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An inspector calls themes pdf

1. Sheila's involvement in Eve's fate is NOT due to which of the following: Sheila's anger that a poor woman might dare to laugh at her The Power Sheila holds through her family's wealth Eva's poor customer service skills The difference in social status between the two women 2. In the final act, Eric and Sheila are deeply displeased by the willingness of their parents to continue with their lives as if nothing had changed. Their dissatisfaction is most closely related to which of the following themes? Class differences between the generations gender workers' rights 3. Which of the following demonstrates the relationship between wealth and class in the play? Marriages in the play are between people who are wrong in class, as well as wealth Eric working class, but wealthy The maid, Edna, hopes marrying Gerald Eva Smith can only marry if she finds a wealthy, working-class man 4. What is suggested by the Inspector's statement, 'And I tell you that time will come soon when, if men won't learn that lesson, then they'll be taught it in fire and blood and anxiety'? Responsibility is a nice idea, but cannot be enforced Responsibility means facing the inevitable consequences of one's actions, in one form or some other responsibility means fighting for one's country Those who try to escape their responsibilities will be punished in prison 5. Eric Birling is a disappointment for his family. His drinking and reliable behaviour invites his family to regularly lecsper him on which of the following themes? Political activity Reckless Management Religion Responsibility 6. Eva Smith's death is caused by... the attitudes and behaviour of wealthy people her uncertain work situation the relative powerlessness of her gender all of the above 7. Mrs Birling's treatment of Eva Smith is expressive of what themes in the text? Gender class responsibility All of the above 8. How does Eva's generation contribute to her troubled life? No job was available to women A male worker could not be sacked for going on after the initial dismissals. Eva's gender leaves her vulnerable to men seeking desperate women for sex Eve's gender, no difference to the plot 9. Which of the following events relates to workers' rights? Gerald makes 'Daisy Renton' his mistress Eve is dismissed by Mr Birling Eva refusing Eric's money Gerald discovered that Inspector Goole is unknown to the police force 10. Why are Gerald and Eric both able to treat Eva Smith as diserable? Their wealth, social status and gender give them greater power over her The two men treated all women as dispatible in early twentieth-century Britain, there were no laws to protect female employees Both men loved Eva Smith and behaved responsible for her ACT ONE Responsibility Mr Birling thinks that the idea of social responsibility is 'nonsense' 'as if we were all mixed like bees a man should mind his own business and look after and his own - and -' The Inspector wants to prove that all actions have consequences: INSPECTOR: what happened to her then can determine what happened to her afterwards, and what happened to her afterwards may have driven her to suicide. A chain of events. BIRLING: ... If we were all responsible for everything that happened to everyone we had anything to do, would it be very uncomfortable, wouldn't it? The Inspectorate wants the family to realize that being 'respectful' in society's eyes doesn't mean you're not responsible for your actions: GERALD: After all, y'know, we're respected citizens and not criminals INSPECTOR: Sometimes there's not much difference than you might think. Often, if it was left to me, I wouldn't know where to draw the line. Ironically, Birling tells Eric that he needs to learn to take responsibility. It's about time you learned to face some responsibilities. It's something this public-school-and-Varsity life you had isn't teaching you. Feelings of guilt: The family initially jokes that the doorbell may be due to Eric's guilt. It shows how confident they are in their safe position and innocence at any engagement. GERALD[gently]: Unless Eric was up to something [Knot confidently to Birling] And it would be uncomfortable, wouldn't it? BIRLING [humorous]: A lot. The family are distraught when the Inspector reveals he has not only come to question Mr Birling: [The other four exchange bewildered and blurred gaze] Social status Mr Birling is pleased about his daughter's marriage as it connects his family to a wealthy family, thus securing their social position. Mr Birling is trying to use his social status to intimidate the Inspectorate. ACT TWO Hypocrisy Gerald makes the excuse that he doesn't want Sheila to listen to the Inspector's questioning if it's 'unpleasant and disturbing' — it reveals his hypocrisy. INSPECTOR: And you think young women ought to be protracted against unpleasant and disturbing things? GERALD: If possible — yes INSPECTOR: Well, we know one young woman who wasn't, don't we? Owe The Inspector doesn't want Sheila to feel completely responsible for the girl's death: Now Miss Birling has just been made to understand what she did to this girl. She feels responsible. And if she leaves us now and doesn't hear more, she'll be alone with her responsibility, the rest tonight, everything tomorrow, all the next night You see, we have to share something. If there's nothing else, we'll have to share our debt. The Inspector criticises Mrs Birling for refusing to take any responsibility for the girl's death: I think you did something terribly wrong - and that you're going to spend the rest of your life regretting it. I wish you were with me in the Infirmary tonight...' Social status Mrs Birling is so offended by the pregnant girl's use the name 'Birling' that she overlooks her poverty and desperate situation: 'a gross impertinence'. This word is meaningful: Mrs Birling not think Eve was rude, she's offended that Eve hasn't shown enough respect to someone from the top class. Gerald says he saved Daisy from Alderman Meggarty — a senior local councillor who is a notorious woman, as well