

Pygmalion quotation analysis

Directions: For each of the following quotations, complete each of the following:

- Identify the speaker and what the quotation reveals about the speaker and the situation.
- Describe at least one literary device employed in the quotation (such as *allusion*, *aside*, *characterization*, *colloquialism*, *conflict*, *diction*, *foil*, *foreshadowing*, *hyperbole*, *imagery*, *irony*, *metaphor*, *motif*, *personification*, *sarcasm*, *satire*, *setting*, *simile*, *syntax*, *understatement*).
- Discuss the meaning and significance of quotation. How does it relate to theme?

Act 1

- "But we must have a cab. We cant stand here until half-past eleven. It's too bad."
- "Ow, eez ye-ooa san, is e? Wal, fewd dan y' de-ooty bawmz a mather should, eed now bettern to spawl a pore gel's flahrzn than ran awy athaht pyin."
- "He aint a tec. Hes a blooming busy-body: that's what he is. I tell you, look at his boots."
- "You take us for dirt under your feet, don't you?"
- "Hes no right to take away my character. My character is the same to me as any lady's."
- "A woman who utters such depressing and disgusting sounds has no right to be anywhere—no right to live. Remember that you are a human being with a soul and the divine gift of articulate speech: that your native language is the language of Shakespear and Milton and The Bible; and don't sit there crooning like a bilious pigeon."
- "You see this creature with her kerbstone English: the English that will keep her in the gutter to the end of her days. Well, sir, in three months I could pass that girl off as a duchess at an ambassador's garden party. I could even get her a place as lady's maid or shop assistant, which requires better English."
- "Never you mind, young man. I'm going home in a taxi."

Act 2

- "Well, sir, she says youll be glad to see her when you know what shes come about. Shes a common girl, sir. Very common indeed. I should have sent her away, only I thought perhaps you wanted her to talk into your machines. I hope Ive not done wrong; but really you see such queer people sometimes—youll excuse me, I'm sure, sir—"
- "Pickering: shall we ask this baggage to sit down, or shall we throw her out of the window?"
- "it's almost irresistible. Shes so deliciously low—so horribly dirty—"
"Ah-ah-ah-ah-ow-ow-oo-oo!!! I aint dirty: I washed my face and hands afore I come, I did."
- "Youre no gentleman, youre not, to talk of such things. I'm a good girl, I am; and I know what the like of you are, I do."
- "Will you please keep to the point, Mr Higgins. I want to know on what terms the girl is to be here. Is she to have any wages? And what is to become of her when you've finished your teaching? You must look ahead a little."
- "What! That thing! Sacred, I assure you. You see, she'll be a pupil; and teaching would be impossible unless pupils were sacred. Ive taught scores of American millionaresses how to speak English: the best looking women in the world. I'm seasoned. They might as well be blocks of wood."
- "I never swear. I detest the habit. What the devil do you mean?"
- "Is this reasonable? Is it fairity to retake advantage of a man like this? The girl belongs to me. You got her. Where do I come in?"
- "Have you no morals, man?"
"Cant afford them, Governor. Neither could you if you was as poor as me. Not that I mean any harm, you know. But if Liza is going to have a bit of this, why not me too?"
- "Now I know why ladies is so clean. Washing's a treat for them. Wish they saw what it is for the like of me!"
- "I beg your pardon, Miss Doolittle. It was a slip of the tongue."
- "Oh, I don't mind; only it sounded so genteel. I should just like to take a taxi to the corner of Tottenham Court Road and get out there and tell it to wait for me, just to put the girls in their place a bit. I wouldn't speak to them, you know."

Act 3

- "What are you doing here to-day? It is my at-home day: you promised not to come. . . . I'm serious, Henry. You offend all my friends: they stop coming whenever they meet you."
- "Oh I cant be bothered with young women. My idea of a lovable woman is something as like you as possible. I shall never get into the way of seriously liking young women: some habits lie too deep to be changed. Besides, theyre all idiots."

3. "What call would a woman with that strength in her have to die of influenza? What become of her new straw hat that should have come to me? Somebody pinched it; and what I say is, them as pinched it done her in."
4. "Are you walking across the Park, Miss Doolittle? If so—"
"Walk! Not bloody likely. I am going in a taxi."
5. "Dont ask me. Ive been away in India for several years; and manners have changed so much that I sometimes dont know whether I'm at a respectable dinner-table or in a ship's forecastle."
6. "Such nonsense, all this early Victorian prudery. . . . Such bloody nonsense!"
7. "We're so poor! and she gets so few parties, poor child! She doesnt quite know."
8. "But you have no idea how frightfully interesting it is to take a human being and change her into a quite different human being by creating a new speech for her. It's filling up the deepest gulf that separates class from class and soul and soul."
9. "No, you two infinitely stupid male creatures: the problem of what is to be done with her afterwards."

Act 4

1. "The garden party, a dinner party, and the opera! Rather too much of a good thing. But youve won your bet, Higgins. Eliza did the trick, and something to spare, eh?
"Thank God it's over! . . . It was a silly notion: the whole thing has been a bore."
2. "What the devil have I done with my slippers?"
"There are your slippers. And there. Take your slippers; and may you never have a day's luck with them!"
3. "Nothing wrong—with you. Ive won your bet for you, havnt I? That's enough for you. *I dont matter, I suppose.*"
"You won my bet! You! Presumptuous insect!"
4. "What am I fit for? What have you left me fit for? Where am I to go? What am I to do? Whats to become of me?"
5. "I sold flowers. I didnt sell myself. Now youve made a lady of me I'm not fit to sell anything else. I wish youd left me where you found me."
6. "I'm sorry. I'm only a common ignorant girl; and in my station I have to be careful. There cant be any feelings between the like of you and the like of me."
7. "Hit you! You infamous creature, how dare you accuse me of such a thing? It is you who have hit me. You have wounded me to the heart. . . . Damn Mrs Pearce; and damn the coffee; and damn you; and damn my own folly in having lavished hard-earned knowledge and the treasure of my regard and intimacy on a heartless guttersnipe."

Act 5

1. "What right have you to go to the police and give the girl's name as if she were a thief, or a lost umbrella, or something? Really!"
2. "Done to me! Ruined me. Destroyed my happiness. Tied me up and delivered me into the hands of middle class morality."
3. "But she knew all about that. We didnt make speeches to her, if thats what you mean."
4. "you will jolly soon see whether she has an idea that I havnt put into her head or a word that I havnt put into her mouth. I tell you I have created this thing out of the squashed cabbage leaves of Covent Garden; and now she pretends to play the fine lady with me."
5. "I shall always be a flower girl to Professor Higgins, because he always treats me as a flower girl, and always will; but I know I can be a lady to you, because you always treat me as a lady, and always will."
6. "Well, I am a child in your country. I have forgotten my own language, and can speak nothing but yours. Thats the real break-off with the corner of Tottenham Court Road. Leaving Wimpole Street finishes it."
7. "About you, not about me. If you come back I shall treat you just as I have always treated you. I cant change my nature; and I don't intend to change my manners. My manners are exactly the same as Colonel Pickering's."
8. "Oh! if I could only go back to my flower basket! I should be independent of both you and father and all the world. Why did you take my independence from me? Why did I give it up? I'm a slave now, for all my fine clothes."
9. "Independence? Thats middle class blasphemy. We are all dependent on one another, every soul of us on earth."
10. "Buy them yourself."
"Oh, dont bother. She'll buy em all right enough. Good-bye."