

# Summarised notes- Gerald Act 1

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
A fashionable socialite	<p><u>- "the easy, well-bred young man-about-town"</u></p> <p><u>"Absolutely first class"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The <b>prejudices</b> of Edwardian society work in Gerald's favour, they make life easy for him.</li> <li>- The concept of status is presented as <b>inhumane</b> as <b>"well-bred"</b> is reminiscent of pedigree dogs or racehorses.</li> <li>- His social interactions are <b>advised and calculated</b>, he knows how to act in a way to charm and please people.</li> <li>- He is polite to an extent which exposes his <b>manipulative</b> nature.</li> </ul>
Capitalist views	<p><u>[Mr Birling] "lower costs and higher prices"</u></p> <p><u>Gerald replies "Hear, hear! And I think my father would agree to that."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gerald ultimately stands for and supports <b>capitalist</b> beliefs, perhaps even deeming them more important than his marriage and affection for Sheila.</li> <li>- He is the <b>product of his parents' beliefs- he has internalised his capitalist</b> upbringing.</li> </ul>
His affections for Sheila	<p><u>"might have done better"</u></p> <p><u>"I've been trying long enough, haven't I?"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- His marriage to Sheila was <b>unorthodox</b> as she is socially beneath him.</li> <li>- This is arguably a source of embarrassment for Gerald but could also present his love as genuine and not driven by <b>monetary gain</b>.</li> <li>- Gerald was the one who had been encouraging their marriage which does suggest genuine feelings for her.</li> <li>- He is a disappointment to the audience because although at times he displays genuine emotion, <b>he retreats to the security of a selfish capitalist attitude</b>.</li> </ul>

# Act 2

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
Misogynistic	<p><u>"he means I'm getting hysterical now"</u></p> <p><u>"women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Hysteria</b> was a diagnosis used to <b>marginalise women</b>, Gerald <b>colloquially</b> uses this to exercise his power and establish a higher status.</li> <li>- He also wishes to silence Sheila so he can <b>manipulate the situation</b> to make himself seem less responsible.</li> <li>- This is ironic as Eva was exposed to <b>an onslaught</b> of unpleasant and disturbing things, he played a role in this.</li> <li>- His 'protection' of women is an example of <b>sophistry</b> as he actually is hurting them.</li> </ul>
Denying Responsibility	<p><u>"suicide business"</u></p> <p><u>"install her"</u></p> <p><u>"in return"</u></p> <p><u>"she didn't blame me at all. I wish to God she had now"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The <b>financial semantic field</b> is used to distance himself from the reality of the events.</li> <li>- Relationships at the time <b>were corrupted by a preoccupation with money and wealth</b>.</li> <li>-He puts up a <b>façade of remorse</b>, so he comes across as respectable.</li> <li>-He <b>temporarily seems to understand morality</b>, but we later learn that he doesn't wish for any blame at all and is still actively trying to deny himself responsibility at the end of the play.</li> </ul>
Saviour or Predator	<p><u>"cry for help"</u></p> <p><u>"fresh"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gerald sees himself as a knight in shining armour and believes his actions towards Eva were <b>philanthropic</b>.</li> <li>- This exposes his ignorance as his actions did more damage than good.</li> <li>- Describing Eva in this manner seems <b>predatorial as it introduces a rhetoric of consumption</b>.</li> <li>- Gerald is acting on <b>primal and lustful</b> desires.</li> </ul>

# Act 3

POINT	KEY QUOTES	SUMMARISED ANALYSIS
Spared by the inspector	<u><i>"at least had some affection for her [Eva] and made her happy for a time."</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Priestley had affairs in his marriage therefore he <b>hesitates from overtly criticising Gerald</b> for this.</li> <li>- This does however encourage to focus more on his other misconducts in the text, and the <b>nuances to his character that make him disagreeable</b> (his <b>egocentrism, misogyny</b> etc.)</li> </ul>
Dismissive	<u><i>"Everything's all right now, Sheila. (Holds up the ring.) What about this ring?"</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- He wants to rid himself of responsibility by erasing the events of the evening. The <b>metonymy</b> of <b>"ring"</b> exposes his materialistic and capitalist views.</li> <li>- He seems less emotionally invested in the marriage now than at the start of the play.</li> </ul>
Exposing the inspector	<u><i>"(slowly) That man wasn't a police officer."</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-For Gerald this is a key opportunity to re-establish power- he sees it as a chance to not only rid himself of responsibility but command the room by slowly and dramatically announcing 'exciting' information.</li> </ul>