

Compare and contrast the different generation's response to the Inspector

The different characters in 'an inspector calls' fall within different generation categories. The young being Eric and Sheila, the old being Arthur and Sybil and Gerald who lies in between these two. They all have differing reactions to the inspector's presence and I believe the link is in their ages or generations.

An Inspector Calls was written in 1946 but set in 1912. At a time when capitalism was ruling the country and people like Arthur Birling effectively rule the country. The setting of the play was very significant as it allowed the use of dramatic irony, especially when Birling speaks about the future. "We're in a time for a time of steadily increasing prosperity". As the audience knew what the future held for the people in the play they get an instant dislike for Birling as an arrogant, capitalist factory owner.

The younger generation, Eric and Sheila respond to the inspector's presence very differently to their parents. Sheila responds to the inspector's interrogation very honestly and openly. "(Miserably) so I'm really responsible?" Instantly she accepts the blame and places it all on herself. This is a perfect example of how the younger generation reacts to the inspector. They don't lash out at him or try and shift the blame; they understand their part and accept the blame. Eric's response is later in the play but similar. "You know don't you?" This quote comes from the beginning of act three