

Quotes table

The Inspector

Responsibility

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|--|--|
| Act 1 | <u>"It's better to ask for the earth than take it"</u> | The syntax on "ask" prior to "take" is used by the Inspector to highlight the order of importance that is required for society to be collectively responsible- we must "ask" and share, opposed to the capitalist ideas of "taking" to benefit oneself. Short sentence on 'don't forget'. |
| Act 2 | <u>[cutting in, with authority]</u> | His stage directions are indicative of his power and affirmative nature as Priestley utilises him to showcase the serious and desperate need for responsibility. His intolerant and brutal demeanour is used by Priestley to ironically show how it is the upper- and middle-class members of society who require 'to come down harshly on these people' (Mr B Act1) - their wilful ignorance and oblivion can only be shattered with forcing them to face the bleakness of reality . |
| Act 3 | <u>"as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person"</u> | The degrading triple simile is used by the Priestley as the Inspector is his dramatic vehicle and his mouthpiece - uttering the views of Priestley himself about distributing responsibility. The beatific image on "an animal" highlights their blatant disregard of her humanity through their dehumanising and exploitative treatment of her. The neglectful noun "thing" intensifies how, as she belonged to a lower class, she was not regarded with any form of compassion as a living being. |
| Act 3 | <u>"If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught in fire and blood and anguish"</u> | He highlights the sempiternal consequences of neglecting responsibility. He appears prophetic (knowing about the future), paired with his biblical allusions to hell when he uses this triplet. The polysyndeton (repetition of and) reinforces the sempiternal torture they will face if they continue to part with their responsibility- his prophetic, omniscient element makes this message about responsibility seem more daunting and important. |

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|--|---|
| Act 1 | <u>"we are members of one body"</u> | He also directly relays the biblical teaching , used in baptism, that we are <u>"members of his body"</u> in Christ. This is parallel language to his lexis he uses. Thus, the Inspector, alike to Jesus, promotes the union of society and togetherness – reinforcing his spreading of Christianity and its foundational teachings (especially in regards to responsibility). |
| Act 2 | <u>"Remember that. Never forget it."</u> | Alike to Jesus providing salvation for mankind , the Inspector's final speech can be seen as being the salvation for the Birlings – he reminds the Birlings that responsibility for others cannot be forgotten and that they should lead with compassion and benevolence. |

Gender

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|--|--|
| Act 2 | <u>[sternly to both of them]</u> | His description of Eva's suicide and is affirmative and confrontational in addressing their abandonment of morals . He does not allow Sheila's docile expectations as a woman, nor Gerald's untouchable higher status, to prohibit him from harshly delivering the message of responsibility. In society, both would typically be exempt from serious responsibility for these reasons. |
| Act 3 | <u>"as if she was an animal, a thing, not a person"</u> | The dehumanising image of "an animal" could be an allusion to how the Inspector is critiquing the disregard of women physically and emotionally - he condemns Eric and Gerald here for objectifying her as an object of lust . Also condemning the dehumanising treatment from capitalists. |

Socialism vs Capitalism

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|---|---|
| Act 1 | <u>[plain darkish suit]</u> | Unlike to the other characters in the play are all defined by their class physically through the clothes they wear, the Inspector carries an air of mystery as he is dressed in a simplistic way. |
| Act 1 | <u>[cutting through, massively]</u> (when Mr B talks) | The inspector, the embodiment of socialism, is presented as the antithesis and a foil to Mr Birling, the embodiment of capitalism. When the Inspector arrives, Mr Birling's monologues are shortened through the Inspector's interruption, this breaks Mr Birling's egotistical dramatic monologue where he expresses his self-proclaimed omniscience that the "titanic is unsinkable" . |
| Act 1 | <u>"It's better to ask for the earth than take it"</u> | The idea of to "take" connotes to "steal", an idea that is scorned in the bible as it is a mortal sin . As the Edwardian era was highly religious, the religious teachings would be seen as integral to society. Thus, capitalists' ideals completely dismiss these teachings- socialism could be seen to be bringing society back to its moral foundations. |
| | <u>"If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught in fire and blood and anguish"</u> | As capitalism is synonymous with immorality throughout the play, the hellish semantic field could be a direct allusion that holding capitalists' beliefs will lead to eternal punishment. The polysyndeton (repetition of and) reinforces the sempiternal torture they will face if they continue to part with their responsibility and hold these ignorant capitalist views. |

Guilt/ Morality

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|--|---|
| Act 1 | <u>"Quite so"</u> | The Inspector's speech is short and concise such as "Quite so", yet his few words cause Mr Birling's speech to shorten. This suggests the Inspector has shifted the power balance, despite not being from an established social class, this elucidates that social status (symbolised through Mr Birling) is weak in the face of morality (symbolised by the Inspector) |
| | <i>You can use any quotes from responsibility in this category too. Just use them to highlight how the Inspector is trying to make the Birlings more moral and responsible.</i> | |

Older vs Younger generation

| THEME | QUOTES | TECHNIQUES |
|-------|--|--|
| Act 1 | <u>"We often do on the young ones. They're more impressionable"</u> | The Inspector makes a mockery of Mr Birling here. He brands the younger generation as "more impressionable" , perhaps implying their more gullible and malleable . This serves to later be ironic as the negative connotations of being "impressionable" are positive traits in helping Sheila and Eric rid their capitalist oblivion. |
| Act 2 | <u>(Mrs Birling says)</u> <u>"I beg your pardon!"</u> | The exclamatory sentence reinforces how Mrs Birling is astounded that her morality and guilt is questioned- these are two ideas in her warped view of life that can be overcome with money and materialistic items. Her disgust and shock at being questioned highlights her resistance to the Inspector's new ideas. Her capitalist views are engrained in her due to her belonging to the older generation. |
| Act 2 | <u>[rather hot, bothered]</u> | Despite Mr Birling physically being distressed by the Inspector's investigation, he proceeds to try and be ignorant to his family's unscrupulousness , still indoctrinated by the capitalist idea that his 'public image' is more integral than his morality. His "bother" provides a glimmer of hope that he will listen to the Inspector, however he retreats into his capitalist ways. The inspector is unable to change the stagnancy and obstinance in the characters where capitalism is deeply engrained. |
| Act 3 | <u>Sheila says</u> <u>"fire and blood and anguish"</u> | She acts as the Inspector's proxy when he leaves reciting his exact moral teachings. This demonstrates the Inspector's profound impact on the younger generation as Sheila now resents her families supercilious airs and graces and tries to catalyse a change in them as he did to her. |
| | <u>Eric [cutting in] when Mr B speaks</u> | He emulates the Inspector's disregard of Mr Birling's long pompous speeches, alike to the Inspector, he begins to [cutting in] when his father speaks. Eric is no longer silenced by his father and has learnt from the Inspector that morals hold more weight than superficial ideals like social status and wealth- this empowered him. |