



AN INSPECTOR CALLS – TOP 15 QUOTATIONS



Quotation	Who?	When?	Methods + Analysis
The lighting should be pink and intimate, until the INSPECTOR arrives, and then it should be brighter and harder	Stage directions	Start	At the start, the lighting is pink, reflecting the happiness and 'rose-tinted' view of society that the Birlings have. The fact that the lighting is warm and intimate reflects their ignorance and blindness to the harsh realities of society, due to their class and capitalist views. The light brightening as the inspector arrives reflects how his arrival will expose the truth of the Birlings, and reveal their hidden sins and prejudices.
Giving us the port, Edna?	Mr Birling to Edna	Opening line (start)	Interrogative sentence – the fact that Birling questions Edna harshly highlights his expectation of Edna to serve the family. His use of this blunt, commanding tone reflects the commanding and dominant nature of the rich over the working class. The prop of port , a luxurious wine, reflects the upper class, luxurious nature of the rich. This would have been seen as wasteful by the audience watching in 1945, who had just lived through WW2, a time of rationing and bare basics.
The titanic – she sails next week – unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable	Mr Birling	Act 1	Symbolism – the Titanic was a symbol of modern technology, upper class values and luxury. The fact that it sank could mirror how the Birling's blindness, security, happiness and ignorance will be destroyed by the Inspector as he seeks justice for Eva Smith. Dramatic irony – the 1945 audience know that the Titanic sank, revealing Mr Birling's views to be instantly ridiculed by the audience. From this moment, we view him and his views as deeply flawed, and mock him.
As if we were all mixed up like bees in a hive – community and all that nonsense	Mr Birling	Act 1	Simile – Mr Birling mock the idea of socialism, seeing it as a ridiculous and foolish concept. His use of animalistic language , comparing the working class to little more than subhuman insects, reveals his class prejudice and victimisation of the rich. Noun "nonsense" – this highlights his prejudice against socialism, which the socialist 1945 audience would have found deeply wrong.
I don't accept any responsibility	Mr Birling	Act 1	Simple sentence – Mr Birling's confident and simple statement summarises Priestley's view that the rich and older generation lack responsibility. The audience view this attitude as deeply flawed and ignorant. Priestley's agenda in the play is to dispel these attitudes.
But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people	Sheila	Act 1	Noun "girls" – Sheila, despite showing empathy for the poor, shows a lack of respect for the poor, using belittling language to describe them. This highlights her ignorance and class prejudice. Noun "people" – this demonstrates Sheila's hidden empathy, which will emerge later. From the outset, we realise that she juxtaposes her parents, symbolising Priestley's view that hope for change in society lies with the younger generation (those watching the play in 1945)

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A chain of events	The Inspector	Act 1	Symbolism - Priestley's central message is that individual behaviour has an impact on others, and that people in society should consider the consequences of their actions on others. The image of a chain demonstrates Priestley's socialist idea that everyone in society is forged together, like a heavy chain, and cannot easily be separated.
The young ones.. They're more impressionable	The Inspector	Act 2	Adjective "impressionable" - Priestley believed that hope for a better society lay in the younger generation of 1912, or those watching the play in 1945. By demonstrating how the Inspector (a symbol of socialism) has an impact on the young, Priestley is demonstrating how socialist ideologies can be easily adopted by the young, in order to create societal change.
There are millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives... intertwined with our lives	The Inspector	Act 3	Hyperbole - The Inspector's statement that there are 'millions' of Eva Smith and John Smiths, representing the working classes, exaggerates the suffering of the poor Verb "intertwined" - similar to the image of the 'chain of events,' society is seen as connected, with all people's lives influencing others. This underscores Priestley's desire for people to consider how their actions impact others more.
We don't live alone. We are members of one body	The Inspector	Act 3	Body metaphor - like a body, where all organs are connected to one another and rely on others to make the body function, people in society must rely on others and live in a more collective, connected manner. As the mouthpiece of Priestley , the Inspector's message teaches the audience the importance of collective responsibility and socialism.
(excitedly) By jingo! A fake!	Mr Birling	Act 3	Exclamatory sentence - Mr Birling's joy and relief as the Inspector is revealed to be a fake highlights his hypocrisy, and is used by Priestley to symbolise how the rich and older generations prevent progress, as they do not take responsibility and will not break free from their prejudice.
Girls of that class	Mrs Birling	Act 3	"that" - Mrs Birling's view that the poor are separate to her reveals the callousness and prejudice that Priestley believed pervaded the upper classes. Despite working for a charity, Mrs Birling views the poor almost as another race, which Priestley and the audience view as deeply ignorant and hypocritical.
// Sheila moves towards the door// I want to get out of this.	Sheila	Act 3	Physical movement - Sheila's physical movement towards the door signifies her character development, and her complete break away from her parents' capitalism and prejudiced ideology. As a symbol of the younger generation, Sheila's upward move could be seen to symbolise Priestley's desire for the young to break free from the mistakes of the past in order to build a more collective, caring society built on socialist principles.
We did her in, all right.	Eric	Act 3	Collective pronoun "we" - Eric's acceptance of blame here, and his recognition that his entire family are collectively responsible for the death of Eva Smith, indicates his character development from the start of the play, where he was an immature, bourgeois member of the upper class. Through Eric, Priestley places hope in the younger generation, whom he believed were the hope for a fairer and more equal society.

