

# Who learns more from inspector goole's visit and why essay



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"An Inspector Calls" is a play written by J.

B Priestley after world war two; Priestly is a socialist who thinks the world has to change because of his hardworking-underpaid days. The play is set out during 1912. The play focuses on a high-class family who are questioned by a mysterious Inspector. One by one each of the family are questioned about the suicide of a lower class girl.

Priestly believes that everyone should live as a community and morally, but not all the characters learn this. The head of the Birling household is an arrogant, self-employed selfish capitalist. At the beginning of the play, Mr Birling is described "hard-headed business man", this shows his character being really arrogant and it shows all he cares about is money and it shows all he cares about is money. Mr Birling makes bizarre speeches about the Titanic and the war.

He describes the titanic as "unsinkable". This is dramatic irony because the 1940 audience know the titanic sunk and from this they notice Mr Birling being daft. Mr Birling is aggressive towards the Inspector. How do you get on with our Chief constable" This suggests Mr Birling is threatening the Inspector and trying to manipulate him because he doesn't want the public to know about this because it will ruin his reputation. Later, after the Inspector leaves Mr Birling shows no guilt towards the deed he has done towards the lower class girl. He says, "Give me an account of that money you stole".

This suggests even though Mr Birling has played role of this girl's death, he still continues to be a capitalist and all he cares about is his money and

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higher class people. He doesn't learn anything from the Inspectors visit. At the start of the play, Mr Birling's daughter, Sheila is childish, immature and selfish. When Sheila realises she has contributed to the death of Eva Smith, she shows her guilt. " You knew it was me all the time". This shows she knows what she has done and knows why she plays a part of the death of the young girl.

Sheila contributes to the death by getting Eva Smith fired from a rich shop because Sheila is jealous and threatens the owner of the shop to sack Eva. Sheila learns from what she has done and she matures from this experience. Later after the Inspector has finished questioning her she says stormily " I'll never, never do it again to anybody". This shows that Sheila has realised what she has done and how selfish and immature she was but now she knows she has to change so she starts to show her maturity and is more serious. At the beginning of the play Mrs Birling is a snob and acts like a typical upper class women.

Mrs Birling and Mr Birling have similar views about lower class people. Mrs Birling was involved in Eva Smiths death by refusing to help Eva Smith when she needed money and had no where to go. " Girls of that class", this shows Mrs Birling thinks that Eva Smith isn't really important because they is below her all that matters is the people in her class. Mrs Birling also tries to defend herself, " And if I was, what business is it of yours? " This suggests Mr Birling doesn't want to get involved and also doesn't want her reputation to become appalling, which is like Mr Birling. I don't think we have to discuss this" is another Mrs Birling tries to change the subject because she still doesn't want to take the blame of Eva's death which shows her snobby way. When the <https://assignbuster.com/who-learns-more-from-inspector-goole-visit-and-why-essay/>

play begins, Eric, who is the son of Mr Birling, seems embarrassed and awkward.

He is described as "squiffy" which shows he drinks alcohol a lot. Eric is involved with Eva's death by getting drunk and getting Eva Smith pregnant, but Eric does show some sense of responsibility when he steals money from Mr Birling to help her, this also shows he is showing some socialist values. Eric accepts his mistake unlike Mr and Mrs Birling. However Mr Birling is furious at Eric and is more concerned about the money than the suicide of Eva Smith, This also shows his capitalist way. He says "Don't forget I'm ashamed of you" to his parents. Eric Does show some maturity and is a totally different person to the Eric at the start of the play.

In Inspector Goole's final speech he says "We are responsible for each other" and warns them about "blood and anguish" that will result if they don't pay attention to what he is saying. He is a supporter of socialism and thinks people should live as a community and not different because of there wealth. He is delivering a message to the higher class people to stop judging people of lower class. At the end of the play, Sheila and Eric treat people more equally and fairly which shows they are now socialist. They both change because of the Inspectors influence on them and they now realise it doesn't matter about their class; they know people are important and they can't make mistakes which could potentially ruin someone's life. They now know the way they have now been brought up has been wrong.

Mr and Mrs Birling haven't changed because they only care about their reputation and they only care about money and believe its the most

important thing, which shows they are capitalist and they are too stubborn to change their views and they are trying to forget all about the matter and want to continue celebrating the engagement which suggests the selfishness in Mr and Mrs Birling. Inspector Goole was written in 1940 and Priestley set it in 1912. It was written in 1940 as it was a time for hope and opportunity and people were recovering from danger and uncertainty. Priestley set it in 1912 because it was two years before the war and everyone was very optimistic at this time and they thought war would not happen and the Titanic wouldn't sink.

J. B. Priestley wrote the play to make people believe in socialism because he wanted people to live as a community and wanted to get rid of the class system because people were being treated unfairly and wrong. It presents clear messages like respect each other and put people in front of money and people should be treated equally, fairly and morally. He also wanted people to vote Labour because they would help lower class people and they wanted people to live as a community.