Birling: You must give me a list of those accounts. I've got to cover this up as soon as I can. You damned fool – why didn't you come to me when you found yourself in this mess?

Eric: Because you're not the kind of father a chap could go to when he's in trouble – that's why.

Birling: (*angrily*) Don't talk to me like that. Your trouble is – you've been spoilt--

Inspector: **(*cutting in*)** And my trouble is – that I haven't much time. You'll be able to divide the responsibility between you when I've gone. (*To* Eric.) Just one last question, that's all. The girl discovered that this money you were giving her was stolen, didn't she?

Eric: (*miserably*) Yes. That was the worst of all. She wouldn't take any more, and she didn't want to see me again. (*sudden startled tone*) Here, but how did you know that? Did she tell you?

Inspector: No. She told me nothing. I never spoke to her.

Sheila: She told mother.

Mrs Birling: (*alarmed*) Sheila!

Sheila: Well, he has to know.

Eric: (*to* Mrs Birling) She told you? Did she come here – but then she couldn't have done, she didn't even know I lived here. What happened?

(Mrs Birling, *distressed, shakes her head but does not reply*.)

Come on, don't just look like that. Tell me – tell me – what happened?

Inspector: **(*with calm authority*)** I'll tell you. She went to your mother's committee for help, after she'd done with you. Your mother refused that help.

Eric: (*nearly at breaking point*) Then – you killed her. She came to you to protect me – and you turned her away – yes, and you killed her – and the child she'd have had too – my child – your own grandchild – you killed them both – damn you, damn you-

Mrs Birling: (*very distressed now*) No – Eric – please – I didn't know – I didn't understand-

Eric: (*almost threatening her*) You don't understand anything. You never did. You never even tried – you -

Sheila: (*frightened*) Eric, don't – don't-

Birling: (*furious, intervening*) Why, you hysterical young fool – get back – or I'll-

Inspector: **(*taking charge, masterfully*)** Stop.

**TASK #1** – Summarise what is happening in this scene.

1. **Eric’s Confession**

**TASK #4** – Look at the Inspector’s stage directions. Analyse them. What do they imply about his character?

**TASK #2** – How does this scene present Mr Birling as a weak character?

**TASK #3** – How do you think Priestley intends an audience to react here? Why?

**TASK #6 – ‘**The older and younger generation are complete strangers by the end of the play. It is impossible for them to fix the rift that has occurred between them.’ Discuss.

**TASK #5** – What do the dashes in Eric’s speech suggest about the way he is feeling?

**Status –** Identify vocabulary which suggests that Lennie admires George.

What does this suggest about both men’s status in the relationship?