punish the girl just because she made you feel like that?" p24

Inspector to Gerald: "And you think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things." P.27

"she died in misery and agony – hating life" p 28

"Cutting in with authority) he must wait his turn" p33 – about Eric; "(harshly) Yes, she's dead" p 33-to Gerald; "(turning on him sharply) Why should you do any protesting?" – to Birling

"( deliberately) I think you did something terribly wrong – and you're going to spend the rest of your live regretting it) –to Mrs Birling p 44

"Don't stammer and yammer at me again, man" p 46- to Mr Birling

"And my trouble is - that I haven't much time" p54

Inspector: "You've had children. You must have known what she was feeling. And you slammed the door in her face." P.45

Inspector: "Just used her for the end of a stupid drunken evening as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person." P.56

"one of those cranks" p 58 - Birling on the Inspector

"his manner was quite extraordinary – so rude – so assertive" p59 - Mrs Birling

We hardly ever told him anything that he didn't know" p 60 - Sheila

## The Inspector

### C/B

Moral centre of the play; moral authority

Forceful and powerful presence

Not typical of an Edwardian police Inspector

Controls events

A catalyst – there to engineer change

Cannot be intimidated

Incorruptible

Stern and severe

Judgemental and critical

Will not be deterred from his purpose: he relentlessly pursues his line of inquiry

Rigorous

A symbol of Socialism

Represents the creed of social responsibility

Social conscience

Not impartial – sympathises with the less fortunate, the exploited and the deprived.

Composed, serious, **BUT** exasperated and annoyed by those who demonstrate an inability to learn

Social philosopher

Omniscient- seems to know everything

Biblical language in parting speech suggests his moral power and spiritual superiority

Didactic – teaches the Birlings (and audience?) a lesson

His identity is ambiguous; mysterious

### A/A\* additions

Possesses gravitas

Imperturbable

Phlegmatic

Indomitable; Implacable; resolute

Fastidious/ forensic line of enquiry

Enigmatic; inscrutable manner

Altruistic; empathetic to the plight of the disenfranchised; a humanitarian

Edifies and enlightens; evangelical zeal

Passionate advocate of social justice and equity

Subscribes to a philosophy of collectivism and equality; social parity

A harbinger of doom – if there is no social change

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## Gerald Croft Key Quotations

"very much the easy well-bred young man-about-town" p2

"And I've told you – I was awfully busy at the works all of that time" p3

"Hear, Hear! And I think my father would agree with that" p4

(To Sheila) ` (quietly)...I hope I can make you as happy as you deserve to be.'p5

"I believe you're right, sir" p6 –to Birling

"(laughs) You seem to be a nice well-behaved family" p8

"Not if it was just after the holidays They'd be all broke if - I know them." P 15

"You couldn't have done anything else" p 15

"we can keep it from him" p 26

Inspector to Gerald "And you think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things" Gerald: "if possible – yes" p28

"I insisted on Daisy moving into those rooms I didn't install her there so I could make love to her" p 37

"(Sheila with sharp sarcasm) You were the wonderful fairy prince. You must have adored it, Gerald" ; "All right, I did for a time" p 38

"You know, it wasn't disgusting" p 38

"I didn't feel about her as she felt about me." P 38; "she know it couldn't last" p 38

"I'm rather- more - .upset by this business that I appear to be" p 39

"But I'm coming back – if I may" P 40

"Everything's all right now, Sheila....What about this ring?" p71

## Gerald Croft

### C/B

Aristocratic, privileged

Polite and tactful – beginning, Act 1

Self-confident

Shares Birling's capitalist values

Self-interested-wants to protect reputation and avoid questioning

Deceitful

Some genuine feelings for Daisy Renton

Expresses regret

Represents the hypocritical values of his class and gender (about women)

Daisy becoming his mistress is inevitable to him.

### His treatment of Daisy Renton

Does he show genuine concern for her plight at the Palace bar. Is he generous?

