

# Gerald - Quote Sheet

## BLAME/RESPONSIBILITY

Act 3	<u>"Everything's all right now, Sheila. (Holds up the ring.) What about this ring?"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He wants to rid himself of responsibility by erasing the events of the evening.</li> <li>• The <b>metonymy</b> of "ring" exposes his materialistic and capitalist views- he seems less emotionally invested in the marriage now than at the start of the play.</li> </ul>
Act 1	<u>"We're respectable citizens and not criminals"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The upper classes tend to <b>glorify themselves and vilify the poor</b>- yet the play exposes this attitude as ignorant as they have all committed actions which would not be deemed "respectable"</li> <li>• The <b>collective pronoun</b> "we're" portrays this segregative belief as he uses it to unify them against "criminals" it is ironic as Gerald in fact has no true reason to claim that the Birlings are respectable which exposes aristocratic prejudices as ignorant.</li> </ul>
Act 1	<u>"I don't come into this suicide business"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He uses the <b>semantic field</b> of "business" to distance himself from the responsibility for Eva's suicide. It also shows his preoccupation with money and wealth, he views everything through the <b>lens of finance thus portraying him as callous.</b></li> </ul>

## GENDER

Act 2	<u>"he means I'm getting hysterical now"</u>	<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> </ul>
Act 2	<u>"you think young women ought to be protected against unpleasant and disturbing things"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is ironic as Eva was exposed to an <b>onslaught</b> of unpleasant and disturbing things, he played a role in this. His 'protection' of women is an example of <b>sophistry</b> as he actually is hurting them.</li> <li>The <b>direct address</b> of the pronoun 'you' is <b>accusatory</b>, it is a reminder from Priestley that the play is not only critiquing the characters within it but also questioning the views of his audience.</li> </ul>
Act 2	<u>"she looked young and fresh and charming"</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describing Eva as "young" <b>connoting</b> innocence and vulnerability, seems <b>predatorial as it introduces a rhetoric of consumption</b> and abusing her vulnerable status.</li> <li>Gerald is acting on <b>primal and lustful</b> desires.</li> </ul>

## SOCIALISM VS CAPITALISM

Act 1	<p><b><u>[Mr Birling] "lower costs and higher prices"</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Gerald replies "Hear hear! And I think my father would agree to that"</u></b></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</b>- he has <b>internalised his capitalist</b> upbringing. The exclamation after "hear, hear!" portrays Gerald's <b>overzealous</b> excitement at the prospect of money Priestley <b>ridicules</b> him as he already has an excess of wealth- this highlights the excessive greed associated with capitalism.</li> </ul>
Act 1	<p><b><u>"You seem to be a nice well-behaved family -"</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is <b>ironic</b> as we learn this is not the case. It explores how wealth and reputation are valued over morality by 1912 society.</li> </ul>
Act 1	<p><b><u>"Then it'll be all right. The governor prides himself on being a good judge of port. I don't pretend to know much about it."</u></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gerald is less <b>preoccupied with classism</b> than Mr Birling. In one sense it could show how comfortable and untouchable he is as an aristocrat as he is under less pressure to prove himself and his worth. Alternatively, it could suggest he is more <b>humane and less superficial</b> than the older generation as he willingly <b>rejects symbols of wealth as meaningless</b>.</li> <li>Gerald referring to his father as the Governor is an example of <b>antonomasia</b>, (a literary term in which a descriptive phrase replaces a person's name). He does so to emphasise his social importance, it also portrays how class is the most important aspect of someone's personality in 1912 Britain.</li> </ul>

