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INSPECTOR CALL CHARACTER:

Inspector Goole is a pivotal character in J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. He catalyses the play's central revelations and embodies the themes of social responsibility and moral integrity. Here is a detailed description of the Inspector's character:

1. Mysterious and Enigmatic

Character Overview: Inspector Goole's mysterious and enigmatic nature is one of his defining features. His sudden appearance and the ambiguity surrounding his identity contribute to the play's tension and thematic depth.

- **Uncertain Identity:** The Inspector's name, "Goole," suggests a ghostly or supernatural presence, which enhances his role as a moral enforcer and social commentator. His origins, personal background, and even his true nature remain unclear throughout the play.
 - **Quote:** "I'm not going until I've had my say."

This insistence on staying until he has fulfilled his role emphasises his determination and the sense of inevitability associated with his character.

2. Moral Authority

Character Overview: The Inspector embodies moral authority and serves as the voice of ethical conscience in the play. His role is to challenge the characters' moral values and expose their social failings.

- **Moral Judgement:** Inspector Goole's questions and observations compel the characters to confront their actions and their consequences. He operates as a moral arbiter, forcing the Birlings and Gerald Croft to reflect on their responsibility for Eva Smith's death.
 - **Quote:** "We are responsible for each other."

This quote encapsulates the Inspector's central moral message about collective social responsibility and the interconnectedness of human actions.

3. Determined and Persistent

Character Overview: The Inspector is portrayed as determined and persistent, qualities that drive the investigation forward and ensure that the characters face the truth.

- **Relentless Inquiry:** His methodical and unyielding approach to questioning reveals the depth of his commitment to uncovering the truth. He does not easily accept evasive answers and insists on thorough responses from each character.
 - **Quote:** "I don't play golf."

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This seemingly trivial statement highlights the Inspector's focus on the matter at hand and his disregard for the social distractions or preoccupations that might otherwise divert the conversation.

4. Symbolic Role

Character Overview: Inspector Goole serves a symbolic role in the play, representing broader themes of social justice, moral responsibility, and societal reform.

- **Symbol of Social Conscience:** The Inspector's role extends beyond that of a mere investigator. He symbolises the voice of social conscience and the moral imperative to address social inequalities and injustices.
 - **Quote:** "There are millions and millions and millions of Eva Smiths and John Smiths still left with us."

This statement underscores the Inspector's symbolic role in representing the broader suffering of the working class and the need for societal change.

5. Impact on Characters

Character Overview: The Inspector's interactions with each character reveal their true nature and have a profound impact on their self-perception and behaviour.

- **Sheila Birling:** The Inspector's questioning leads Sheila to a deeper understanding of her moral shortcomings and prompts her to accept responsibility for her actions. She becomes more socially aware and critical of her family's values.
 - **Quote:** "I'm not a child. I have a right to know."

Sheila's assertion of her right to know the truth reflects her transformation and growth as a character.

- **Arthur Birling:** The Inspector's interrogation reveals Arthur's stubbornness and resistance to accepting responsibility. Birling's attempts to dismiss and discredit the Inspector highlight his commitment to maintaining his social status and his inability to confront his own moral failings.
 - **Quote:** "I don't like your tone."

Arthur Birling's reaction to the Inspector's tone illustrates his discomfort with being challenged and his unwillingness to face the implications of his actions.

- **Sybil Birling:** The Inspector's questioning exposes Sybil's rigid and self-righteous attitudes. Her refusal to accept any blame or acknowledge her role in Eva's suffering underscores her moral blindness and adherence to class prejudices.
 - **Quote:** "I accept no blame for it at all."

Sybil's denial of responsibility reflects her failure to grasp the broader moral implications of her actions.

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- **Gerald Croft:** The Inspector's revelations about Gerald's affair with Eva Smith lead to a reevaluation of Gerald's character and his relationship with Sheila. The Inspector's questions force Gerald to confront his own actions and their impact on others.
 - **Quote:** "She was young and pretty and warm-hearted."

Gerald's description of Eva reflects his conflicted feelings about his actions and the impact of the Inspector's revelations on his self-perception.

