

MR BIRLING	MRS BIRLING	SHEILA	ERIC	GERALD	INSPECTOR
1. 'Just a knighthood.' He is desperate to impress Gerald and improve his social status.	1. 'I'm talking to the inspector now, if you don't mind.' She thinks her voice and opinions are the most important.	1. 'Now I feel really engaged' The way she needs the ring to feel engaged shows she is materialistic.	1. 'Half-shy, half-assertive' In the initial stage directions he seems uncertain and anxious.	1. 'well bred man about town' This suggests he is wealthy and fashionable but may also have a reputation with the ladies.	1. (Cutting through massively) He interrupts the Birlings but also cuts them down to size by piercing through their lies.
2. 'Nothing to do with you, Sheila. Run along.' He is dismissive and patronising to his children.	2. 'I used my influence to have it refused. I did my duty.' She uses her wealth to deny Eva support and justifies her decision.	2. 'I'm sorry Daddy actually I was listening.' She acts in a childish and submissive way to her father.	2. 'You're squiffy' At the start of the play Sheila hints that he has a drink problem.	2. 'I believe you're right, sir' He is sycophantic to Mr Birling by agreeing with everything he says.	2. 'She lies with a burnt out inside on a slab.' He uses shocking language so they feel the impact of Eva's death.
3. 'You're just the kind of son-in-law I've always wanted.' He likes Gerald more for the potential business dealings than making Sheila happy.	3. 'As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money! She snobbishly looks down on the lower classes and links poverty to lack of morals.	3. 'I told him that if they didn't get rid of that girl, I'd never go near the place again.' Like a spoilt rich girl, her jealousy overcomes her as she uses her status and influence to have Eva sacked.	3. 'Unless Eric's been up to something.' Gerald makes a joke about Eric to imply he is the butt of family jokes because of his shady reputation.	3. 'Don't say anything to the inspector.' He tells the others in the family not to say anything because he wants to cover up whatever has happened.	3. 'He creates at once an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness' This shows he is an imposing figure who cannot be ignored
4. 'Unsinkable. Absolutely unsinkable' Dramatic irony. The audience will question his judgement after he gets it so wrong about the Titanic.	4. 'Don't be childish, Sheila.' She is constantly telling her children off if they behave in a way she doesn't consider proper.	4. 'I'll never, never do it again. I'm desperately sorry' She redeems her sins by being the most remorseful for what she did.	4. 'Why shouldn't they try for higher wages?' He demonstrates socialist sympathies towards the lower classes in Act 1.	4. 'All right. I knew her. Let's leave it at that.' He is reluctant to admit his affair with Eva and tries to change the subject quickly.	4. 'One line of inquiry at a time' This shows his method is to isolate them one at a time so they have nowhere to hide.
5. 'Why, you hysterical young fool - get back - or I'll -' He threatens his son Eric after finding out about the stolen money and pregnancy.	5. 'I blame the young man who was the father of the child' Priestley sets her up to look foolish as she doesn't realise the father was her own son.	5. 'But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people' She is the first to adopt socialist views by having sympathy for the working classes.	5. 'You're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble'. He does not have a close relationship with his father.	5. 'She's had a long and tiring day' He wants Sheila to go to bed so she doesn't hear about his affair with Eva but tries to hide this by pretending to be caring about her.	5. 'I don't play golf' Golf is seen as an elite game for the privileged upper classes. His dislike of the game implies his dislike of their lifestyle.
6. 'I know the Brumley officers pretty well' He uses passive aggression to try and intimidate the inspector at first.	6. '(agitated) I don't believe it. I won't believe it...' She can't bring herself to believe Eric was the father of the child. In denial.	6. 'He's giving us the rope so we'll hang ourselves' She is insightful and is the first to work out the inspector's method.	6. 'I wasn't in love with her or anything - but she was pretty and a good sport.' He is superficial and treats his relationship with Eva as a game.	6. 'I didn't feel about her as she felt about me' He led Eva along even though he didn't have strong feelings for her.	6. 'If men will not learn that lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish' He predicts a hellish future of the world if people don't change.
7. 'She'd had a lot to say - far too much - so she had to go.' He justifies sacking Eva for complaining about wanting more money.	7. 'Besides, you're not the type - you don't get drunk.' She doesn't know her son well or she turns a blind eye to what she dislikes.	7. 'Mother, she's just died a horrible death - don't forget.' She is frustrated at her parents' unemotional reaction to Eva's death.	7. 'I was in that state when a chap easily turns nasty - and I threatened to make a row.' Implies he forced himself on Eva which makes his crime the worst.	7. 'I insisted on giving her enough money to keep her going' The fact he helped out Eva partially redeems himself to the audience.	7. 'Don't stammer and yammer at me again' This shows he won't be intimidated by The Birlings.
8. 'Lower costs and higher prices' As a capitalist employer he wants to pay his workers as little as he can to increase his profits. He doesn't care for his employees.	8. 'I was the only one of you who didn't give in to him.' She thinks she is the only one who didn't allow herself to be tricked by the inspector.	8. 'You and I aren't the same people who sat down to dinner here.' She has matured and realises her relationship with Gerald has changed.	8. 'My child - your own grandchild - you killed them both - damn you, damn you' He strongly blames his mother for through emotive words.	8. '(Distressed) I'm sorry I've just realised that she is dead.' He seems genuinely upset when he realises Eva is dead. Is he acting or not?	8. 'We are responsible for each other.' This shows he is Priestley's mouthpiece to express his views about social responsibility.
9. 'Look, Inspector - I'd give thousands - yes, thousands' He becomes desperate and tries to bribe the inspector to save his damaged reputation.	9. 'Gerald, you've argued this very cleverly, and I'm most grateful.' She is impressed with Gerald for proving the inspector was fake as it saves her reputation	9. 'Mother, I think that was cruel and vile' She gains the confidence to challenge and criticise her parents' selfishness.	9. 'You're beginning to pretend now that nothing's really happened at all.' He's frustrated with parents for being unaffected by Eva's death.	9. 'There isn't any such inspector. We've been had.' He goes out of his way to prove Eva is fake to try and save himself from any blame.	9. 'Each of you helped kill her. Remember that.' This shows he wants everyone to accept they contributed to her death.
10. 'The famous younger generation who know it all and they can't even take a joke.' He mocks his children for caring about Eva and goes on living as if Eva didn't happen.	10. 'They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are.' She sarcastically mocks her children for caring so much about Eva and blames it on tiredness.	10. 'No, not yet. It's too soon. I must think.' She shows her strength and independence by refusing to wear the wedding ring until she has had time to consider her options.	10. 'For God's sake! What does it matter now whether they give you a knighthood or not?' He is angry at his father's desire to escape with his reputation in tact.	10. 'Everything's all right now Sheila. What about this ring?' He mistakenly assumes Sheila will forget what has happened and they can go on like before.	10. 'There are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths' The repetition of 'millions' shows Eva represents the many others who also suffer in society due to inequality.