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			There are millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us, with their lives... intertwined with our lives	The Inspector	Act 3
Giving us the port, Edna?	Mr Birling to Edna	Opening line (start)	We don't live alone. We are members of one body	The Inspector	Act 3
The titanic - she sails next week - unsinkable, absolutely unsinkable	Mr Birling	Act 1	(excitedly) By jingo! A fake!	Mr Birling	Act 3
			Girls of that class	Mrs Birling	Act 3
			// Sheila moves towards the door//	Sheila	Act 3
As if we were all mixed up like bees in a hive - community and all that nonsense	Mr Birling	Act 1	I want to get out of this.		
I don't accept any responsibility	Mr Birling	Act 1	We did her in, all right.	Eric	Act 3
But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people	Sheila	Act 1			

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			The _____ ones.. They're more impressionable	The Inspector	Act 2
Giving us the _____, Edna?	Mr Birling to Edna	Opening line (start)	There are _____ and millions of _____ Smiths and _____ Smiths still left with us, with their lives... intertwined with our lives	The Inspector	Act 3
The _____ - she sails next week - _____, absolutely unsinkable	Mr Birling	Act 1	We don't live _____. We are _____ of one body	The Inspector	Act 3
			(excitedly) By _____! A fake!	Mr Birling	Act 3
As if we were all mixed up like _____ in a _____ - community and all that _____	Mr Birling	Act 1	_____ of that _____	Mrs Birling	Act 3
			// _____ moves towards the _____ //	Sheila	Act 3
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Giving us the p_____, E_____?	Mr Birling to Edna	Opening line (start)
The t_____ - she sails next week - u_____, absolutely u_____	Mr Birling	Act 1
As if we were all m_____ up like b_____ in a hive - c_____ and all that n_____	Mr Birling	Act 1
I don't a_____ any r_____	Mr Birling	Act 1
But these g_____ aren't cheap l_____ - they're p_____	Sheila	Act 1

Quotation	Who?	When?
A c_____ of e_____	The Inspector	Act 1
The y_____ ones.. They're more i_____	The Inspector	Act 2
There are m_____ and m_____ of Eva Smiths and J_____ Smiths still left with us, with their l_____... i_____ with our lives	The Inspector	Act 3
We don't live a_____. We are m_____ of one n_____	The Inspector	Act 3
(excitedly) By j_____! A f_____!	Mr Birling	Act 3
G_____ of that c_____	Mrs Birling	Act 3
// S_____ moves towards the door// I w_____ to get out of this.	Sheila	Act 3
We d_____ her in, all r_____.	Eric	Act 3



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Girls of that class	Mrs Birling
// Sheila moves towards the door//	Sheila
I want to get out of this.	
We did her in, all right.	Eric

Method + Analysis
Dramatic irony - makes Mr Birling look ignorant and foolish as the audience know he is wrong.
Simple sentence - Mr Birling's confident and simple statement summarises Priestley's view that the rich and older generation lack responsibility.
Noun "people" - this demonstrates Sheila's hidden empathy, which will emerge later. From the outset, we realise that she juxtaposes her parents, symbolising Priestley's view that hope for change in society lies with the younger generation
Stage directions - "pink" reflects the ignorance and rose-tinted view that the Birlings have of society. Adjectives "brighter and harder" - indicate the Inspector's power and how he is shining a light on the Birlings' truth.
Exclamatory sentence - Mr Birling's joy and relief as the Inspector is revealed to be a fake highlights his hypocrisy, and is used by Priestley to symbolise how the rich and older generations prevent progress, as they do not take responsibility and will not break free from their prejudice.
Adjective "impressionable" - Priestley believed that hope for a better society lay in the younger generation of 1912, or those watching the play in 1945.
Imperative sentence - highlights Mr Birling's commanding nature and dominance; he expects to be served. Prop of port - highlights the Birlings' luxurious lifestyle.
Body metaphor - like a body, where all organs are connected to one another and rely on others to make the body function, people in society must rely on others and live in a more collective, connected manner
Physical movement - Sheila's physical movement towards the door signifies her character development, and her complete break away from her parents' capitalism and prejudiced ideology. As a symbol of the younger generation, Sheila's upward move could be seen to symbolise Priestley's desire for the young to break free from the mistakes of the past in order to build a more collective, caring society built on socialist principles
Symbolism - Priestley's central message is that individual behaviour has an impact on others, and that people in society should consider the consequences of their actions
"that" - Mrs Birling's view that the poor are separate to her reveals the callousness and prejudice that Priestley believed pervaded the upper classes.
Simile/ Animalistic language , comparing the working class to little more than subhuman insects, reveals his class prejudice and victimisation of the rich
Collective pronoun "we" - Eric's acceptance of blame here, and his recognition that his entire family are collectively responsible for the death of Eva Smith, indicates his character development from the start of the play, where he was an immature, bourgeois member of the upper class. Through Eric, Priestley places hope in the younger generation, whom he believed were the hope for a fairer and more equal society.
Hyperbole - The Inspector's statement that there are 'millions' of Eva Smith and John Smiths, representing the working classes, exaggerates the suffering of the poor