



WESTLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL
Aspiring & Achieving Together



AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Name:

Teacher:

@WHSTeamEnglish

Introduction



Why is it important?

Learning at home is very important; it will help you become a more confident learner by developing your key skills within the subject.

In English the purpose of learning at home is to:

- Help you to find time and develop your love of reading outside of the lesson.
- Help you to build confidence in your writing skills.
- Help you to develop your proof-reading skills, which will be crucial across all subjects and in preparation for GCSEs.



What do I have to do?

Every week you will be expected to **complete one section** of your literacy booklet.

Tasks will vary and support the skills you are working on in class.

Every week you will complete one task from the booklet.

You will be given time in lesson to peer mark one another's work and your teacher will check that you have completed the work to a **high standard**.

Homework 1 - Key Terminology

	Read	Write	Cover and write	Definition
	Society			
	Socialism			
	Community			
	Capitalism			
	Social responsibility			
	Edwardian			
	Authority			
	Responsibility			
	Pompous			
	Feminism			
	Bombastic			
	Dramatic Irony			
	Omniscient			
	Bourgeois			
	Supercilious			
	Nouveau riche			
	Stalwart			
	Culpable			
	Audacious			
	Stoical			

HOMEWORK 2 - Context

Read through the information and complete all the tasks at the end.

An Inspector Calls and Context

John Boynton Priestley was born in Yorkshire in 1894 and from an early age he began writing. As a member of the middle classes he had the chance to go on and study at university, but felt he would get more of a feel for the 'real' world by going out to work instead. Therefore, he became a junior clerk with a wool firm at the age of 16.

During the First World War, Priestley joined the infantry and narrowly avoided death on a number of occasions. After the war, he went to Cambridge University and earned a degree before moving to London to work as a freelance writer. Although mostly remembered for *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley wrote many, many articles, novels and plays. He was very much into his politics and this shone through in his writing.

In the 1930s Priestley became very much concerned about social inequality and this led to him setting up a new political party (The Common Wealth Party) to try and fight this. The new party wanted public ownership of land, greater levels of democracy, and a new kind of 'morality' in politics. This party eventually went on to merge with the Labour Party in 1945, but it was instrumental in helping to establish the Welfare State in the United Kingdom (which includes pensions, benefits, the NHS and more).



During the Second World War he presented a very popular weekly radio programme which the Conservative political party branded as being very left-wing. The programme was cancelled by the BBC because it was felt to be too one-sided and critical of the Government at the time.

'An Inspector Calls' was published and performed in 1945 in the Soviet Union as the Second World War came to an end. It was written at a time when class divisions were becoming blurred in Britain, where women were being given more rights and respect, and people want great change in society.

The play itself is set in 1912 – a time before the two World Wars, where class divisions were very clear, where women were poorly treated, where social inequality was great and where there was very little support for the elderly, sick, disabled and poorest in society. It is important to remember that women were not even given the vote in Britain until 1928; before

Homework 3 - Arthur Birling – Character Analysis

Quotation	Questions
<p>'Fiddlesticks! The Germans don't want war. Nobody wants war'</p> <p>'The titanic – she sails next week' – 'Unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable'</p>	<p>What dramatic device is being employed by Priestly when he makes Mr Birling say these things? How would the audience of 1946 have reacted to these statements made in a play set in 1912? What emotions would they have gone through and why?</p>
<p>'A man has to mind his own business and look after himself'</p>	<p>How does Priestley use the quotations from task one to discredit capitalism? How else does Priestly criticise capitalism?</p>
<p>'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'.</p>	<p>Summarise Mr Birling's response to what the family learn about Eva Smith.</p>

Homework 4 – Act 1 Quiz

Circle the correct answer

In which room does the action begin?	Dining room	Drawing room
What time of year is it?	Summer	Spring
What is Mrs Birling's first name?	Sybil	Sylvia
In what year was it first performed?	1945	1956
How is the furniture described?	Substantial and heavily comfortable	Cosy and homelike
What is not on the table?	Cigarettes and port	Telephone
Arthur Birling is described as...	Pretentious	Portentous
Gerald is not quite a...	Dandy	Fop
Sheila tells Eric he is...	Squiffy	Silly
Arthur says Russia is...	Behindhand	Futuristic
Arthur has not been...	Lord Mayor	Knighted
Eric is accused of having had a...	Public-school-and- varsity life	Private school and varsity life
Eva went to work in...	Milwoods	Milwards
She was sacked from the shop in...	February	January
When Gerald hears the name Daisy Renton he is...	Shocked	Startled
Gerald then has a drink of...	Whisky	Port
Sheila warns Gerald: 'Oh don't be stupid. We...	...have to tell him everything.	... haven't much time.'
Sheila looks at Gerald...	Sadly	Almost in triumph
The final word of Act 1 is said by...	Mr Birling	The Inspector

