Sheila: He went into the drawing room, to tell mother what was happening here. Eric, take the inspector along to the drawing-room.

(*As* Eric *moves, the inspector looks from* Sheila *to* Gerald, *then* *goes out with Eric.*)

Well, Gerald?

Gerald: (*trying to smile*) Well what, Sheila?

Sheila: How did you come to know this girl – Eva Smith?

Gerald: I didn't.

Sheila: Daisy Renton then – it's the same thing.

Gerald: Why should I have to know her?

Sheila: Oh don't be stupid. We haven't much time. You gave yourself away as soon as he mentioned her other name.

Gerald: All right. I knew her. Let's leave it at that.

Sheila: We can't leave it at that.

Gerald: (*approaching her*) Now listen, darling--

Sheila: No, that's no use. You not only knew her but you knew her very well. Otherwise, you wouldn't look so guilty about it. When did you first get to know her?

*(He does not reply*)

Was it after she left Milwards? When she changed her name, as he said, and began to lead a different sort of life? Were you seeing her last spring and summer, during that time you hardly came near me and said you were so busy? Were you?

(H*e does not reply but looks at her*.)

Yes, of course you were.

Gerald: I'm sorry, Sheila. But it was all over and done with, last summer. I hadn't set eyes on the girl for at least six months. I don't come into this suicide business.

Sheila: I thought I didn't half an hour ago.

Gerald: You don't. Neither of us does. So – for god's sake – don't say anything to the inspector.

Sheila: About you and this girl?

Gerald: Yes. We can keep it from him.

Sheila: (*laughs rather hysterically*) Why – you fool – he knows. Of course he knows. And I hate to think how much he knows that we don't know yet. You'll see. You'll see.

// *she looks at him almost in triumph. He looks crushed. The doors slowly opens and the* inspector *appears, looking steadily and searchingly at them*.//

Inspector: Well?

             END OF ACT ONE

**TASK #1** – Summarise what is happening in this scene.

**8. Sheila questions Gerald**

**TASK #3** – Highlight words that Sheila calls Gerald and analyse them. What do they imply about the way she is feeling at this point in the play?

**TASK #2** – How is Gerald presented in this scene? Use quotations to help you back up your ideas and make sure you hit all assessment objectives.

**TASK #5 –** How has Sheila developed from the beginning of the play?

**TASK #4** – How is the Inspector’s presence felt in this scene even though he does not appear?

**Status –** Identify vocabulary which suggests that Lennie admires George.

What does this suggest about both men’s status in the relationship?