

# Summarised notes- Eric Act 1

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
<p><b>Silenced supporter of the class system</b></p>	<p>- <u>"Half shy- half assertive"</u></p> <p>- <u>"(not too rudely) Well. Don't do any. We'll drink their health and have done with it"</u></p>	<p>- This often means that Eric notices his father's <b>unscrupulous and inhumane treatment</b> of those perceived to be "lower" than him in society and yet lacks the moral fibre and conviction to act on these feelings</p> <p>- He recognizes the absurdity of their marriage and sees that Sheila is being treated as little more than a <b>bartering token</b> for business ends, dehumanising her</p> <p>- <u>"Not too rudely"</u> shows he is still <b>shackled</b> by society in how he can put his views forward</p>
<p><b>Socially awkward to socially defiant</b></p>	<p><u>"Not quite at ease "</u></p> <p><u>"Shouting"</u></p>	<p>- Eric is often shown as <u>"not quite at ease"</u> which may also be Priestley illustrating how he views the younger generation; not quite as self centred as the older generation but not perfect socialists either</p> <p>- This changes towards the end of the play however, as reflected in the stage directions where Eric begins to shout</p> <p>- This willingness to change is <b>juxtaposed</b> with Mr Birling's obstinacy in the face of change</p> <p>- Eric serves as a <b>foil to his bigot father</b> through his change to social defiance</p>
<p><b>Mr Birling the father</b></p>	<p><u>"Yes, you've piled it on a bit tonight father"</u></p> <p><u>"Your trouble is- you've been spoilt"</u></p>	<p>- <b>Ironic</b> as despite Mr Birlings incessant advice giving his own son is <b>symbolic of many problems</b> that society faces</p> <p>- Highlights the failures of capitalism as Mr Birling who is the <b>quintessential capitalist</b> cannot even teach his own son to be a good human being</p> <p>- Irony that a spoilt Mr Birling calls someone else spoilt, <b>highlights hypocrisy</b> as he himself is privileged and is also responsible for Eric's spoilt nature.</p>

# Summarised notes- Eric Act 2

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
Irony	<p><u>"Look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility"</u></p> <p><u>"Drunken idler"</u></p> <p><u>"Very severely"</u></p> <p><u>"Made an example of"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shows the <b>myopic and egotistical world view</b> (short sighted and selfish) held by those of the upper class</li> <li>- Usage of <b>dramatic irony</b> to highlight the willful blindness of capitalism and the <b>catastrophic consequences</b> of it</li> <li>- Shows double standards and hypocrisy in treatment of lower class people vs upper class</li> </ul>
Guilt	<p><u>"[Rather wildly, with laugh], he's giving us the rope- so that we'll hang ourselves"</u> (Said by Sheila)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Virulent</b> (harmful) actions of the Birlings were akin to executing Eva Smith,</li> <li>- Twisted form of <b>justice and karmic retribution</b>, showing how the <b>Machiavellian</b> (scheming) actions of the capitalists in power would come back to bite them</li> <li>- As Eric is not present in this act and it is instead Sheila who is getting hysterical we may be lead to believe that Priestley is portraying Sheila as more guilty than Eric</li> </ul>

# Summarised notes- Eric Act 3

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
Familial vs Monetary success	<p>- <u>"Because you're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble - that's why."</u></p> <p><u>"Don't talk to me like that. Your trouble is - you've been spoilt"</u></p>	<p>- <b>Contrast</b> within the play, with Mr Birling's success in business being <b>directly juxtaposed</b> with his shortcomings as a father</p> <p>- The irony here is that Mr Birling is the one responsible for spoiling Eric, as shown by his <b>incessant entitlement, and showing his failures as a father as a result of this spoilt nature</b></p>
Responsibility	<p><u>""Then - you killed her. She came to you to protect me - and you turned her away - yes, and you killed her - and the child she'd have has too - my child - your own grandchild - you killed them both - damn you, damn you"</u></p> <p><u>"To protect me"</u></p>	<p>- This <b>impassioned speech</b> demonstrates a new side to Eric, showing his ability to raise his voice and show <b>solicitude</b> (compassion) for the two lives lost</p> <p>- Repetition of "you" attempts to distance himself from the deed</p> <p>- Shows altruistic nature of Eva, deifying her and in doing so highlighting the shortcomings of capitalist society by showing what an ideal human is</p>
Usage of women	<p><u>"I wasn't in love with her or anything - but i liked her - she was pretty and a good sport-"</u></p> <p><u>"She was pretty"</u></p>	<p>- This shows us how though men can commit <b>irresponsible</b> actions and get off scot free, with their actions often not being questioned by society and their peers</p> <p>- <b>Alluding to how stoically</b> Eva Smith handled her treatment, but perhaps also showing how at the end of the day Eric's irresponsible actions were a <b>little more than a game</b></p> <p>- Objectification of women</p>