Sheila: *(passionately)* You're pretending everything's just as it was before.

Eric: I'm not!

Sheila: No, but these others are.

Birling: Well, isn't it? We've been had, that's all.

Sheila: So nothing really happened. So there's nothing to be sorry for, nothing to learn. We can all go on behaving just as we did.

Mrs Birling: Well, why shouldn't we?

Sheila: I tell you – whoever that Inspector was, it was anything but a joke. You knew it then. You began to learn something. And now you've stopped. You're ready to go on in the same old way.

Birling: *(amused)* And you're not, eh?

Sheila: No, because I remember what he said, how he looked, and what he made me feel. Fire and blood and anguish. And it frightens me the way you talk, and I can't listen to any more of it.

Eric: And I agree with Sheila. It frightens me too.

Birling: Well, go to bed then, and don't stand there being hysterical.

Mrs Birling: They're over-tired. In the morning they'll be as amused as we are.

Gerald: Everything's all right now, Sheila. *(Holds up the ring.)* What about this ring?

Sheila: No, not yet. It's too soon. I must think.

Birling: *(pointing to Eric and Sheila)* Now look at the pair of them – the famous younger generation who know it all. And they can't even take a joke-

*(The telephone rings sharply. There is a moment's complete silence. Birling goes to answer it.)*

Yes?. . . .Mr Birling speaking. . . .What? - here-

*(But obviously the other person has rung off. He puts the telephone down slowly and looks in a panic stricken fashion at the others.)*

Birling: That was the police. A girl has just died – on her way to the Infirmary – after swallowing some disinfectant. And a police inspector is on his way here – to ask some – questions -----

(*As they stare guiltily and dumbfounded, the curtain falls.)*

**TASK #1** – How have the characters changed throughout the play?

**4. The Final Call**

**TASK #4** – Highlight evidence that implies the hubristic nature of man has not been fully destroyed and explain WHY you have highlighted it.

**TASK #2** – How has Sheila become a metaphorical inspector in this final scene?

**TASK #3** – How is the divide between the older and younger generations presented here?

**TASK #6 –** Is the end meant to be explainable? What is Priestley’s purpose at the end of the play? What do you think is happening?

**TASK #5** – What do the dashes in Birling’s final speech imply about him?

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

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