ROLE OF INSPECTOR IN EVA SMITH DEATH:

In J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*, Inspector Goole plays a crucial role in revealing the truth behind Eva Smith's death and the broader social implications of the Birling family's actions. Although he does not directly cause Eva's death, his investigation and interrogation of the Birlings and Gerald Croft are pivotal in uncovering the connections between Eva's tragic fate and the characters' moral failings. Here's a detailed exploration of the Inspector's role:

1. Catalyst for Revelation

Role Overview: Inspector Goole catalyses the revelation of the connections between the characters and Eva Smith's death. His questioning techniques force each character to confront their involvement in her demise, thereby unravelling the truth and highlighting the play's central themes.

Exposing Connections: The Inspector methodically reveals how each character's actions contributed to Eva's downfall. By questioning each member of the Birling family and Gerald Croft, he uncovers the chain of events leading to Eva's tragic end.

- **Structured Interrogation:** The Inspector's interrogation is systematic, starting with Sheila and progressing through the family members and Gerald. This structured approach helps to reveal the cumulative effect of their actions on Eva's life.
 - **Quote:** "You're offering money at a time when a girl's been burnt alive."

The Inspector's statement here emphasizes the inappropriateness of offering money as a form of compensation for the moral and emotional damage inflicted on Eva, highlighting the futility of material compensation in addressing moral failures.

2. Moral Conscience and Social Critique

Role Overview: Inspector Goole acts as the moral conscience of the play, challenging the characters' attitudes towards social responsibility and individual actions. His interrogation serves as a critique of the social and moral standards of the time.

Confronting Hypocrisy: The Inspector's questions and statements force the characters to confront their hypocrisy and moral shortcomings. His role is to expose the contradictions between their public personas and their private actions.

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- **Revealing Double Standards:** The Inspector's probing reveals the double standards and moral blindness of the upper class. He exposes how the Birlings and Gerald Croft prioritize their social status and self-interest over the well-being of others.
 - **Quote:** "We are responsible for each other."

This quote encapsulates the Inspector's central message about social responsibility. By emphasizing collective responsibility, he challenges the characters' individualistic and self-serving attitudes.

3. Symbolic Role

Role Overview: Inspector Goole functions as a symbolic figure representing moral authority and social justice. His enigmatic nature and how he delivers his messages imbue him with a symbolic significance beyond that of a mere investigator.

An embodiment of Social Justice: The Inspector's role is symbolic of the broader social conscience that challenges the moral complacency of the characters. His presence serves to enforce a moral reckoning and urge for social reform.

- **Enigmatic Nature:** The Inspector's mysterious and almost supernatural presence enhances his symbolic role. His name, Goole, suggests a ghostly figure, and his insistence on moral responsibility emphasizes the play's critique of social ethics.
 - **Quote:** "I think you'll find that the Inspector is going to stay."

His statement about the Inspector's persistence symbolizes the unavoidable nature of moral reckoning and the need for the characters to face their actions' consequences.

4. Impact on Characters

Role Overview: The Inspector's impact on the characters varies, but he generally leads to a significant transformation in their attitudes and behaviours. His role is instrumental in catalysing personal growth and self-awareness among the characters.

Sheila's Transformation: Sheila Birling experiences a profound change in her attitudes and values as a result of the Inspector's revelations. She moves from being a naive and sheltered young woman to someone who acknowledges her moral failings and takes responsibility for her actions.

- **Acceptance of Responsibility:** Sheila's response to the Inspector's questioning demonstrates her growth and acceptance of responsibility, in contrast to her family's denial and evasion.
 - **Quote:** "I'm not a child. I've a right to know."

Sheila's insistence on understanding the truth reflects her emerging sense of maturity and responsibility.

Arthur Birling's Resistance: Arthur Birling's reaction to the Inspector's revelations is one of denial and resistance. He fails to acknowledge his role in Eva's death and clings to his beliefs in individualism and self-interest.

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- **Dismissal of Accountability:** Birling's dismissal of the Inspector's message and his attempts to discredit him highlight his refusal to accept responsibility and his commitment to maintaining his social status.
 - **Quote:** "I don't like your tone."

Birling's comment reflects his discomfort with being challenged and his unwillingness to confront the implications of his actions.

Sybil Birling's Denial: Sybil Birling's interaction with the Inspector reveals her rigid and self-righteous attitudes. She refuses to accept any personal responsibility and remains unmoved by the Inspector's revelations.

- **Self-Righteous Attitude:** Sybil's refusal to acknowledge her role in Eva's plight underscores her moral blindness and adherence to social prejudices.
 - **Quote:** "I accept no blame for it at all."

Sybil's denial of responsibility demonstrates her failure to comprehend the broader implications of her actions.

5. Conclusion

Summary: Inspector Goole's role in *An Inspector Calls* is multifaceted. He acts as a catalyst for revealing the truth about Eva Smith's death, a moral conscience challenging the characters' ethical perspectives, and a symbolic figure representing social justice and responsibility. Through his investigation and interactions, he exposes the characters' complicity in Eva's demise and forces them to confront their moral shortcomings. His impact on the characters serves as a vehicle for exploring the play's themes of social responsibility, class inequality, and the need for moral introspection.

THEMES LINKED WITH INSPECTOR CALL:

1. Social Responsibility:

- **Inspector Goole:**
 - The Inspector embodies the theme of social responsibility. He challenges each character to recognize their role in the collective welfare of society.
 - His message emphasizes the interconnectedness of individuals and the moral duty to consider the consequences of one's actions on others.

2. Class Prejudice and Social Inequality:

- **Mrs. Birling:**
 - Mrs. Birling represents the theme of class prejudice. Her judgmental attitude towards Eva Smith based on social class is evident in her interactions at the charity organization.

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- Her refusal to offer help contributes to the perpetuation of social inequality and the mistreatment of those considered lower in status.

3. Capitalism and Exploitation:

• Mr. Birling:

- Mr. Birling embodies the theme of capitalism. His dismissive attitude toward workers' rights and his role in Eva's dismissal from the factory highlights the exploitation prevalent in the capitalist system.
- His character represents the callousness of those who prioritize profit over the well-being of the working class.

4. Guilt and Consequences:

• Sheila Birling:

- Sheila experiences guilt and remorse as the Inspector reveals her role in Eva's tragedy. Her character reflects the theme of individual responsibility and the consequences of one's actions.
- Her transformation throughout the play underscores the potential for personal growth and redemption.

5. Time and Consequences:

• Inspector Goole:

- The Inspector introduces the theme of time through his knowledge of future events. His statements about the Titanic and World War I create a sense of inevitability and foreshadowing.
- This theme emphasizes the idea that actions in the past have far-reaching consequences into the future.

6. Deception and Hypocrisy:

• Gerald Croft:

- Gerald's engagement to Sheila and subsequent affair with Eva Smith reveal the theme of deception and hypocrisy. His double life exposes the façade maintained by the upper class.
- Gerald's actions contribute to the critique of the moral inconsistencies within the societal structure.

7. Family Dynamics:

• The Birling Family:

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- The interactions among the Birlings showcase the theme of family dynamics. The revelation of each family member's involvement with Eva Smith unravels the façade of respectability and unity.
- The disintegration of family bonds underlines the broader societal critique presented by Priestley.
- **DEALING WITH OTHER CHARACTERS:**

Inspector Goole's dealings with each character in J.B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* are pivotal in revealing their roles in Eva Smith's death and emphasizing the play's themes of social responsibility and moral accountability. Here's a detailed analysis of how the Inspector interacts with each character:

1. Inspector Goole's Dealing with Arthur Birling

Approach and Strategy: The Inspector approaches Arthur Birling with a mix of formality and challenge, focusing on exposing Birling's moral and social shortcomings. Arthur represents the older generation's complacency and self-interest, and the Inspector's questioning aims to confront these traits.

- **Confronting Complacency:** The Inspector challenges Birling's self-satisfied attitudes and resistance to acknowledging his role in Eva Smith's suffering. Birling's focus on social status and success contrasts sharply with the Inspector's insistence on moral responsibility.
 - **Quote:** "It's my duty to ask questions."

The Inspector asserts his authority and purpose, emphasizing his role in uncovering the truth and holding Birling accountable.

- **Highlighting Self-Interest:** The Inspector's interrogation reveals Birling's self-serving nature and lack of genuine concern for others. Birling's dismissive attitude towards the Inspector's probing questions underscores his moral blindness.
 - **Quote:** "I don't like your tone."

Birling's reaction to the Inspector's tone reflects his discomfort with being questioned and his unwillingness to face his moral failings.

2. Inspector Goole's Dealing with Sybil Birling

Approach and Strategy: The Inspector's dealings with Sybil Birling are marked by a direct and probing approach, aimed at exposing her rigid attitudes and lack of empathy. Sybil represents the older generation's moral rigidity and class prejudices.

- **Exposing Prejudices:** The Inspector's questioning reveals Sybil's prejudiced views and her refusal to accept any responsibility for Eva Smith's plight. Sybil's denial and self-righteousness are brought to light through the Inspector's persistent inquiries.
 - **Quote:** "I accept no blame for it at all."

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Sybil's refusal to accept responsibility highlights her moral blindness and adherence to outdated social norms.

- **Challenging Self-Righteousness:** The Inspector's interactions with Sybil emphasize the contrast between her self-righteous attitudes and the reality of her actions. He forces her to confront the consequences of her refusal to provide help to Eva Smith.
 - **Quote:** "You know very well that the girl in question..."

The Inspector's insistence on the truth reveals Sybil's lack of genuine concern for the individuals affected by her decisions.

3. Inspector Goole's Dealing with Sheila Birling

Approach and Strategy: The Inspector's approach to Sheila Birling is more empathetic and direct, reflecting her potential for growth and self-awareness. Sheila represents the younger generation's capacity for moral change.

- **Encouraging Self-Reflection:** The Inspector's questioning leads Sheila to a deeper understanding of her own role in Eva Smith's suffering. He encourages her to reflect on her actions and their impact on others.
 - **Quote:** "I don't know what you're talking about. But I can see that you're not the same person."

Sheila's realization of her transformation and acceptance of responsibility is facilitated by the Inspector's probing questions.

- **Facilitating Growth:** The Inspector's interactions with Sheila show his recognition of her potential for change and moral awakening. He contrasts her willingness to accept responsibility with the evasiveness of other characters.
 - **Quote:** "I'm not a child. I've a right to know."

Sheila's assertion of her right to know reflects her maturity and willingness to confront the truth.

4. Inspector Goole's Dealing with Gerald Croft

Approach and Strategy: The Inspector deals with Gerald Croft by focusing on his involvement with Eva Smith and the implications of his actions. Gerald's relationship with Eva represents a form of exploitation and moral ambiguity.

- **Revealing Infidelity:** The Inspector's questions reveal Gerald's affair with Eva Smith and the impact of his actions on her life. He forces Gerald to confront the nature of his relationship with Eva and its consequences.
 - **Quote:** "She was young and pretty and warm-hearted."

Gerald's description of Eva highlights his conflicted feelings and the impact of the Inspector's revelations on his self-perception.

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- **Challenging Morality:** The Inspector's interrogation challenges Gerald's moral stance and forces him to reevaluate his actions. The Inspector's persistent questioning underscores the ethical implications of Gerald's behaviour.
 - **Quote:** "You knew her, didn't you?"

The Inspector's direct questioning exposes Gerald's attempts to conceal the truth and highlights the moral dimensions of his actions.

5. Inspector Goole's Overall Approach

Role Overview: The Inspector's overall approach combines formal authority with a moral imperative, driving the play's central themes of social responsibility and ethical behaviour. His interactions with each character reveal their moral failings and contribute to the play's critique of societal norms.

- **Systematic Interrogation:** The Inspector's methodical questioning is designed to uncover the truth and reveal the interconnectedness of the characters' actions and Eva Smith's death. His approach is systematic and unyielding, ensuring that each character faces the consequences of their behaviour.
- **Moral Confrontation:** The Inspector's role extends beyond mere investigation; he serves as a moral force that challenges the characters to confront their ethical shortcomings and reconsider their social responsibilities.

CONCLUSION:

Inspector Goole is a complex and multifaceted character in *An Inspector Calls*. His mysterious nature, moral authority, determination, and symbolic role make him central to the play's exploration of social responsibility, ethical behaviour, and societal reform. Through his interactions with the Birlings and Gerald Croft, the Inspector drives the narrative forward and challenges the characters to confront their moral failings. His impact on the characters and the unfolding events underscores the play's critique of social injustice and the need for personal and collective accountability.