as one of the worst sots and crooks in Brumley — '. It shows that anyone may end up being involved in scandalous behaviour and should have been a warning for Mr Birling. The Inspectorate shows no fear of Mr Birling's importance in the town and reminds the family that men who have public authority 'responsibilities as well as privileges' Mr Birling reveals that his great concern is the reputation of the family name when he hears about his wife's involvement: 'I have to say, Sybil, that when it comes to the investigation, it's not going to do us much good. The Press can easily record it — ACT THREE Debt and Responsibility The Inspectorate wants family to realize their individual responsibility: This girl killed herself — and died a terrible death. But each of you helped kill her. He also suggests the idea that everyone in society is responsible for each other and threatens that if the privileged classes continue to pursue self-interest, it will lead to disaster. 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 their fears, their suffering and their chance of happiness, all inflicting with our lives, with 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 time will come soon when, if people won't learn that lesson, then they'll be taught it in fire and blood and anxiety. Social status Even after the inspector's speech, Mr Birling is still concerned about his status and reputation: There will be a public scandal... I was almost certain for a knighthood on the next Honours list - ' Sheila admits that her family are more concerned about appearing respectful than with honesty about their responsibilities: 'I suppose we're all sensible people now.... You're just starting to pretend again. HomeStudy GuidesAn Inspector CallsThemes An Inspector Calls Taking the play from a socialist perspective inevitably focuses on issues of social class. Class is a major factor, indirectly, in the events of the play and Eva Smith's death. Mrs Birling, Priestley notes, is her husband's social supersor, just as Gerald Sheila's social will be better if they get married. Priestley also subtly points out that Gerald's mother Lady Croft disapproves of Gerald's marrying Sheila for exactly this reason. Finally, everyone's treatment of Eve can be put down (either in part or completely) to the fact that she is a girl, like Mrs. Birling suggests it, of that class. Priestley was clearly interested in the class system and how it determines the decisions people make. The play draws a significant significant between the older and younger generations of Birlings. While Arthur and Sybil refuse to accept responsibility for their actions towards Eva Smith (Arthur, in particular, is only concerned about his reputation and his potential knighthood), Eric and especially Sheila are shaken by the Inspector's message and their role in Eva Smith's suicide. The younger generation takes more responsibility, perhaps because they are more emotional and idealistic, but perhaps because Priestley is proposing a more common responsible socialist future for Britain. Though responsibility itself is a central theme of the play, the last act of the play provides a fascinating portrait of the way people can let themselves off the hook. If one message of the play is that we all care more thoroughly about the general welfare, it's clear the message isn't shared by everyone. By contrasting the older Birlings and Gerald with Sheila and Eric, Priestley explicitly draws on the difference between those who have accepted their responsibility and those who haven't. The Inspector describes a chain of events that may have led to Eva Smith's death. Her suicide, seen in this way, is probably the product not of one person acting alone, but of a group of people who each act alone; it resulted from various causes. Had Birling eva not been sacked in the first place, Sheila could not have dismissed her from Milwards, and Eric and Gerald would not have met her in the Palace bar. If she never knew Eric, she would never have had to go to the charity commission. This series of events is closely associated with Priestley's fascination with time and how things are caused in time or caused by others. Time, which has deeply fascinated Priestley, is a central theme in many of his works. He was famously interested in Dunne's theory of time, arguing that the past was still present, and that time was not linear as many traditional accounts suggest. An Inspector Calls explicitly deals with the nature of time in its final twist: did the play, we might wonder, simply go back in time? Is all this about to happen again? How does the Inspectorate know about the fire and blood and anxiety, usually interpreted as a foreshadowing of the First and Second World Wars? The Inspector's name, though explicitly spelled Goole in the play, is often interpreted by an alternate spelling: ghoul. The Inspector, it seems, is not a true Brumley police inspector, and Priestley offers no answer as to whether we should believe his claim that he has nothing to do with Eva Smith. What should we make of the police inspector ringing to announce his arrival at the end of the play? Is the original Inspector, perhaps, a ghost? What powers are at work in the play to make the Birlings really their responsibility and guilt. Accept? We don't live alone, the Inspector says in his final speech, we are members of one body. This is perhaps the most important and central theme of the play: that we have our duty to other people, regardless of social status, wealth, class or anything else. There is, Priestley observes, such a thing as society, and he argues that it's important that people are aware of the consequences of their actions on others. The Birlings, of course, don't think at all about how they could have affected Eva Smith, but they're forced to confront their likely responsibility over the course of the play. Next Section Quotes and Analysis Previous Section Glossary Buy Study Guide William, Robert. Kessel, Adam ed. An Inspector calls themes. GradeSaver, 10 January 2010 Web. Name this page

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