Homework 5 – Sheila Birling Character Analysis

Quotation	Questions
<p>'(Excited) Oh Gerald –you've got it – is it the one you wanted me to have?'</p> <p>She is talking about her engagement ring</p>	<p>How does Priestley portray Sheila as dependant and childish in the opening scene, her engagement party? Why does he do this?</p>
<p>'But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people.'</p>	<p>How does Priestly use Sheila as a mouth-piece for his own views? Discuss the quotation above, and anything from the rest of the play, which is relevant.</p>
<p>'You were the wonderful fairy prince. You must have enjoyed it, Gerald.'</p>	<p>Summarise what happens between Sheila and Gerald.</p>

Homework 7 – Quiz

1. Who was harassing Eva/Daisy in the palace bar?
2. What does Sheila give Gerald before he leaves?
3. Why does Mrs Birling remain nonchalant (casual/detached) even when she has seen the photograph?
4. Name the maid.
5. What type of businessman does Mr Birling think he is?
6. How does Eva die? (Be specific).
7. Name 2 major events that Birling predicts incorrectly in his long speech.
8. At the start of Act 3, what is the mood in the dining room? Why?
9. What is the term used in a play when the audience know more about the plot and how it seems to be unfolding than the characters on stage?
10. Complete the quote: 'Public men, Mr Birling, have _____ as well as _____'

Who said this? Pick 5 key quotes (doesn't matter how short they are) and then your partner needs to guess who said them.

Homework 8 – Newspaper Article: The death of Eva Smith/Daisy Renton

Write a newspaper article report the death of Eva Smith/Daisy Renton.

<h1>The Brumley Times</h1>	
7 th April 1912	2p
Headline:	
	<p>Picture</p>

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Character	What involvement did they have in Eva's suicide?	How does the inspector treat them? (Language, tone, manner).	Reaction to the crime/the Inspector? (Accept responsibility? Change tone?)	What have they learnt (if anything, how do we know?)
Arthur Birling				
Sheila Birling				
Gerald Croft				
Sybil Birling				
Eric Birling				

Homework 10 – Plot Revision

J B Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* centres on the suicide of a young woman known as Eva Smith.

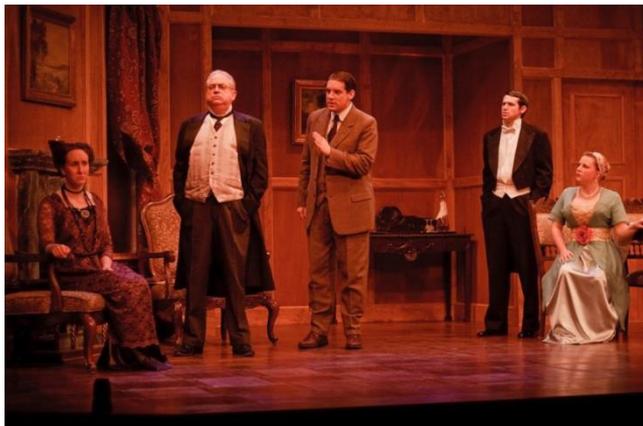
During the play, the wealthy and comfortable Birling family are celebrating Sheila Birling's engagement to Gerald Croft when their meal is interrupted by the visit of Inspector Goole, who is investigating Eva's death.



The family are shocked by Eva's death, but all of them refuse to take any **responsibility** for what has happened. The Inspector questions each and every member of the family and shows them that their lives are all connected to Eva and her death in some way.

In more detail:

- 1) The Birlings are celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling (the Birlings' daughter) to Gerald Croft, whose family own a rival business to that of Arthur Birling – Sheila's father. The family are celebrating with champagne, cigars and many other luxuries that only a wealthy middle or upper class family of the time could afford.
- 2) Mr Birling seems very keen to impress Gerald and even speaks to him in private away from the rest of his family; Sheila mentions about Gerald having not come near her the previous summer; and Eric appears very nervous and anxious around his family. Although the atmosphere is mostly positive, there are hints that there are problems hidden under the surface.
- 3) Mrs Birling and Sheila leave the dining room to allow the men to speak on their own. Mr Birling gives Eric and Gerald advice about looking after yourself and not concerning yourself with others. As he is giving this speech, there is a ring at the door.
- 4) Edna, the maid, brings in a man who is known as Inspector Goole. A detailed description is provided of Goole and he is said to be serious but also demanding respect. He tells the family that he is investigating the suicide of Eva Smith, who had died after drinking a large quantity of disinfectant.
- 5) The Inspector shows Mr Birling a photo of Eva Smith (although makes sure no one else sees it) and Birling admits that Eva used to work at his factory. However, she was later fired for being one of the ring-leaders of



uprising and strike action after Birling refused to give any of his workers even a small pay rise. Birling argues that he pays usual rates to his workers and he is not responsible for what happened to Eva after she left his employment.

- 6) Sheila comes into the room and the Inspector wants to ask her some questions. It is revealed that Eva found work at a clothes shop after being fired by Birling. However, Eva was fired once more when the Inspector explains a customer complained about her. Sheila admits she was that



customer and the reason she got Eva fired was because a dress that Sheila tried on did not suit her and when Eva tried it on, it did. Sheila also believes she caught Eva laughing at her.

