## The main idea

Goole replaces the host’s social authority with moral scrutiny. His uncertain identity does not remove the force of what the family learns.

## Character development

Act 1: takes control: He interrupts Birling’s individualist advice. Questions, pauses and the photograph displace the host’s control of the room; official status matters less than his ability to expose consequences.

Act 2: links the accounts: Separate decisions become connected. He challenges Gerald’s defence and Mrs Birling’s charity judgement. Each disclosure makes another apparently respectable person answerable.

Act 3: leaves a test: His final speech demands mutual responsibility. After he leaves, Sheila and Eric retain the lesson while others seek an escape. The final telephone call makes evasion unsafe again.

## “solidity and purposefulness”

Priestley's Act 1 stage direction describing Goole's first entrance

The stage direction gives the actor an assured, deliberate presence; it does not require unusual physical size.

## “members of one body”

Inspector Goole, Act 3 final speech

The later body metaphor makes society interdependent.

## “One person”

Goole, Act 1, controlling the investigation

Repetition of one insists on an ordered inquiry. Showing the photograph separately gives him control over knowledge and creates uncertainty for the audience.

## “millions and millions”

Goole, Act 3, final speech

Repetition expands one case into a social pattern. His speech shifts from particular admissions towards a demand for collective responsibility.

## Connections

Responsibility: duty extends beyond one household. Power: he challenges wealth with moral authority. Eva: her absence makes him the organiser of testimony. Birling: competing ideas of society shape their conflict.

## Develop the interpretation

A production can make him seem official, supernatural or unsettlingly ordinary. Keep the identity debate separate from the evidence of the family’s conduct.

## Recall question

Why does the final phone call prevent the family from comfortably dismissing his lesson?