

## Analytical Sentence Stems - An Inspector Calls

<p><b>1. Reader response</b></p> <p><i>The reader is caught between...</i></p> <p>The reader is caught between horror at the idea of Eva Smith's death and a desire to assign blame to one or more characters in the play.</p>	<p><b>2. Peeling away the layers of characterisation</b></p> <p><i>On the exterior..., yet on the interior we can infer...</i></p> <p>On the exterior, Gerald appears to be a pleasant and charming man about town, who is in love with Sheila, yet on the interior we can infer that he has a darker past, and is not perhaps as innocent as he would like to suggest.</p>	<p><b>3. Character motives</b></p> <p><i>_____ is motivated not only by... but also by...</i></p> <p>Birling is motivated not only by his desire to 'protect the interest of capital', but also by his desperate need to appear an upstanding and important member of society.</p>	<p><b>4. Character development</b></p> <p><i>By the close of the play the once ... has developed into...</i></p> <p>By the close of the play, the once controlled and childish Sheila has developed into a vocal and passionate advocate for change, siding with the Inspector and ultimately speaking on behalf of JB Priestley.</p>
<p><b>5. Reader positioning</b></p> <p><i>(The writer) positions the reader/audience in favour of /against _____ by...</i></p> <p>Priestley positions the audience against Mr Birling by suggesting that his ideas and predictions are flawed. Through his references to war, industrial unrest and the Titanic, Mr Birling is shown to be an unknowing fool.</p>	<p><b>6. First impressions</b></p> <p><i>Our first impressions of...</i></p> <p>Our first impressions of the Inspector are ones of intrigue and curiosity.</p>	<p><b>7. Weighing up the importance</b></p> <p><i>Even though/although ... , ...</i></p> <p>Even though Eric is initially presented as a silly drunk, it is his development as a character that shows the audience that change is not only possible, but essential for society.</p>	<p><b>8. Deepening analysis</b></p> <p><i>At first glance...; however, on closer inspection....</i></p> <p>At first glance, at the beginning of in Act 1, Mr Birling appears to be completely in control; however, on closer inspection, the audience can already discern his lack of patience with, and knowledge and understanding of his own children.</p>
<p><b>9. Identifying a common thread</b></p> <p><i>Throughout the novel/poem/play...</i></p> <p>Throughout the play, Priestley explores the idea of responsibility and the consequences of individual actions.</p>	<p><b>10. Identifying the main thing</b></p> <p><i>The most important word/sentence/idea/chapter/moment is _____ because...</i></p> <p>The most important word from this quote is "capital" because it allows the audience to understand fully the priority that Mr Birling gives to money.</p>	<p><b>11. Close language analysis</b></p> <p><i>Here, _____ employs the word/phrase ' _____ ' to suggest/imply/reinforce...</i></p> <p>Here, the Inspector employs the word "duty" to imply that he places 'duty' and responsibility above social norms and niceties.</p>	<p><b>12. Exemplifying an idea through a character/setting/event</b></p> <p><i>_____ reveals her/his belief in _____ through her/his description of...</i></p> <p>Priestley reveals his belief in the importance of society through his description of how Eva Smith's life was devastated by the individual actions of the Birling family.</p>
<p><b>13. Contrast</b></p> <p><i>Although both writers/characters... , they...</i></p> <p>Although both Eva Smith and Sheila Birling are pretty young women living in the same town, they are shown to have very different lives - Sheila lives a happy, easy life surrounded by material wealth, whereas Eva lives a hard, unforgiving and ultimately exploited existence.</p>	<p><b>14. Noting subtleties</b></p> <p><i>Here, the writer cleverly...</i></p> <p>Here, Priestley cleverly hints that both Eric and Gerald have some sinister or sordid event in their pasts, potentially linked to a relationship of some kind.</p>	<p><b>15. Proposing a tentative idea</b></p> <p><i>Perhaps, (writer's name) was hinting that ...</i></p> <p>Perhaps Priestley was hinting that human beings are no different from insects or 'bees in a hive'.</p>	<p><b>16. Contrasting alternative viewpoints</b></p> <p><i>Some readers might propose that...; other readers, however, might argue...</i></p> <p>Some views might propose that Priestley wanted to criticise the capitalist society in which he lived; other viewers, however, might argue that he was simply creating an engaging and fun murder mystery or 'whodunnit'.</p>