

An Inspector Calls – The Chat Show: Who is to blame?

In groups prepare a 'Jeremy Kyle' style debate on who is to blame. Each of you must present a particular point of view at first, but you must also listen and respond to the arguments of others.

In this activity you will need to show that:

1. You have thought about the plot
2. You have used the play to get ideas about what to say and what your character thinks.
3. You can listen to others and present your case clearly.

If in a group each student can play a different character. While the Chat Show is on you will have to listen carefully to what is happening and answer questions as your character would.

If working independently then you can work through each character to argue and persuade for and against who is responsible through text/quotes from the novel. When doing this you will find that you may contradict your argument from character to character.

"To back up your view, find some good quotes from the novel that will strengthen your argument".



Characters

Chat Show Host	He or she must manage the argument so that everybody gets to speak, and steer the debates where necessary.
Mr Birling	'That wretched girl has been nothing but trouble...'
Sheila	'It's the only time I've ever done anything like that...'
Gerald	'I didn't feel about her as she felt about me...'
Mrs Birling	'I did nothing I'm ashamed of...'
Eric	'And I didn't even remember – that's the hellish thing...'
The Inspector	'Each of you is guilty...'
The Audience	Can question the above characters, and argue their point of view.

Start with the suggested points, but obviously you will need to really develop these if you are to argue your case effectively.

- Mr Birling – He set Eva off on her destructive path...
- Gerald – He broke Eva's heart...
- Mrs Birling – She refused Eva help when she was desperate...
- Eva herself – She allowed herself to get in a mess...

Make sure you:

Make a significant contribution

Engage with the ideas of others – build on and challenge where possible.

Promote a point of view – be persuasive

Speak fluently & purposefully

Always listen closely