

Act 3

The end of this play would have been hard-hitting with an audience that had seen two world wars, but the characters had not yet seen any. Here are some facts about 1945 when the play was published. Consider them in comparison to the present day. How are the time periods different?

- The Second World War ended in Europe on 8 May 1945. People were recovering from nearly six years of warfare, danger and uncertainty.
- Class distinctions had been greatly reduced as a result of two world wars.
- As a result of the wars, women had earned a more valued place in society.
- There was a great desire for social change. Immediately after The Second World War, Clement Attlee's Labour Party won a landslide victory over Winston Churchill and the Conservatives.
- In 1945, only 2% of under twenty-fives were classed as illiterate.
- The Education Act in 1944 gave every child free education to the age of 15.
- Women still only earned around 55% of the wage a man was paid for the same job.

Task

An Inspector Calls actually follows a **classical Greek drama** format. The **exposition** (or opening) offers a gentle introduction and sets the scene as well as introducing the characters. The **entrances and exits** serve to raise the tension, and are perfectly timed. There are multiple '**obligatory scenes**', which are moments when secrets are revealed to add to the drama. The **climactic curtain** is when an act ends in a cliffhanger for effect. A play of this type also thrives on the idea of **mistaken identity**. Finally, the **denouement** (or ending) is logical and plausible.

Explore the features of this play in the table below:

Structural point	Moment in <i>An Inspector Calls</i>	How is this significant?
The exposition		
Entrances and exits		
Obligatory scenes		
Climactic curtain		
Mistaken identity		
The denouement		

Task

The following roles are usually found in a classical Greek drama format:

- **Protagonist** - The lead hero
- **Antagonist** - The lead villain
- **Deuteragonist** - Swaps roles to side with either protagonist or antagonist
- **Antihero** - A good character that may have done bad things/a villainous but likeable character
- **Foil** - a character who contrasts with another character in order to highlight particular qualities of the other character



Explore these character roles in terms of the play:

	Classical Greek role	Why?
Inspector Goole		
Eva Smith		
Mr Birling		
Mrs Birling		
Sheila		
Eric		
Gerald		
Edna		