

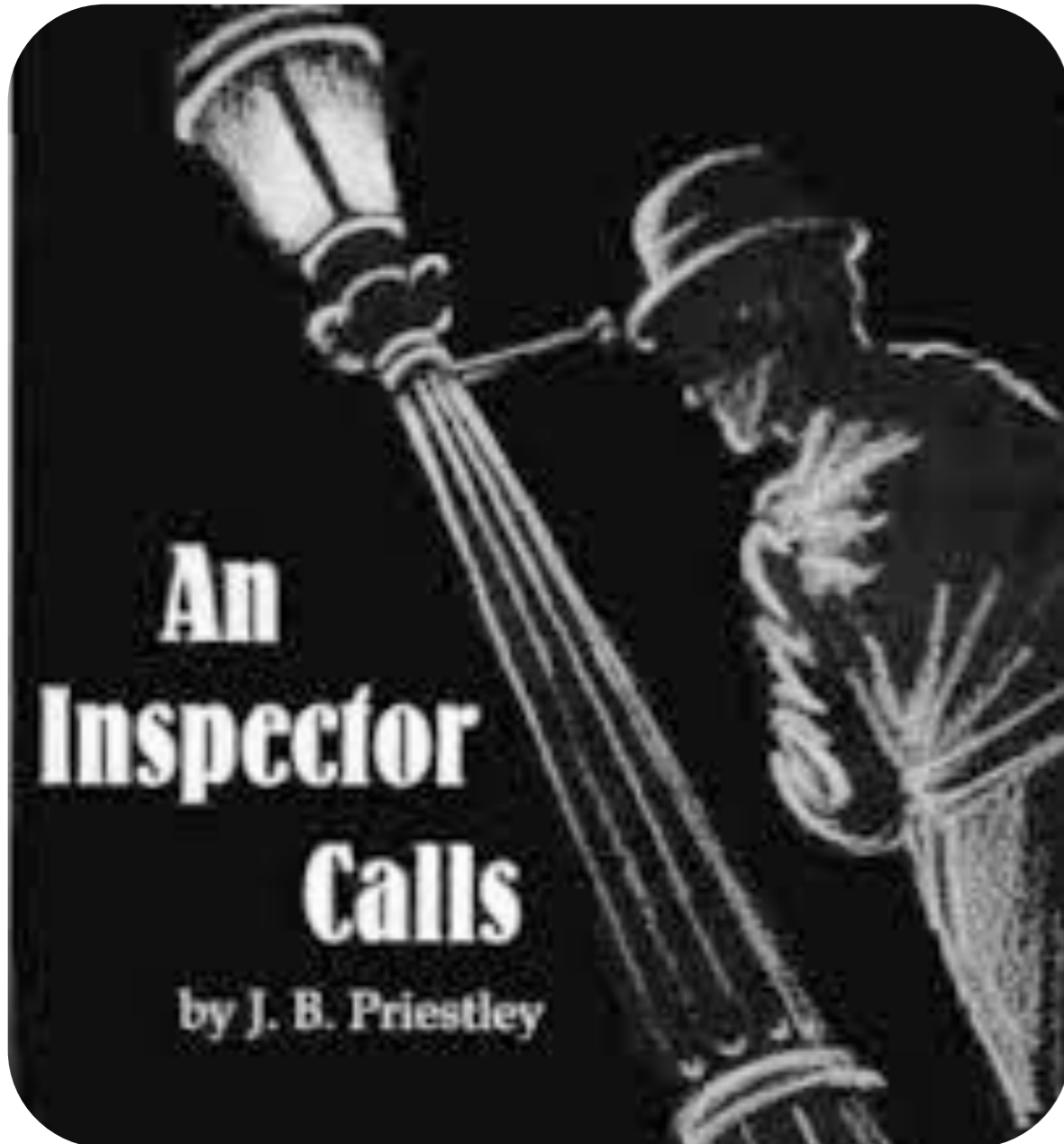
An Inspector Calls

J.B. Priestley

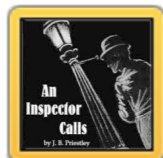


PREFACE

COVERS - POSTERS



Discuss the covers and speculate



A) SETTING

- Where? When? Historical background?

B) CHARACTERS

- List all the characters and be able to write a character profile for each of them

C) ABOUT THE AUTHOR

1914 - 1918

Priestley serves on the front line in France - he is wounded and gassed

1922

He begins work as a journalist

1926

The *General Strike* hits British industry. This has a great impact on Priestley.

1934

He travels through the poor parts of Britain to write *English Journey*

1945

He writes *An Inspector Calls* (set in 1912)

ACT ONE

KEY MOMENTS

1. Analyse the importance of Priestley's stage directions
2. Comment on the lifestyle of the Birling family
3. Discuss gender roles
4. Establish the relationships between the characters
5. What do Gerald and Mr Birling discuss when alone
6. Examine Mr Birling's philosophy of life
7. First impression - what do you make of the inspector?
8. Discuss Mr Birling's and the inspector's mind games
9. What is *causality*? Why is it a relevant concept here?
10. Summarise the tragedy of Eva Smith
11. Analyse how each character reacts to the news
12. Who is Daisy Renton?
13. What is *foreshadowing*? Why is it relevant here?
14. Speculate - how will the story develop?



ACT TWO

KEY MOMENTS

1. Discuss the argument between Sheila and Gerald at the beginning of Act Two
2. Summarise Gerald's involvement with Daisy Renton
3. How does Sheila react to these revelations?
4. Contrast Mrs Birling with Sheila
5. Comment on the way Mrs Birling treats the inspector
6. Which secrets about Eric come to light?
7. Describe the inspector's questioning technique and comment on the way he treats the Birling family
8. Summarise Mrs Birling's involvement and explain why she refused to help the girl
9. In how far are the characters' reactions to the dark secrets of the family different?
10. Who does Mrs Birling blame for the girl's tragic death?

ACT THREE


KEY MOMENTS

1. Discuss Eric's involvement and how he treated the girl
2. Prove that the inspector has become more powerful than Mr Birling in his own house
3. How did Eric betray his family's trust?
4. Why did the girl not take advantage of Eric and how does this cast a bad light on Mrs Birling?
5. Briefly summarise how each member of the family is somehow responsible for the girl's death
6. Analyse and comment on the inspector's final speech
7. What is Mr Birling most concerned about after the guilt of each member of the family has been established?
8. Explore the different reactions regarding the family's responsibility once more
9. What do they find out about the inspector? How?
10. Does this revelation have an impact on the family?
11. Discuss the ending

PERSONAL OPINION


1. What is (are) the message(s) of this play?
2. Who or what was the inspector in your eyes? Give evidence for your theory.
3. Discuss the way J.B. Priestley presents the following themes:

 *Personal responsibility*

 *Justice and equality*

 *Greed*


 *Love*

 *Masters and servants*

4. Find instances of the following literary devices in the play:

 *Symbolism / Imagery*

 *Irony*

 *Euphemism*