**Marriage**

**Mrs B**: When you’re married, you’ll realise that men with important work to do sometimes have to spend nearly all their time and energy on their business. You’ll have to get used to that, just as I had.

**Eric**: I left ‘em talking about clothes again. You’d think a girl never had any clothes before she gets married. Women are potty about ‘em.

**Birling**: Yes, but you’ve got to remember, my boy, that clothes mean something quite different to a woman. Not just something to wear – and not only something to make ‘em look prettier – but – well, a sort of sign or token or their self-respect.

**Birling**: Now, Sheila, I’m not defending him. But you must understand that a lot of young men –

|  |
| --- |
| **What does the play reveal about marriage conventions and expectations?** |

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Male Gaze**

**Birling**: She was a lively good-looking girl – country-bred, I fancy – and she’d been working in one of our machine shops for over a year.

**Gerald**: I went down into the bar for a drink. It’s a favourite haunt of women of the town.

**Gerald**: I hate those hard-eyed, dough-faced women.

**Gerald**: But then I noticed a girl who looked quite different. She looked young and fresh and charming and altogether out of place there.

**Gerald**: She was young and pretty and warm-hearted – and intensely grateful.

**Eric**: She wasn’t the usual sort.

**Eric**: I liked her – she was pretty and a good sport.

**Eric**: I hate these fat old tarts round the town.

|  |
| --- |
| **How do the male characters in the play view women?** |

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Class**

**Gerald**: They’d be all broke – if I know them.

**Mrs B**: She was claiming elaborate fine feelings and scruples that were simply absurd in a girl in her position.

**Mrs B**: As if a girl of that sort would ever refuse money!

|  |
| --- |
| **What class prejudices are evident in the play?** |

………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

**Power Inequality**

**Sheila**: You were the wonderful Fairy Prince. You must’ve adored it, Gerald.

**Gerald**: The girl saw me looking at her and then gave me a glance that was nothing less than a cry for help.

**Sheila**: But everybody knows about that horrible old Meggarty. A girl I know had to see him at the Town Hall one afternoon and she only escaped with a torn blouse.

**Gerald**: Old Joe Meggarty, half-drunk and goggle-eyed, had wedged her into a corner with that obscene fat carcass of his.

|  |
| --- |
| **What power do the male characters in the play have over women and how do they use it?** |