

## Mr Birling Model Analytical Paragraph

**Directions for Teacher:** Make one copy of Part One of this handout for each group of students and then cut on the dotted lines to create statement strips for the activity. Place each set of statement strips into an envelope to distribute to groups during class. As the order is random, you can ask students to cut up the sheet themselves. After the students have completed the sorting activity, project or pass out Part Two of this handout.

### Part One: Sentence Sort



Birling interrupts his speech celebrating the engagement of Sheila, his daughter, and Gerald to discuss the business benefits such a union would bring, stating that he 'look[s] forward to the time when Crofts and Birlings ... are working together – for lower costs and higher prices'.

A critical view of him, and others like him, is formed – how can one who is so selfish when it comes to family be expected to behave considerately towards those they have no tie to?

He wants to maximise his profit, whilst keeping those in the 'workforce' in their submissive position, further entrenching the class and wealth divide, and enabling the capitalists to profit at the expense of the majority.

His view here is clear – he sees not love and happiness as the most important elements of this marriage, but profit and personal gain.

The audience realise that Birling, in a manner akin to Priestley's view of the other capitalists he represents, prizes financial connections over human ones.

The character of Birling seems to prize business and financial gain over family relationships.

Through the character of Birling, we see Priestley's aversion to rampant capitalism and, by proxy, engage with his socialist views that demand a more equal society.

In the opening of *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley presents Birling as selfish and inconsiderate in his behaviour as a father and in his role as a factory owner.

Birling's selfish nature is reinforced by his wish to see 'lower costs' and 'higher prices'.

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### Part Two: The Complete Paragraph

- Claim
- Placement of evidence in the context of the play
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Zoom
- Link to context
- Impact on audience

In the opening of *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley presents Birling as selfish and inconsiderate in his behaviour as a father and in his role as a factory owner. The character of Birling seems to prize business and financial gain over family relationships. Birling interrupts his speech celebrating the engagement of Sheila, his daughter, and Gerald to discuss the business benefits such a union would bring, stating that he 'look[s] forward to the time when Crofts and Birlings... are working together – for lower costs and higher prices'. His view here is clear – he sees not love and happiness as the most important elements of this marriage, but profit and personal gain. The audience realise that Birling, in a manner akin to Priestley's view of the other capitalists he represents, prizes financial connections over human ones. A critical view of him, and others like him, is formed – how can one who is so selfish when it comes to family be expected to behave considerately towards those they have no tie to? Birling's selfish nature is reinforced by his wish to see 'lower costs' and 'higher prices'. He wants to maximise his profit, whilst keeping those in the 'workforce' in their submissive position, further entrenching the class and wealth divide, and enabling the capitalists to profit at the expense of the majority. Through the character of Birling, we see Priestley's aversion to rampant capitalism and, by proxy, engage with his socialist views that demand a more equal society.