

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

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"> • Colloquial language shows casual nature of sexist generalisations. • 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.
Act 3	<p><u>"I hate these fat old tarts."</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypocrisy as Eric himself frequented the palace bar to pay for sex. • Derogatory language once again defines women by their physical features. • Prostitution symbolic of exploitation of women by upper class men.
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"> • Usage of usual implies that visiting prostitutes was the norm, highlighting the exploitation of women. • Sentiment furthered by how Eva is portrayed as innocent and as a result Eric felt he could exploit this fact.

SOCIALISM VS CAPITALISM

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

GUILT

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

OLDER VS YOUNGER GENERATION

Act 1	<u>"He could. He could have kept her on instead of throwing her out. I call it tough luck."</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usage of a short sentence highlights the finality of the argument; that Mr Birling had the ability to help her and chose instead not to. • Harsh use of vocabulary 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.
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"> • 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. • Collective pronoun "we" shares responsibility, reminiscent of Inspector Goole saying "we must share something." • Hyphens create pauses as Eric is repulsed and disgusted by his parents- his anger consequently causing him to choke on his words.
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"> • Juxtaposition of Eric admitting his wrongs and looking to advance with Mrs Birling's shameless attempts to place the blame on anyone but herself. • Shows hope for the younger generation in accepting wrongs and moving on. • Repetition of ashamed, used in a dual context of Eric feeling shame for his parent incessant neglecting of their moral duties.