

Mr Birling Model Analytical Paragraph Sentence Sort

Directions for Teacher: Make one copy of Part One of this handout for each group of students and then cut on the dotted lines to create statement strips for the activity. Place each set of statement strips into an envelope to distribute to groups during class. As the order is random, you can ask students to cut up the sheet themselves. After the students have completed the sorting activity, project or pass out Part Two of this handout.

Part One: Sentence Sort



Indeed, it could even lead them to question the capitalist system which Birling represents.

In the opening of *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley presents Birling as a foolish individual who is out of touch with society.

Moreover, his use of the word 'fiddlesticks' suggests that Mr Birling does not have much respect for the view that war might break out.

This makes his character seem even more foolish.

Priestley's presentation of Birling encourages the audience to question the behaviour and views of his character from that point onwards.

The audience knows that the First World War occurred just after the play was set, and that less than thirty years later, the Second World War broke out, so this use of dramatic irony highlights how out of the loop Birling is.

In response to Eric's question about war, Birling describes the idea that war is going to break out as 'fiddlesticks'.

He is so certain in his beliefs that he dismisses the idea without real consideration, saying it is nonsense.

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Part Two: The Complete Paragraph

- Claim
- Placement of evidence in the context of the play
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Zoom
- Link to context
- Impact on audience

In the opening of *An Inspector Calls*, Priestley presents Birling as a foolish individual who is out of touch with society. In response to Eric's question about war, Birling describes the idea that war is going to break out as 'fiddlesticks'. The audience knows that the First World War occurred just after the play was set, and that less than thirty years later, the Second World War broke out, so this use of dramatic irony highlights how out of the loop Birling is. Moreover, his use of the word 'fiddlesticks' suggests that Mr Birling does not have much respect for the view that war might break out. He is so certain in his beliefs that he dismisses the idea without real consideration, saying it is nonsense. This makes his character seem even more foolish. Priestley's presentation of Birling encourages the audience to question the behaviour and views of his character from that point onwards. Indeed, it could even lead them to question the capitalist system which Birling represents.