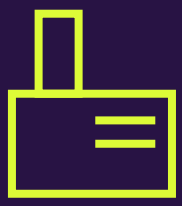
MR LYONS

Key features · development · paired evidence



THE BIG IDEA

Mr Lyons helps represent the resources and assumptions surrounding Edward's upbringing. His limited presence makes the division between financial authority and daily care visible.

FOLLOW THE CHARACTER

1 Leaves for business › **2** Assumes financial authority › **3** Agrees to moving home › **4** Remains emotionally distant

DELEGATED DOMESTIC DUTY, CONTROLLED MONEY

"your domain"

Mr Lyons to Mrs Lyons, Act 1: the house and decision about Mrs Johnstone's work

PAIRED WITH

"My God, what for?"

Mr Lyons, Act 1: responding to Mrs Lyons's request for fifty pounds

METHOD → MEANING

Assigning the home to his wife lets him withdraw from its daily work and moral decisions. The abrupt question about money nevertheless asserts financial authority. These show a consistent division of power, not a character transformation: Mrs Lyons appears to control the household while relying on his resources.

TRACE THE CHARACTER THROUGH THE DRAMA

Public and domestic power

His business absences leave much family care to Mrs Lyons. Relative absence can be an important theatrical feature of a character.

Financial control

Compare his withdrawal from household decisions with his attention to the money requested. Authority can remain powerful even when it seems detached.

Resources that change surroundings

The family can move to answer a domestic fear. Contrast that freedom with the Johnstones' more constrained opportunities to alter their environment.

PUSH THE ARGUMENT

His small role needs close attention to stage presence and absence. Avoid inventing a dramatic moral conversion the script does not supply.

COVER THE SHEET. CAN YOU EXPLAIN…?

What does Mr Lyons's relative absence reveal about authority and care in his household?