### OR

Uses his charm to manipulate her

Treats her as an object, a commodity

Uses and exploits her; exploitative

Takes advantage of her trust; vulnerability

Arrogant- enjoys her adoration and dependence

Gets rid of her when he loses sexual interest

Represents the deadly sin of lust

Values and attitudes unchanged at the end- no social or moral journey

### A/A\*

Urbane, cultivated and suave

Ingratiating, slightly sycophantic manner towards Birling Act 1

Egotistic and narcissistic (Daisy Renton's adoration)

A dissembler

Duplicious

Mercenary – his behaviour towards DR in the Palace bar

Unscrupulous

Element of ruthlessness and callousness – discards Daisy when interest has waned; she is expendable; she is now extraneous to his needs

No moral or social epiphany

## Eric Birling Key Quotations

"not quite at ease, half shy, half assertive"

"suddenly guffaws" Sheila: "Now - what's the joke?" Eric: "I don't know – really. Suddenly I felt I just had to laugh" p 3

Eric: "(eagerly) Yes, I remember – (but he checks himself.)" p.9

Eric: "And I don't see why she should have been sacked just because she'd a bit more spirit than the others. I call it tough luck" P.16

"His whole manner of handling the decanter and then the drink shows his familiarity with quick heavy drinking" p 51

Eric– drunk-can't remember taking Eva to her lodgings "Yes, I insisted – it seems" p 51; "I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty." ; "she was pretty and a good sport" p 52

"Because you're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble – that's why." P.54

Inspector: "Just used her for the end of a stupid drunken evening as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person." P.56

Eric to mother: "(nearly at breaking point) Then – you killed her...your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you-" p.55

Eric: "(almost threatening her) You don't understand anything. You never did. You never even tried – you –" p.55

"You're beginning to pretend as if nothing's really happened at all. And I can't see it like that. The girl's still dead, isn't she?"

"(shouting) And I say the girl's dead and we all helped to kill her – and that's what matters-" p.65

"You lot may be letting yourselves out nicely, but I can't" p.68

## Eric Birling

C/B

### At the beginning

Immature

Insecure and unsure of who he is; awkward

Alcohol dependence

In conflict with father from the outset-ideas/values

Initially struggles to assert himself

Signs of a social conscience early on (sacking of ES)

Impulsive; has a reckless tendency; lacks self-control

### Treatment of Eva

Sexually assaults her; abuses and exploits her

Double standards - demonstrates the hypocritical attitudes and prejudices of his gender and class

Represents the deadly sins of lust, gluttony and sloth

### BUT

Shows genuine care for Eva when discovers she's pregnant

Does the socially unthinkable-offers to marry a girl from a lower class- this would have been considered scandalous

### As the play progresses

Gains maturity

Becomes more self-confident and assertive

Regrets actions and accepts blame

Sympathy for the underdog; compassionate

Social conscience; socially responsible

Honest

Critical of parents' attitudes

### A/A\* additions

Adolescent and juvenile at the beginning of the play

Impetuous streak; can be volatile

Socially inept; self-indulgent; dissipated/dissolute lifestyle

### BUT

Empathetic

Repentant and remorseful; contrite and penitent

Moral and social epiphany

Undergoes a metamorphosis

Dichotomy between his views and those of his parents

His views are the antithesis of those of his parents

## Sheila Birling Key Quotations

"very pleased with life and rather excited"

"is it the one you wanted me to have?"; "Look – Mummy – isn't it a beauty?" p 5

"(rather distressed) It's just that I can't stop thinking about this girl – destroying herself so horribly – and I've been so happy tonight." P 17

"Pretty?" p 18

Sheila: "But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're *people*." P.19

Inspector: "you might be said to have been jealous of her"; " you used the power you had, as a daughter of a good customer....to punish the girl just because she made you feel like that?" p24

