SHEILA BIRLING

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

Sheila's development is visible in what she does after the Inspector leaves. Her insight survives the attempt to explain the evening away.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Enjoys privilege › **2** Admits misuse of power › **3** Recognises the pattern › **4** Maintains moral independence

COMFORT GIVES WAY TO ACKNOWLEDGED RESPONSIBILITY

"very pleased with life"

Priestley's opening Act 1 stage direction about Sheila

PAIRED WITH

"I'm ashamed of it"

Sheila, Act 3: acknowledging her conduct after the Inspector leaves

METHOD → MEANING

The opening direction places her within the family's comfortable celebration. Her later admission keeps attention on what she did, even while her parents worry about scandal. The change in dramatic presentation supports an argument about growing moral independence; remorse does not undo the harm of her complaint at Milwards.

TRACE THE CHARACTER THROUGH THE DRAMA

Privilege misused

Her complaint at Milwards uses customer status to damage a worker's livelihood. Beginning with that act makes the later learning morally significant.

Learning to read the room

She recognises the pattern of the questioning and warns the family against evasions. Her speech becomes less dependent on her parents' judgement.

The engagement reconsidered

Refusing to return immediately to the old arrangement gives her changed understanding a practical consequence. Remorse becomes an independent decision.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

She changes substantially but is not innocent at the beginning. An argument about learning needs the shop incident as well as her later moral clarity.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

Which decisions show Sheila learning independently of Goole's presence?