

KS4 English, Paranoia in Fiction: the set texts out to get you! 'An Inspector Calls' (OCR, WJEC) – lesson 2

Curriculum relevance

This lesson addresses the following descriptor from the GCSE English Literature specification (for first teaching from September 2015):

Critical Reading: *“Using understanding of writers’ social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation” National Curriculum 2013.*

Main teaching points

- George Orwell listed J B Priestley as a soviet sympathiser; Priestley had written a pamphlet called ‘Russian Journey’.
- The conflict between Capitalism and Communism is explored in the play.

Activities

“We don’t live alone. We are members of one body. We are responsible for each other.”

Watch the video clips selected from the resource for this lesson at coldwarinspector2.lgfl.net, encouraging students to think about the quote as they watch.

In the light of the footage, explain what you think the Inspector may have been trying to warn people of.

Context writing tasks

“The time will soon come when, if men do not learn this lesson, then they will be taught it in fire and blood and anguish.”

Having discovered more about the context and era in which the play was written, how do you think that J.B. Priestly intended the Inspector’s final warning to be interpreted?