Stage directions: Setting and character review task

Edwardian England was ruled by the rich and the poor had no money

JB Priestley was a radio presenter in WW2

The rich and the poor kept very separate

The titanic sank in 1912

WW1 started in 1914

Priestley wrote the book in 1912 instead of 1945 to highlight the difference between social classes.

Key words

* Stage directions – instruct actors and actresses, stage management
* Setting – where and when the play is
* Character –
* Dramatic irony – when the audience knows more than the characters do

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| 1912 (set) | 1945 (written) |
| WW1 would start in two years time.  Mr Birling’s optimistic view that there would not be a war is completely wrong | WW2 ended 8th May 1945. People were recovering from nearly 6 years of warfare, danger and uncertainty |
| Strong distinctions between upper and lower classes | Class distinctions had been greatly reduced due to the 2 wars |
| Women were subservient to men. No real role except wife and mother (high class) | As a result of the wars, women had earned a more value place in society |
| Ruling classes felt nothing need to change with ruling of the country | Great desire for social change. After WW2 Labour won victory over the Conservatives – Socialism began |

The setting is in the dining room of a suburban house

This family has a lot of wealth

The dad is a successful businessman – ‘Prosperous manufacturer’

‘Good solid furniture’

The lighting is ‘pink and intimate until the inspector arrives, and then. It should be brighter and harder’