

Themes

- 1) Social Class
- 2) Gender
- 3) Social Responsibility
- 4) Capitalism
- 5) Generational divide
- 6) Prejudice

Characters

- 1) Mr Birling
- 2) Mrs Birling
- 3) Eric
- 4) Sheila
- 5) Gerald
- 6) Inspector Goole



Beginning

Middle

End

I speak as a hard-headed businessman.

Unsinkable. Absolutely unsinkable.

Higher prices and lower costs.

Just a knighthood.

The way some of these cranks talk now, you'd think everybody has to look after everybody else.

Community and all that nonsense.

A man has to look after himself.

How do you get on with our chief constable, colonel Roberts?

I was almost certain for a knighthood.

The whole story's just a lot of moonshine. Nothing but an elaborate sell.

Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke.

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Beginning → Middle → End

When you're married you'll realize that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on their business. You'll have to get used to that, just as I had.

I think she had only herself to blame.

I wasn't satisfied with the girl's claim – she seemed to me not a good case – and so I used my influence to have it refused.

It was simply a piece of gross impertinence.

all a lot of nonsense – I didn't believe a word of it.

As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money!

I'll tell you what I told her. Go and look for the father of the child. It's his responsibility.

They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are.

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Beginning → Middle → End

Well, I think it's a dam' shame.

No, I mean about this girl – Eva Smith. Why shouldn't they try for higher wages?

His whole manner of handling the decanter and then the drink shows his familiarity with quick heavy drinking.

I was in that state when a chap turns nasty

You're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble.

My child – your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you.

You lot may be letting yourselves out nicely, but I can't.

We did her in all right.

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Beginning

Middle

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very pleased with life and
rather excited

You be careful – or I'll start
weeping.

mummy

I'll never let it go out of my
sight for an instant.

these girls aren't cheap
labour – they're people.

I felt rotten about it at the
time and now I feel a lot
worse.

you mustn't try to build up a
kind of wall between us
and that girl. If you do, then
the inspector will just break
it down.

It frightens me the way you
talk.

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Beginning

Middle

End

Very much the easy well-bred young man-about-town.

I was awfully busy at the works

Don't say anything to the inspector. We can keep it from him.

All right. I knew her. Let's leave it at that.

SHEILA: You were the wonderful fairy prince. You must have adored it.

GERALD: all right – I did.

I insisted on a parting gift of enough money to see her through to the end of the year.

We've no proof it was the same photograph and therefore no proof it was the same girl.

It's a hoax of some kind.

Everything's all right now, Sheila. What about this ring?

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Beginning → Middle → End

He creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness.

No, thank you, Mr Birling. I'm on duty.

Public men, Mr Birling, have responsibilities as well as privileges.

she'd swallowed a lot of strong disinfectant.

She lies with a burnt-out inside on a slab.

I've thought that it would do us all a bit of good if sometimes we tried to put ourselves in the place of these young women counting their pennies, in their dingy little back bedrooms.

Alone, friendless, almost penniless, desperate.

You slammed the door in her face.

We don't live alone. We are members of one body.

There are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths.

Fire and blood and anguish.