An Inspector Calls (by John B. Priestley)

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by John B. Priestley

Author:

John Boynton Priestley was born on 13th September, 1894, and died on 14th August, 1984. He was an English novelist, playwright as well as broadcaster and published 27 novels such as Sir Michael and Sir George (1964) and I have been here before (1937).

Content:

This story takes place in Brumley, a fictive town in England, in 1912. The Birling family is celebrating the engagement of Sheila Birling to Gerald Croft, when an inspector called Goole suddenly arrives and tells them that a girl named Eva Smith has committed suicide. The
inspector starts interrogating all family members to find out if they have anything to do with this case of death.

The story is split up into three acts. In the first act, the inspector finds out that it is Mr. Birling, who was responsible for Eva's losing her job at his factory. Moreover, Sheila accidentally gives away that she was extremely jealous of Eva. Then, Inspector Google informs the Birling family that Ms. Smith changed her name to Daisy Renton at some stage of her life. That's exactly when Gerald Croft becomes nervous. It turns out that he had an affair with Ms. Renton last summer. What about Mrs Birling and Sheila's brother Eric? Did they have a hand in the apparent suicide? Read this book and find out the real cause of death.

Recommendation:

I have read An Inspector Calls in class and I can really recommend it to students in grades 10 and 11. Difficult words are explained at the bottom of each page and there are also some comprehension questions at the end of the book.