Act 2: ‘An Inspector Calls’

Big question: does Gerald try to exculpate or redeem himself in the eyes of the audience after admitting his involvement with Eva Smith/Daisy Renton

Exculpate – excuse/ remove blame

Redeem – to improve the way people think of you

Page 34 : ’ I met her first, sometime in March last year, in the stalls bar at the Palace.’

‘Women of the town?’

“but then I noticed a girl who looked quite different”

Gerald

Gerald is described as:

‘attractive chap’ – good looking

‘well-bred man about town’ – landed gentry, aristocratic, self-entitlement, always going out enjoying himself

‘about thirty’ – young

‘rather too manly to be a dandy’ – dresses well and looks masculine

Dandy means someone that dressed flamboyantly

Page 27: in the stage directions, Gerald speaks ‘with an effort’. He tries to get Sheila to leave the room. He speaks with hesitancy and a lot of pauses. This shows that he is trying to avoid getting in trouble with Sheila. He also speaks for Sheila by saying ‘she’ and ‘her’ a lot. By saying this a lot, he is trying to exculpate himself from the situation.

“Why should you? It’s bound to be unpleasant and disturbing.” He makes it seem like he’s trying to help Sheila but he’s just trying to remove her.

“if possible – yes” suggests that Gerald’s views of women conform to the stereotypical view of women in Edwardian England in 1912

“I neither said that nor even suggested it”, removes the attention from him.

“all right then, I’m sorry” stubborn

Page 34:

“all right, if you must have it” like he is doing them a favour

It took him a while to think about his version of the story he is going to tell. This may mean he has changed the story a bit to make it not seem as bad.

“in the stalls bar at the Palace. I mean the Palace music hall here in Brumley-“ this shows that he is making things up on the spot and he is a bad liar.

“you’re obviously going to hate this, so why on earth don’t you leave us to it” Gerald tries to get Sheila to leave. He also does this to waste time when telling his story.

“I’m glad I amuse you”

“I hate those hard-eyed dough-faced women”

He continues to pause a lot to slow the story down

Gerald is now described as distressed and this shows he’s starting to panic.

He describes Old Joe Meggarty as “half-drunk, goggle eyed” and “had her wedged her into a corner with that obscene fat carcass of his-“ this shows that Joe was terrible and this makes Gerald seem better compared to him. It also makes it seem like Gerald had to help her because she was in danger. This makes him seem like a hero

“he’s a notorious womanizer” this makes alderman look terrible compared to Gerald again

“nothing less than a cry for help”

He then talks for a bit longer but with a lot of pauses to show that he is making it up on the spot again.

Page 36:

“I know would be quiet at that time of night” been there before

“just talked” part of his defence

“and then you decided to keep her – as your mistress?” he only uses her for sexual relations

In Act Two, Gerald is shown as a lying character that tends to lie to get out of some situations. On page 34, Gerald is trying to make a deception that what he did wasn’t bad. Because his fiancé, Sheila, is in the room with him, he is trying to hide the fact he slept with another woman while they were together. He does this by constantly pausing when he is talking. This shows that he is trying to find something to say. It is very clear that he is lying when he says ‘in the stalls bar at the Palace. I mean the Palace music hall here in Brumley’. This makes it clear that he is making a story up on the spot. This shows him as a sly character that will try to lie or water-down a story to make it seem better. This makes the audience think that this might not be the only time he has lied.