Sheila to Gerald: "Why-you fool-*he knows*. Of course he knows. And I hate to think how much he knows that we don't know yet. You'll see. You'll see." P.26

"I know I'm to blame- and I'm desperately sorry." P.29

"Mother, I couldn't possibly go.... I'm staying here until I know why that girl killed herself" p 30

(To mother, about Eric 's drinking) "But we really must stop these silly pretences." P.32

Sheila: "A girl I know had to see him at the Town Hall one afternoon and she only escaped with a torn blouse-" (Alderman Meggarty)

To Gerald about enjoying Daisy's adoration; "That's probably the best thing you've said tonight. At least it's honest." P38

"Please don't interfere, father" p40- after handing back the ring/Birling tries to "normalise" the affair.

"We've no excuse now for putting on airs and that if we've any sense we won't try" p 41

"Mother, I think it was cruel and vile" p 45

"(sharply attentive) Is that when the Inspector arrived? Just after father said that?" p 58

"Was he really a police Inspector?" p 58

We hardly ever told him anything that he didn't know" p 60 - Sheila

"If you want to know, it's you two who are being childish – trying not to face the facts." P.59

"well, he inspected us all right. And don't let's start dodging and pretending now. Between us we drove that girl to commit suicide." P66

"You' re ready to go on in the same old way" ; "it frightens me the way you talk" p 71

## Sheila Birling

C/B

At the start of **Act One**

Vain and self-centred

Shallow

Materialistic

Immature

Shallow and superficial

Impulsive and petty-minded-deadly sin of jealousy

Protected and naïve

Typical of a middle class young women: status of marriage and clothes central; decorative and dependent

Show early signs of a social conscience

**BUT AS THE PLAY PROGRESSES**

Sympathetic to the plight of the underdog and the deprived

Alert Intelligence; observant – her suspicions about the Inspector

Wisdom; common sense – advice she gives Gerald/ her parents

Increasing maturity

Becomes vocal and assertive

Expresses regret and accepts blame

Strong social conscience and social responsibility; compassionate

Honest and realistic

Critical of / appalled by her parents' values and attitudes

Of all characters, her moral, emotional journey is the most dramatic

Independently minded

Forerunner of feminism

## A/A\* additions

Frivolous, flippant and rather puerile at the beginning

Petulant and precocious

**LATER**

Astute and discerning

Enlightened

Altruistic; philanthropic outlook

Empathetic

Moral and social epiphany

Undergoes a metamorphosis

Repentant and remorseful; contrite and penitent

There is a dichotomy between her views and those of her parents

Her views are the antithesis of those of her parents

A precursor of feminism

## Sybil Birling Key Quotations

"a rather cold woman and her husband's social superior"

(To Sheila) "when you're married, you'll realise that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend all their time and energy on their business. You'll have to get used to that, just as I had."

P 3

Sheila: "You're squiffy" /Mrs Birling: "What an expression, Sheila! Really the things you girls pick up these days!" p.3

(To Inspector Goole) "You know of course that my husband was Lord Mayor only two years ago..."

"I don't suppose for a moment that we can understand why the girl committed suicide. Girls of that class-" p.30

Mrs Birling to Sheila: "Please don't contradict me like that." P.30

"As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money"

"She was giving herself ridiculous airs. She was claiming fine feelings and scruples that were simply absurd in a girl her position" p 46

(On Eric's drinking) "he's only a boy."; "(staggered) it isn't true" p 32

"I did nothing I'm ashamed of"; "I used my influence to have it refused" p 44

Inspector: "You've had children. You must have known what she was feeling. And you slammed the door in her face." P.45

"But I accept no blame at all." P.47

"I blame the young man. He ought to be dealt with very severely."  
: "(cutting in) There's no need to be disgusting. And surely you don't mean Alderman Meggarty?" p.35

"Really, from the way you children talk, you might be wanting to help him instead of us. Now just be quiet so that your father can decide what we ought to do. (Looks expectantly at Birling.) p. 61

