



In the opening stage directions Sheila is described as being "a pretty girl in her early twenties, very pleased with life and rather excited."

Q: In what way does this quote suggest that Sheila is shallow and naive?

Even though she seems very playful at the opening, we know that she has had suspicions about Gerald when she mentions "last summer, when you never came near me."

Q: Does this suggest that she is not as naive and shallow as she first appears?

Although she has probably never in her life before considered the conditions of the workers, she shows her **compassion** immediately she hears of her father's treatment of Eva Smith: "But these girls aren't cheap labour - they're people."

Q: In what way does this quote show Sheila has started to change?

She is horrified by her own part in Eva's story. She feels full of **guilt** for her jealous actions and blames herself as "really responsible."

She is very **perceptive**: she realises that Gerald knew Daisy Renton from his reaction, the moment the Inspector mentioned her name. At the end of Act II, she is the first to realise Eric's part in the story. Significantly, she is the first to wonder who the Inspector really is, saying to him, 'wonderingly', "I don't understand about you." She warns the others "he's giving us the rope - so that we'll hang ourselves" (Act II) and, near the end, is the first to consider whether the Inspector may not be real.

She is **curious**. She genuinely wants to know about Gerald's part in the story. It's interesting that she is not angry with him when she hears about the affair: she says that she respects his honesty. She is becoming **more mature**.

She is **angry** with her parents in Act 3 for trying to "pretend that nothing much has happened." Sheila says "It frightens me the way you talk:" she cannot understand how they cannot have learnt from the evening in the same way that she has. She is seeing her parents in a new, unfavourable light.

At the end of the play, Sheila is much **wiser**. She can now judge her parents and Gerald from a new perspective, but the greatest change has been in herself: her social conscience has been awakened and she is aware of her responsibilities. The Sheila who had a girl dismissed from her job for a trivial reason has vanished forever.

Q: How does Sheila change throughout the course of the play? Complete this table to demonstrate the changes that she goes through and select a quote, from the quote bank, to support your comments.

At the start of the play	At the end of the play
Sheila is jealous of Eva Smith: <i>'I couldn't be sorry for her.'</i>	
Sheila is spoilt: <i>'I was absolutely furious I was very rude to both of them.'</i>	
Sheila is happy to be part of a capitalist society: <i>'I'm sorry, Daddy. Actually I was listening'</i>	She develops a socialist conscious: <i>'But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people.'</i>
Sheila is immature: <i>'I'd been in a bad temper anyhow.'</i>	
Sheila is naive and easily led: <i>'(Excited) Oh – Gerald – you've got it – is it the one [ring] you wanted me to have?'</i>	
Sheila is suspicious of Gerald: <i>'Yes – except for all last summer, when you never came near me, and I wondered what had happened to you.'</i>	
Sheila is materialistic: <i>'Oh-its wonderful! Look-Mummy- isn't it a beauty? Oh - darling - [She kisses Gerald hastily]'</i>	
Sheila doesn't think about the consequences of her actions: <i>'I told him that if they didn't get rid of that girl, I'd never go near the place again and I'd persuade mother to close our account with them'</i>	

Sheila's Changes Quote Bank:

- a) *'But these girls aren't cheap labour – they're people.'*
- b) *'(with sudden alarm) Mother-stop-Stop!' 'Between us we drove that girl to commit suicide.'*
- c) *'And if I could help her now, I would'*
- d) *(to Gerald) 'I rather respect you more than I've ever done before.'*
- e) *'Mother, I think that was cruel and vile'*
- f) *'I know I'm to blame – and I'm desperately sorry'*
- g) *'But that won't bring Eva Smith back to life, will it?'*
- h) *'(who is crying quietly) That's the worst of it'*