**An Inspector Calls Revision**

**Lesson 3 - Act Three**

**Learning Objective: What do we understand about the key events, ideas and quotes from act three of *An Inspector Calls?***

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| **Key Words** | **Glossary Words** |
| **a generation:** a group of people of similar age.  **to show empathy:** to put yourself in someone else’s shoes; to have sympathy for  **callous:** cruel  **dismissive:** acting as though something is not important | **a decanter:** a heavy glass bottle used to store spirits.  **anguish:** great pain  **foreshadowing:** when the writer hints at something that will happen later  **a hoax:** a prank, a trick |

**What happens in Act Three?**

Eric immediately recognizes that the other people in the room know what he has done. His mother tries to hold on to her denial, insisting she knows he is incapable of committing such an offense. Eric steels his nerve with a drink and then explains how he met Eva. She was at the Palace bar. He was drunk, and he demanded that she let him follow her home. He then forced his way into her room. Later, he met her again. Once more, he followed her home. They slept together multiple times during the next few weeks. She then told him she was pregnant.

Feeling responsible for Eva's wellbeing, Eric offered to marry her, but she refused. To support Eva, Eric stole money from Arthur's business with the intention of paying it back later. He gave the money to Eva. When she learned he was stealing the money, she refused to accept any more from him. The inspector tells Eric about how Sybil rejected Eva's application for financial support. Eric then accuses his mother of killing Eva and his unborn child. The inspector tells the Birlings that, although they failed to help Eva, there are millions more people like her who suffer every day from peoples' carelessness and self-centered prejudices. He warns that those who abandon the least fortunate among them will be punished one day, and then he leaves the house.

The Birlings begin to suspect that Inspector Goole is not an actual inspector. Gerald Croft confirms this suspicion when he returns to the house. He asked a local police sergeant about Goole. As Croft explains, "He swore there wasn't any Inspector Goole or anybody like him on the force here." The family members all realize that none of them saw the photograph of the young girl at the same time, so the inspector could have been showing a different picture to each person. Arthur, Sybil, and Gerald laugh off the situation as a failed prank. Eric and Sheila, however, refuse to ignore the dark side of their identities that Inspector Goole uncovered. Arthur insists that Eric has to repay every cent he stole from the company. Gerald offers Sheila back the engagement ring, but she refuses. The telephone rings and is answered by Arthur. Shocked, he tells the family that a woman just committed suicide, and that an inspector is coming to question them.

**TASK 1: Read the summary of act three above, and then answer the following comprehension questions:**

1. How does Eric ‘steel his nerve’ at the start of act three?
2. Where did Eric meet Eva?
3. What does Eric accuse his mother of?
4. The inspector explains that there are millions more people like whom?
5. Which character has spoken to a local police sergeant about Inspector Goole?
6. What were the family members never shown at the same time?
7. Which characters are able to laugh at what happened, believing it was a prank?
8. What happens when Gerald offers Sheila the engagement ring once again?

**TASK 2: In the table are six key quotes from act three. In the first four quotes, I have identified a method.**

**Your task is to write a zoom about that method – make sure that you are explaining the effect of methods in detail. The first one is done for you as an example.**

**Challenge: For the final two quotes, find your own method and write a zoom about it. You can write about the same method more than once.**

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| **QUOTE** | **ZOOM** |
| *ERIC goes for a whisky. His whole manner of handling the decanter and then the drink shoes his familiarity with quick heavy drinking.* | The stage direction here suggests the extent of Eric’s drinking problem because he knows how to pour himself a strong drink – he almost does it naturally, without having to think about it. |
| **ERIC:** *(nearly at breaking point)* Then – you killed her. She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away. | The use of dashes here shows us that ... |
| **INSPECTOR:** *(taking charge, masterfully)* Stop! | The use of the exclamation mark here ... |
| **INSPECTOR:** if men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish. | Here, Priestley is using foreshadowing because ... |
| **SHEILA:** *(passionately)* You’re pretending everything’s just as it was before. | In this quote, the use of ... |
| **BIRLING:** That was the police. A girl has just died on – on her way to the Infirmary – after swallowing some disinfectant. | Here, Priestley is using ... |

**TASK 3: Now read the extract from Act Three below, in which the Birlings are discussing whether or not the inspector’s visit was a hoax.**

**SHEILA:** I tell you – whoever that Inspector was, it was anything but a joke. You knew it then. You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go on in the same old way.

**BIRLING:** *(amused)* And you're not, eh?

**SHEILA:** No, because I remember what he said, how he looked, and what he made me feel. Fire and blood and anguish. And it frightens me the way you talk, and I can't listen to any more of it.

**ERIC:** And I agree with Sheila. It frightens me too.

**BIRLING:** Well, go to bed then, and don't stand there being hysterical.

**MRS BIRLING:** They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are.

**GERALD:** Everything's all right now, Sheila. *(Holds up the ring.)* What about this ring?

**SHEILA:** No, not yet. It's too soon. I must think.

**BIRLING:** *(pointing to Eric and Sheila)* Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke-

**How are we shown the different attitudes of the older and younger members of the Birling family in this extract?**

**Write an answer to this question below using PEEZR. There are stems at the end of the document if you need them.**

**Stems for support:**

*In this extract, Priestley shows us the different attitudes of the older and younger characters because ...*

*For instance, in the line “...*

*This implies that ... because ...*

*Here, Priestley is using ... because ...*

*The audience in 1945 may have felt that ... because ...*

**Challenge: Include some of the key words in your PEEZR**

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**When you have completed your work, please save it and then upload it here:**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zz3XjXy17EC3-HVbUS2fey93momJ3XlOp4UM6Hy4fk1URFNQQzJUNE1POUJCWVJOQTRNQUFPTU1VTCQlQCN0PWcu>