GERALD CROFT

Key features · development · paired evidence

THE BIG IDEA

Gerald's apparent kindness operates within unequal power. Discovering uncertainty about Goole offers him a way to restore appearances without fully addressing the lesson.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Offers respectability › **2** Reveals the affair › **3** Investigates the visitor › **4** Proposes a return to normal

SOCIAL POLISH AND THE WISH TO RESTORE NORMALITY

"easy well-bred"

Priestley's opening Act 1 stage direction about Gerald

PAIRED WITH

"Everything's all right now"

Gerald, Act 3: offering Sheila the ring again shortly before the final telephone call

METHOD → MEANING

The opening description establishes the confidence of a socially approved young man. His later reassurance treats the apparent collapse of Goole's investigation as an opportunity to resume the engagement. The repeated ring gives that wish a stage object. His kindness to Daisy complicates judgement, but exposure of the apparent hoax does not settle his moral responsibility.

TRACE THE CHARACTER THROUGH THE DRAMA

An approved match

Family connections make the engagement socially useful. His ease within the celebration contrasts with the powerlessness of the woman later discussed.

Help within an imbalance

He intervenes for Daisy and supplies shelter, yet controls how long that support lasts. Both apparent care and unequal power belong in a qualified judgement.

The return of the ring

Investigation of Goole gives him grounds for reassurance. Offering the ring again invites a return to normal that Sheila is not yet willing to accept.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

He intervenes when Daisy is vulnerable, but help and exploitation can coexist. A qualified judgement should consider his motives, power and eventual withdrawal.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

Does Gerald's investigation answer the ethical questions raised by the affair?