

GCSE Study - 'An Inspector Calls' - Parental Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and Content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

This unit is thought-provoking and resonates with teachers and students alike; the importance of social responsibility, the key theme in the play. Despite having been written over seventy years ago, its focus on social responsibility and its message that we are 'members of one body' remain relevant, particularly in the light of the polarised politics and divisive rhetoric of current global trends.

Key terminology taught:

- analytical paragraph
- dramatic irony
- emotive imagery
- juxtaposition
- euphemism
- stage direction
- motifs
- theme
- symbolism

Key vocabulary taught:

- communism
- conservatism
- capitalism
- socialism
- hierarchy
- astute
- responsibility
- gender

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Re-read the play
- Summarise each act with five bullet points - showing a clear understanding of the key elements of each act
- Watch one of the films, adaptations, live performance or recorded performance of this play
- Research the context. What was happening in 1912 and what had changed by 1945?
- Research Priestley's life; what influenced him to write about the ideas and themes in his play
- Revise the key terminology and key vocabulary
- Learn key quotations for each character and theme
- Randomly turn to a page in your core texts to analyse. Try to identify the themes shown on this page and explain how they are shown. Your answer could be written up in full paragraphs. Remember you must include terminology (devices), the effect on the reader and text, as well as context and cross-references to other parts of the text
- Create posters with lots of detail on how themes are shown in the text; each character's role/personality - include key quotations for these
- Encourage your child to access the resources on Google Classroom

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What do you think 'Mixed up like bees in a hive' means? Why do you think Priestley decided to use bees in this metaphor? What could the significance be?
- How do you know that you are not part of a domino effect?
- How might things have been different for Eva Smith? What needed to change?

Challenge activities to complete:

- How is 'An Inspector Calls' a morality play disguised as a detective thriller? Make close reference to the text
- Research what a well made play is. How does this form reflect 'An Inspector Calls'?
- How are we addressing inequality in a modern society?

Suggested further reading:

- 'Face' by Benjamin Zephaniah - a story about a teenage boy who suffers facial injuries in a joyriding accident
- 'The Tulip Touch' by Anne Fine - the story raises questions of morality and accountability, as well as exploring the question of nature versus nurture
- 'Two Pence to Cross the Mersey' by Helen Forrester - tells the story of her early life in the north of England with her parents struggling to make ends meet. Despite harsh times Helen struggles to gain an education to give herself a chance in life