

AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE

CONTEXT: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

FACTS: BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS JUST LIST ALL OF THE FACTS THAT YOU LEARNED ABOUT THE TEXT AND THE WRITER.

For example: HOW DOES PRIESTLEY PRESENT CLASS DEGRADATION THROUGH EVA SMITH?

Priestley wrote this play in 1945 after the Second World War and he set it in 1912, before the First World War. He talks about Socialism and was against Capitalism. His work would have really shocked a 1945 audience.

* THE SECOND WORST IS THAT YOU JUST USE WORDS LIKE 'SOCIALISM' WITHOUT ACTUALLY SHOWING THAT YOU KNOW THEIR MEANING. BE SPECIFIC IF YOU MENTION IT AT ALL...

VERSUS

ATTITUDES: SOCIETY, CULTURE AND GENRE

THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO DISCUSS THE POTENTIAL ATTITUDES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TIME OR THE WRITER SPECIFICALLY.

For example: The way in which Eva Smith is degraded by the Billings and Gerald is representative of class divisions in both 1912 and 1945, in that there was a great deal of poverty, and those in positions of relative power (due to wealth and status) needed to help them. Priestley here uses Eva Smith as a metaphorical device, proving that the working class were not shiftless layabouts without morals. Rather, she presents herself as extremely moral, more so than the Birlings, as she always tries to work and even refuses money from Eric that would save her and her baby because it is stolen. A judgement is made on the upper class when Mrs Birling refuses to believe this possible!

WRITE YOUR OWN INTRODUCTION TO THE QUESTION HERE:

