

# Eric - Quote Sheet

## RESPONSIBILITY

Act 1	<u>"It isn't if you can't go and work somewhere else."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eric finding his voice and disagreeing with his father <b>highlights Mr Birling's stupidity.</b></li> <li><b>Emphasises</b> helplessness of women.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<u>"You don't understand anything. You never did. You never even tried."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Repetition of pronoun "you"</b> continues to place blame on others.</li> <li><b>Hyperbole exaggerates</b> her wrongdoings.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<u>"I did what I did. And mother did what she did. And the rest of you did what you did to her."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>personal pronoun</b> on <u>"I"</u> shows the personal accountability and responsibility Eric is taking for his actions.</li> <li>The <b>direct address</b> of <u>"you"</u> highlights how Eric is directly shaming his oblivious parents for their disregard of their responsibility.</li> </ul>

## GENDER

Act 1	<p><u>"You'd think a girl had never any clothes before she gets married."</u></p> <p><u>Women are potty about 'em."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Colloquial language</b> shows casual nature of sexist generalisations.</li> <li>• Defining women to a singular characteristics of liking clothes, neglecting to mention other aspects mirrors societal attitudes that women were meant to be pretty and soft-spoken.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<p><u>"I hate these fat old tarts."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hypocrisy</b> as Eric himself frequented the palace bar to pay for sex.</li> <li>• <b>Derogatory language</b> once again defines women by their physical features.</li> <li>• <b>Prostitution symbolic</b> of exploitation of women by upper class men.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<p><u>"She wasn't the usual sort."</u></p> <p><u>"She didn't know what to do."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usage of usual implies that visiting prostitutes was the norm, <b>highlighting the exploitation of women.</b></li> <li>• Sentiment furthered by how Eva is portrayed as innocent and as a result Eric felt he could exploit this fact.</li> </ul>

## SOCIALISM VS CAPITALISM

Act 1	<p><u><i>"Why shouldn't they try for higher wages? We try for the highest possible prices."</i></u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>rhetorical question</b> highlights how Eric is developing his <b>"half assertive"</b> side, due to the introduction of socialism, as he is directly questioning his father and not seeking to hear his ignorant point of view as a response. The alliteration on <b>"possible prices"</b> compounding how Eric has realised the <b>exploitation</b> that individuals like his father perpetuate in order to acquire more wealth.</li> </ul>
Act 1	<p><u><i>"Why shouldn't they try for higher wages."</i></u></p> <p><u><i>"You said yourself she was a good worker."</i></u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Questioning language</b> highlights the immorality of the capitalist system, how the employers can try for higher costs but employees mustn't try for higher wages.</li> <li>Eric feels people should be rewarded for hard work.</li> <li>The <b>direct address</b> on <b>"you"</b> highlights how Eric is directly critiquing his father's dehumanising treatment of his workers. He is also combating his father's capitalist logic with a new found fairer socialist reasoning.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<p><u><i>"(Laughing) Oh - for God's sake! What does it matter now whether they give you a knighthood or not?"</i></u></p> <p><u><i>"You'll work for nothing."</i></u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Stage direction</b> of laughing highlights the stupidity of the capitalist mindset</li> <li><b>Juxtaposition</b> of Eric's despair with Mr Birling's fixation with money</li> <li><b>Double meaning of nothing</b>- not only will he work for no money, he will have no motivation to work after Eva's death</li> </ul>

## GUILT

Act 1	<u>"My God!."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Juxtaposed</b> with an indifferent Mr Birling saying "yes, yes" highlights the subconscious guilt Eric may feel about the death before even knowing the details.</li> <li>• <b>Usage of exclamation</b> to show seriousness.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<u>"(Shouting) And I say the girl's dead and we all helped to kill her - and that's what matters."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Disjointed sentence</b> shows he is wracked with guilt at his own actions.</li> <li>• "That's what matters" is <b>juxtaposed</b> with Mr Birling worrying about his "honour" to try and show people the real issue at hand.</li> <li>• <b>Stage direction</b> of shouting marks a stark change from the timid Eric at the start of the play.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<u>"I threatened to make a row."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Euphemistic language</b> as he is essentially describing assault but cannot bear to face that fact, instead calling it a row</li> <li>• <b>Coercive imagery</b> of threatened shows the unjust power wielded by those in high society</li> </ul>

## OLDER VS YOUNGER GENERATION

Act 1	<p><u>"He could. He could have kept her on instead of throwing her out. I call it tough luck."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Usage of a short sentence highlights</b> the finality of the argument; that Mr Birling had the ability to help her and chose instead not to.</li> <li>• <b>Harsh use of vocabulary</b> in "throwing her" shows the difference in perspective between generations. Mr Birling just viewed it as business as opposed to Eric who recognised the catastrophic ramifications of the action.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<p><u>“(Shouting) And I say the girl's dead and we all helped to kill her - and that's what matters.”</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eric's acceptance that he had a hand to play in the death of Eva exposes a damning view of the generation gap, where the young accept their wrongs whereas the old do not.</li> <li>• <b>Collective pronoun</b> "we" shares responsibility, reminiscent of Inspector Goole saying "we must share something."</li> <li>• <b>Hyphens</b> create pauses as Eric is repulsed and disgusted by his parents- his anger consequently causing him to choke on his words.</li> </ul>
Act 3	<p><u>Mrs Birling: "Eric, I'm absolutely ashamed of you."</u></p> <p><u>Eric: "Well, I don't blame you. But don't forget I'm ashamed of you as well - yes both of you."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Juxtaposition</b> of Eric admitting his wrongs and looking to advance with Mrs Birling's shameless attempts to place the blame on anyone but herself.</li> <li>• Shows hope for the younger generation in accepting wrongs and moving on.</li> <li>• <b>Repetition of ashamed</b>, used in a dual context of Eric feeling shame for his parent incessant neglecting of their moral duties.</li> </ul>