An impression of ‘massiveness, solidity and purposefulness’ is given. He grows and remains solid when each of the other characters break down.

He demonstrates how people are responsible for how they affect the lives of others. He sees the world as a community where everyone should be helping each other (Socialism). The timing of his entry (at the point that Birling is saying that every man must look after himself) is very significant. The final speech is important too.

Inspector Goole

1. Sounds like ‘ghoul’ – someone who has a morbid interest in death, a spirit which is said to take fresh life from corpses. His existence is as a result of the girl’s death.

2. Goole is a seaport town and perhaps suggests that he is going to fish for information.

The Name

Physical Description

Catalyst

Impression

Morality

He makes things happen and allows secrets to be revealed. He controls everyone and their actions, despite the importance of the Birlings and the Crofts in the community.

The way he uses the information he holds creates an impression of someone who is both an outsider and omniscient. This makes him appear mysterious and powerful.

He represents Priestley’s strong moral view. The moral dimension of allowing the others to see they can find forgiveness through future good behaviour makes him different from the normal policeman. He is more concerned with morality than legality.

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