**The Inspector’s Entrance**

Inspector’s sense of timing is important throughout the play. His arrival interrupts Birling’s speech on how a man “has to mind his own business and look after himself and his own – and – “. (p168)

**Why is this significant? What effect does this have on the audience?**

‘We hear the sharp ring of a front door bell’

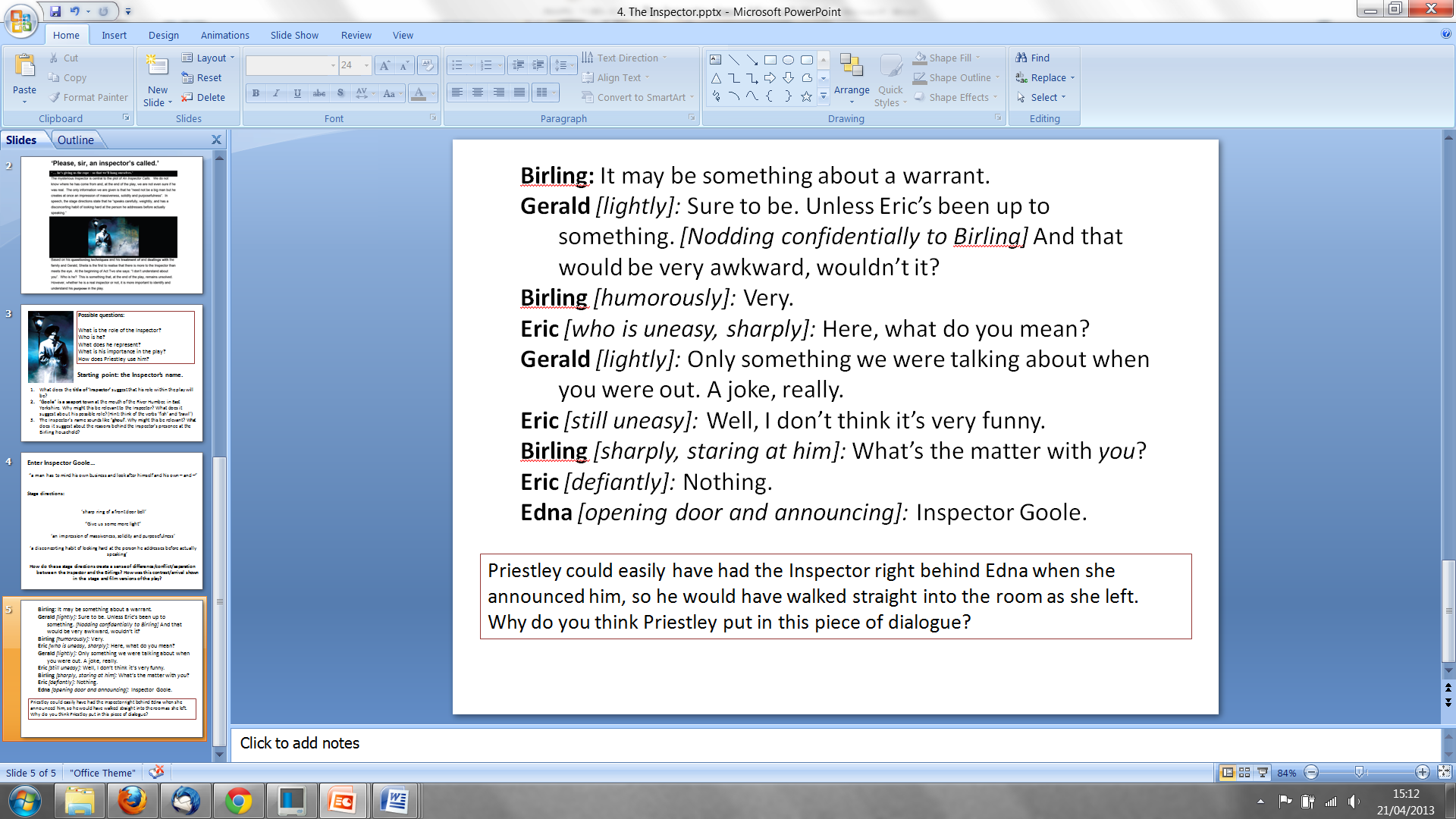
“Give us some more light”

‘an impression of massiveness, solidity and purposefulness’

‘a disconcerting habit of looking hard at the person he addresses before actually speaking’

**How do these stage directions create a sense of difference/conflict/separation between the Inspector and the Birlings? What is the Inspector there for?**

**How was this contrast/arrival shown in the stage and film versions of the play? [See note sheet.]**

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**How and why does Mr Birling try to intimidate the Inspector? How does the Inspector respond?**

* Consider social class- an Inspector would normally be expected to defer to a man of Birling’s social status.
* List some of the ways in which Birling tries to assert his own importance and to belittle the Inspector.
* How does the Inspector respond? In what tone/manner does he speak to the family? In what way does he present the details of Eva’s death?

1. Why do you think it’s important to create a sense of conflict/tension from the Inspector’s first appearance?

2. What is the effect of this on the audience?

3. What is the **purpose** of the conflict? i.e. what message is Priestley setting out to convey in the conflict between the two men? [**Hint:** consider the society the play is set in, the society it was first shown in, and the way the inspector fits in with the ideas of the time. What is he there to do? How is this shown?]