

# Character Descriptions

## *An Inspector Calls*

### **Men**

- Arthur Birling – family patriarch, successful businessman. Worked his way up from a lower-class upbringing. Imperious, but still able to appreciate the merits of having a good time.
- Eric Birling – youngest member of the family, still trying to find his way in life. He's acquired a significant drinking problem.
- Gerald Croft – family friend, recently engaged to Sheila. He's a better fit to be Arthur's son than Eric is, and that's perhaps part of Sheila's attraction to him.

### **Women**

- Sybil Birling – family matriarch. The script indicates she's her husband's social superior, so she works hard to make sure the family attains its stature. She's rich and always has been. She's also cold and sort of a bitch, and probably always has been.
- Sheila Birling – the Birlings' eldest child, recently engaged to Gerald. She's her mother's daughter in some ways, but not nearly as cold.
- Edna – the family's maid. She's lower-class, and knows her place. [This character's stage time will be significantly increased in production.]

### **Flexible (may be cast as either male or female)**

- Inspector Goole – an interrogator who comes to the house with a distinct agenda. We're not always sure what his/her motives are, though s/he does have a knack for getting people to reveal information. S/He's a figure who instantly commands respect from others.