⛓  ***‘A chain of events’***

**The Inspector suggests that every action has consequences**. A chain is formed of interconnected links, so this conveys the idea that the lives and actions of individuals in a community are similarly interconnected. The key to understanding the metaphor is through the concept of causality: each character’s treatment of Eva Smith contributed to her death, even if what they did seemed relatively insignificant at the time.

* Connected quotation: ‘*That might of started it*’

💸  ***‘I’m talking as a hard-headed, practical man of business’***

**Birling attempts to present himself as a shrewd, experienced businessman**. This is because ‘hardness’ implies a lack of flexibility and Birling prides himself on his unwillingness to compromise (think: driving a hard bargain). However, whilst Birling believes that this is a positive attribute and something to boast about, the metaphor also hints at a lack of sensitivity. This is particularly important because, in part, his dismissal of Eva Smith was the result of this trait.

* Connected quotation: ‘*We hard-headed, practical businessmen must say something sometime*’

🐝 ***‘As if we were all mixed up together like bees in a hive’***

**Birling argues against the idea of social responsibility**. Bees work together in way that is structured and cooperative: each bee contributes to the survival of hive. This contrasts with Birling’s individualism and self-interest. Ultimately, the death of Eva Smith proves that members of the community really are ‘mixed up together’ because each of the Birlings is partly responsible. Connections between people from widely different social classes and circumstance may seem unlikely, but they do exist.

* Connected quotation: ‘*A man has to mind his own business and look after himself*’

🌎 ***‘They’d soon be asking for the earth’***

**Birling expresses caution about providing workers with more rights**. The earth represents something very large, so Birling uses the metaphor to emphasise that Eva Smith was asking for too much and that conceding to her demands would likely result in her demanding even more. Of course, as the audience are aware, she only wanted a modest pay rise for herself and others. It’s Birling who is greedy and unreasonable, not Eva Smith.

* Connected quotation: ‘*It’s better to ask for the earth than to take it*’