

KEY WORDS

empowered, liberated, disgusted, shrewd, morally righteous, compassionate

Sheila Act 2

UNDERSTANDING FOR THE OMNISCIENCE (ALL KNOWING) OF THE INSPECTOR

- Sheila goes from being **ridiculed** in act 1, to mocking and ridiculing her **ignorant** families oblivion to the Inspector's **omniscience** and moral power. She tries to educate her family on their **obliviousness**: "You mustn't try to build a kind of wall between us and that girl. If you do, the Inspector will just break it down."
- Surprisingly, Sheila becomes one of the **shrewdest** (sharp) characters, despite her earlier naïve presentation, as she is the first to recognise both the intent and moral message the Inspector was trying to **propagate** (spread).
- The **metaphorical phrase** of a **"wall"** serves as a symbol for the wall and barrier the Birlings have created from the real world- they live in their **[pink and intimate]** lives filled with oblivion: avoiding being **morally righteous** and permitting this through their constant state of ignorance

COMPARISON

Sheila is no longer sheltered by her ignorant parents but becomes the antithesis of their outlooks on life and responsibility. As her parents are **capitalism personified**, by her criticising and educating her parents, this is **symbolic of her defiance** of capitalism and the patriarchy- two societal constructs that constrained her.

HER REALISATION OF THE LARGER IMPACT OF CAPITALISM

- She becomes **empowered** through her **development of empathy** and responsibility, causing her to be a **foil** (opposite) to her **remorseless** and irresponsible parents, recognising "[rather wildly, with laugh] No, he's giving us the rope- so that we'll hang ourselves."
- The stage direction **"[wildly]"** demonstrates how Sheila has become **disillusioned** with the ideas of capitalism: and the proper etiquette of the middle class. She is now **unapologetically freed** from these constraints and appears to not hold back this 'wild' side.
- "rope"** has fibres that are all intertwined, this mimicking how Sheila has recognised that everybody in society is intertwined with their responsibilities, capitalist or not, they have a **moral obligation** to protect the **"millions and millions"** that suffer.
- The **motif** (recurring symbol) of death permeates the play, Sheila reinforcing this through the **vivid diction** **"hang"** and reminding her mother that Eva **"died a horrible death"**. Sheila is used by Priestley to transport this motif to the audience as it **resonates deeper** that although the middle class may carelessly neglect their responsibility, on an extreme case leading to death, they can still **embark on a pathway to redemption** when introduced to a moral way of living- socialism.

TOPIC SENTENCES

Sheila's understanding of the omniscience of the Inspector allows her to act as **a moral compass** for her family: guiding them in how to develop empathy and be responsible.

Sheila's **altruism** (morality) is **poignant** within Act 2 as she begins to consider the larger, mostly **detrimental** (damaging), impacts of capitalism; she critiques her parents' dismissal of collective responsibility and urges her family to understand the **bleak** consequences that are because of their irresponsibility.