7) When Sheila finds out what happened to Eva, she immediately feels responsible for her death – in complete contrast to her father.

8) The Inspector then reveals Eva, unemployed once more, changed her name to Daisy Renton. Gerald Croft, Sheila's fiancé, gives away that he knew Daisy by his reaction. Sheila sees this.

- 9) The Act ends and the audience are waiting to find out how Gerald is connected to Daisy.
- 10) Sheila and Gerald are alone on stage and Gerald admits he did know Daisy, but Sheila explains to Gerald that the Inspector has already worked this out.

11) Mrs Birling tries to get rid of the Inspector but he remains.

12) Gerald reveals to Mrs Birling that her son Eric drinks a lot – she initially refuses to believe him – and he admits that he once had a relationship with Daisy. Sheila works out that this was during the one summer when he wouldn't go near her.

13) Gerald explains that he met Daisy at the Variety Theatre (which was known for prostitutes), and that he stopped Alderman Meggarty – an important man or 'dignitary' – getting involved with her, or essentially he 'rescued' her from his clutches.

14) Gerald helped Daisy by letting her stay in a friend's flat but she eventually became his mistress, which meant he was having an affair with her behind Sheila's back.

15) Gerald decided to later break off their relationship and gave her money to help her in the future.



16) Mrs Birling says she believes this relationship was 'disgusting', although Gerald does argue back. However, Sheila appreciates Gerald's honesty and says she respects him more now than she did.

17) Gerald asks to leave the room to get some fresh air after now realising Daisy has died. The Inspector allows him to do this, and during the time he is away the Inspector begins to interrogate Mrs Birling.

18) Mrs Birling eventually admits that she saw Eva/Daisy before she died. Mrs Birling was the chair of a local charity: the Brumley Women's Charity Organisation and Daisy, calling herself Mrs Birling, asked for financial help.

19) It is revealed that Daisy was pregnant at the time, and Mrs Birling used her power as chairwoman of the charity to deny her access to financial assistance.

20) Mrs Birling found it impudent or insulting that Daisy took on the name 'Mrs Birling' and she also felt the money and responsibility should come from the baby's father. Mrs Birling seems to take pride from her decision, although Sheila quickly realises the missing link here: Eric is the father. This happens after Mrs Birling has said the father of the child should be made an example of. Mrs Birling realises, just as Eric enters at the end of the scene, that her son is the father and she has effectively killed her own grandchild. The act ends on this note.

21) Eric asks for a drink and his parents refuse, but the Inspector explains it would help Eric through and so they agree.



22) Eric explains how he met Daisy at the same theatre bar as Gerald; they both got drunk and Eric accompanied Daisy back to her flat. There, Eric became very violent and Daisy reluctantly agreed to let him in where they slept together. They met again two weeks later and slept together once more.

23) Daisy revealed to Eric that she was pregnant with his baby, and he proposed to her. However, she refused stating he did not love her. Instead, she received gifts of money from him, but turned these down when she found out Eric was stealing the money from his father's business.

24) Mr and Mrs Birling are incensed that Eric has stolen £50 from them (a lot of money in 1912, it would be thousands of pounds now).

25) All of the family have been involved in her death, but a divide forms between the younger characters and the older family members. Whereas Eric and Sheila are willing to accept responsibility for what has happened, Mr and Mrs Birling (and to a degree Gerald) want to cover up their involvement to protect their reputation.

26) The Inspector then gives his famous 'fire and blood and anguish' speech, where he explains society must change or there will be violence. Goole says that everyone must feel responsible for everyone else.

27) Gerald and Mr and Mrs Birling begin to question the role of the Inspector: was he a real inspector? Was this all a hoax? Did the Inspector show the same photo to everyone?

28) Birling rings the local police station and finds out there is no Inspector Goole working there.

29) Birling, Mrs Birling and Gerald begin to grow in confidence once more, knowing their reputations are in tact and believe they can go back to where they were. However, Sheila and Eric have changed and cannot ignore what has happened.

30) A phone call comes from the police which Mr Birling answers: the police explain a young girl has committed suicide and a police inspector is coming over to ask them some questions.

Revision Activity: The Plot

Task 1: Choose the eight most important events from the plot and draw them in each of the boxes here.

Task 2: Add a quote to each box that fits with each key event.

Task 3: Why is each of these key events so important in the play? What is the most crucial event that takes place in the play? Why?

Homework 11 & 12 – Exam Question

Choose one of the questions below and answer in an essay style.

JB Priestley: An Inspector Calls

EITHER

01 How does Priestley present Eric in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- how Eric speaks and behaves, as well as the things he says.
- how Priestley presents Sheila by the ways he writes.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

OR

02 How does Priestley present different ideas about morality in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- the different ideas about morality in *An Inspector Calls*.
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.

[30 marks]

AO4 [4 marks]

Planning Space:

