Gender

Background
- 1912 setting — suffragettes
- Play written at the end of the Second World War
- All women gained vote in Britain in 1928, after which attitudes to women in the workplace changed

Sheila
- Liberal attitude — wants to hear what Gerald says about his affair and about Eric's involvement with Eva

Mr Birling
- Traditional attitudes towards gender roles and women
- Wants to shield Sheila from Gerald's affair
- Tells Sheila to take Mrs Birling out when Eric talks about his involvement with Eva Smith
- Does not know about Joe Meggarty and is shocked with reference to 'women of the town'

The Inspector
- Tells Mr Birling that his daughter is not living on the moon
- Asks us to put ourselves in 'these young women's place'
- Criticises Mrs Birling's harsh treatment of Eva by calling on her as a mother

Gerald
- Described as 'wonderful fairy prince' by Sheila
- Rescues Eva Smith from Joe Meggarty
- Appears to want to shield Sheila from news of his affair
- Breaks it off with Eva once he has had his fun

Eric
- Represents younger generation and more liberal attitudes
- Views Eva as a good sport
- Forces himself on Eva but later feels guilty

© PHILIP ALLAN UPDATES