

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"> - The prejudices of Edwardian society work in Gerald's favour, they make life easy for him. - The concept of status is presented as inhuman as "well-bred" is reminiscent of pedigree dogs or racehorses. - His social interactions are advised and calculated, he knows how to act in a way to charm and please people. - He is polite to an extent which exposes his manipulative nature.
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"> - Gerald ultimately stands for and supports capitalist beliefs, perhaps even deeming them more important than his marriage and affection for Sheila. - He is the product of his parents' beliefs- he has internalised his capitalist upbringing.
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"> - His marriage to Sheila was unorthodox as she is socially beneath him. - This is arguably a source of embarrassment for Gerald but could also present his love as genuine and not driven by monetary gain. - Gerald was the one who had been encouraging their marriage which does suggest genuine feelings for her. - He is a disappointment to the audience because although at times he displays genuine emotion, he retreats to the security of a selfish capitalist attitude.

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"> - Hysteria was a diagnosis used to marginalise women, Gerald colloquially uses this to exercise his power and establish a higher status. - He also wishes to silence Sheila so he can manipulate the situation to make himself seem less responsible. - This is ironic as Eva was exposed to an onslaught of unpleasant and disturbing things, he played a role in this. - His 'protection' of women is an example of sophistry as he actually is hurting them.
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"> -The financial semantic field is used to distance himself from the reality of the events. - Relationships at the time were corrupted by a preoccupation with money and wealth. -He puts up a façade of remorse, so he comes across as respectable. -He temporarily seems to understand morality, 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.
Saviour or Predator	<p><u>"cry for help"</u></p> <p><u>"fresh"</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gerald sees himself as a knight in shining armour and believes his actions towards Eva were philanthropic. - This exposes his ignorance as his actions did more damage than good. - Describing Eva in this manner seems predatorial as it introduces a rhetoric of consumption. - Gerald is acting on primal and lustful desires.

Act 3

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