An Inspector Calls – Exemplars

GRADE 5

Throughout the play, JB Priestley shows a big difference between genders, he shows us the difference in terms of equality. When Mrs Birling talks to Sheila about marrying a working man, she says, "**You'll have to get used to it, just as I did**." The strong verb "have to" shows us that Sheila has no choice and will be forced to cope with her husband being away. Mrs Birling says "just as I did" which tells the audience that she has accepted that she is below a man and that she wants her daughter to take on this way of thinking. Edwardian women had to marry men for their money to make good business deals for their fathers and husbands, so Sheila has no choice.

GRADE 7

At the end of the play, the Inspector is used as Priestley's mouthpiece to indirectly target the audience by highlighting key problems in their society of 1911: the large segregation of the social classes. After interrogating each member of the Birling family and Gerald Croft, the Inspector demonstrates his anger as a result of their lack of social responsibility in saying, "**there are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths**". Priestley's employment of a emphatic triadic structure makes his message highly memorable and gives an indication of how out of control societal problems had become for the Edwardians. Eva Smith here is acting as part of the microcosm of society that the characters create: she metaphorically represents the voiceless poor.

Inference

Writer

Reader/Audience

Language techniques

Awareness of question

Context linked to quote