

Modern Text - Knowledge Organiser: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley (1945) -

Context and Setting		Dramatic Devices		Key Dramatic Devices	
1.Set: 1912	the play is set in the years before the outset of WWI	3.Sybil Birling	cold-hearted, snobbish, ignorant; represents the class system which Priestley abhorred	1.Morality Play	the audience are taught about the consequences of sins through the story; characters given opportunities to repent
2.Written: 1945	the play was written at the end of WWII when the country desired change	4.Gerald Croft	engaged to Sheila: confident, remorseful, arrogant; represents how ingrained attitudes were in the upper class, and how difficult it was to change them	2.stage directions	instructions given to actors on stage; information about staging and lighting
3.Brumley	an industrial town in the North and the setting of the drama	5.Sheila Birling	daughter of the Birlings: naïve, assertive, insightful; represents the potential for change	3.dramatic irony	situations understood by the audience but not by the characters
4.Edwardian Period (1901-1914)	known for elegance and luxury among the rich and powerful but also for moral looseness	6.Eric Birling	son of the Birlings: assertive, emotional, guilt-ridden; alcoholism makes him less reasonable than Sheila	4.entrances and exits	of characters: timed for dramatic effect
4.class division	in 1912 there were great divisions between the upper / middle and lower classes	7. Inspector Goole	imposing, prophetic, moralistic; represents Priestley's own views and opinions	5.climactic curtain	cliff-hanger at the end of an Act to increase dramatic tension
5.women	remained subservient and were considered 'inferior' to men	8. Eva Smith / Daisy Renton	strong-willed, resourceful, desperate; represents all the poor and down-trodden in society	Key Themes	
6.welfare / Welfare State	system whereby the state protects the health and well-being of its citizens; not fully realised until after 1945	Key concepts		1.social responsibility	our personal and collective responsibility; to take care of one another through a shared responsibility
Characters		1.Socialism	equal distribution of wealth and power within society; controlled by the state. Priestley was a socialist	2.social class	upper class are unaware that the easy lives they lead rest upon hard work of the lower classes
1.The Birlings	a rich family who live in a comfortable house suited to their wealth and status	2. Capitalism	economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit	3.age	young are more open to change and progression; the older generation care only for themselves
2.Arthur Birling	hubristic and pompous; represents capitalism			4.gender	vulnerability of women evokes sympathy, which supports Priestley's belief in gender equality