

Mrs Birling's and attitudes towards women.

Learning Outcome

To explore how Mrs Birling presents attitudes towards women at the time and how women have accepted this position in society.

Analyse how Mrs Birling uses language to conform to the expectations that society has put on women.

'Mothers should lead their daughters to become well rounded and independent women'.

What do you think of this statement? (Tick box)

Agree

Disagree

Explain why...

Now look at the following statement from Mrs Birling in Act One (pg.3).

Mrs Birling: *'Now Sheila, don't tease him. When you're married you'll realise that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on their business. You'll have to get used to that'.*

What does Mrs Birling's speech reveal about the way women were treated at the time and how she feels about this treatment?

Another statement from Mrs Birling in Act One (pg.5).

Mrs Birling: *(smiling)* 'Well, it came just at the right moment. That was clever of you, Gerald. Now Arthur, if you've no more to say, I think Sheila and I had better go into the drawing room and leave you men'

What does Mrs Birling's speech reveal about the way women were treated at the time and how she feels about this treatment?

Why do you think she is happy? What is she happy about?

Mrs Birling: (*smiling*) Well, it came just at the right moment. **That was clever of you, Gerald.** Now, Arthur, if you've no more to say, **I think Sheila and I had better go into the drawing room and leave you men'**

Praising Gerald & his abilities.

Show she is aware of her place in the family & the position that she should have in the household. This suggests she has accepted attitudes towards women at the time & is now passing them onto her daughter.

How does Priestley show Mrs Birling's attitudes towards the treatment of women at the time?