## Sybil Birling

### C/B

Represents capitalist values

Traditional Edwardian matron

Class distinctions are important to her

Arrogant and self-important

Represents the deadly sin of pride; self-important

Haughty and condescending

Selfish and self-interested

Ignorant

Hypocritical; deceitful and dishonest

Prejudiced: class and gender

Believes middle class young women should be sheltered and shielded

Abuses her power as a middle class woman; manipulative

No display of warmth/affection to children –undemonstrative

Treats Sheila and Eric like children-patronises them

Uncaring; incompassionate; insensitive

Contemptuous of social inferiors

Spiteful- her treatment of Eva Smith

Stubborn: accepts no responsibility

Expresses no regret

No social conscience; no social or moral journey

### A/A\* additions

Infantilises her children

Insular perspective

Supercilious and imperious

Overbearing

Vindictive

Egotistical

Delusory and disingenuous

Disdainful and disparaging; derogatory

Bigoted

Intransigent and obdurate

No social or moral epiphany

Unempathetic

Lacks benevolence/altruism

No remorse or repentance; impenitent

## Arthur Birling Key Quotations

"heavy looking, rather portentous man" *giving a warning about the future; trying to seem serious or important to impress people*

it's exactly the same port your father gets from him" p.2

"a hard-headed business man" P 6

"perhaps we may look forward to a time when Crofts and Birlings are no longer competing but are working together – for lower costs and higher prices" P 4

"The Germans don't want war"; "unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable"

"mixed up together like bees in a hive"; "community and all that nonsense"

Birling: "it's my duty to keep labour costs down...if they didn't like those rates, they could go and work somewhere else. "

Birling to Inspector: "Still, I can't accept any responsibility. If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everybody we'd had anything to do with, it would be very awkward, wouldn't it?" p.14

"she'd had a lot to say – far too much – so she had to go of course."

"Have you any idea what happened to her after that? Get into trouble? Go on to the streets?" p.16

Birling to the Inspector about his superior, Chief Constable Colonel Roberts: " I ought to warn you that he's an old friend of mine....We play golf together sometimes" P 16

Birling: "Nothing to do with you, Sheila. Run along." P.17 Inspector: "(*sharply*) Your daughter isn't living on the moon." P.37

(Eric)"You're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble. That's why."

Mr Birling to Eric: "(*angrily*) Drop that. There's every excuse for what both your mother and I did – " p.57

"I was almost certain of a knighthood in the next honours list" P 57

" the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke-" P 72

## Arthur Birling

### C/B

Important and successful local businessman and politician.

Traditional views

Capitalist values

Upwardly mobile; social status and status symbols important

Priority is making money/financial profit —views Sheila's marriage as business opportunity

Materialistic

Arrogant and pompous

Falsely optimistic

Dramatic irony Act 1 makes him look foolish/undermines credibility

A bully; domineering

Selfish and self-interested

Opinionated

Smug and self-satisfied

Enjoys lecturing others

Despises Socialists and socialist ideas

Insensitive and unsympathetic

Patronising towards the younger generation

Indignant and annoyed when questioned

Stubborn; incapable of changing his values

Uses his connections; tries to manipulate and intimidate

Represents the deadly sins of wrath and greed

Emotionally distant father- no warmth or affection: unapproachable; undemonstrative

No regret; stubbornly refuses to accept blame

No social responsibility or social conscience

### A/A\* additions

The archetype/ paradigm of an Edwardian businessman

Capitalist ideology/philosophy

Insular perspective

Derisive of/disparages socialists and socialism

Avaricious

Self-aggrandising

Pretentious

Complacent

Egotistical

Bombastic; pedantic; dogmatic

Bigoted

Intransigent/ obdurate

No moral or social epiphany

Lacks benevolence/altruism

No remorse or repentance; impenitent