

A Doll's House

Henrik Ibsen
Activity Book



NEW HORIZON

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ACT I

Summary

It is Christmas Eve in the Helmer family's apartment, which is furnished "comfortably but not extravagantly." Nora enters with parcels, leaving a porter at the door with a Christmas tree, which she tells a maid to hide so that her children will not see it. She nibbles on some macaroons she has bought, but hides them when her husband, Torvald, comes out of his study. Torvald has recently been given a new job as a bank manager. Discussing her purchases with him, Nora is keen to spend more money, believing that her husband's new job will mean that the family no longer has to be careful with money.

In a series of complaints, Torvald rebukes Nora for being a spendthrift, suggesting that she inherits the trait from her father. He points out that his new salary is not to be paid until April, and he wonders what would happen to her if he were to die before that time. He then gives her extra money to spend on presents and asks her what she would like as a Christmas gift. She asks for money. Torvald reminds her of the previous Christmas, when Nora apparently locked herself in a room to surprise everyone with homemade ornaments, which the cat then tore to bits. Torvald then asks her if she has bought any sweets or cakes in town—she lies and says no.

Nora is talking about Christmas again when the maid interrupts, announcing two visitors: an unknown woman, who is shown into the living room, and Dr. Rank, who is shown into Torvald's study via a door. Torvald exits to his study, and Nora greets the stranger, whom she eventually recognizes as Mrs. Christine Linde, a friend from school whom she has not seen for almost a decade. Mrs. Linde is a widow. She tells Nora she feels that she has become much older. She had married her husband, not for love, but to provide financial and domestic security to her bedridden mother and her two younger brothers. Her mother has died and her brothers are adults, so she is

now free to make her own life. But since her husband died penniless, she had to work extremely hard for the past few years in order to support her relatives. In the course of this conversation about their lives since they last met, Nora mentions Torvald's new job and Mrs. Linde reveals that she came to see the Helmers to try to get a job from Torvald at the bank.

Mrs. Linde makes an offhand remark about how few worries Nora has in life. She even calls Nora a child. Nora responds that she and Torvald both have had to work very hard to fund the life they have. In fact, she reports that early in their marriage, Torvald fell ill, and the doctor insisted that he must take a very costly vacation to Italy in order to recover. Since Torvald refused to borrow money, Nora borrowed it secretly, pretending it had come from her father. She has managed, secretly, to pay the quarterly installments and interest over the years. Nora now hopes that Torvald's new job will provide her with enough money to pay off the debts entirely.

Returning to the present, Nora happily reports that Torvald has been in good health ever since their trip. Mrs. Linde asks Nora whether she ever plans to tell Torvald. Nora replies that she may someday do so, if her good looks and charm wear off and she is in need of some way to keep Torvald's interest in her-but not yet.

The doorbell rings, and the maid informs Nora that Krogstad, who works at the bank, desires to see Torvald. Krogstad had loaned Nora the money, so she is shocked and worried that Krogstad has come to inform Torvald of the secret. She asks Krogstad about his business visiting them. Krogstad assures her that he comes only on bank business. When Krogstad goes into the study, Dr. Rank comes out to chat with Nora and Mrs. Linde.

Dr. Rank discusses with them the human urge to sustain life. He reluctantly admits that he wants to preserve his own life despite the physical pain his disease causes him. He then begins to discuss moral corruption, denouncing Krogstad as his immediate example.

Nora suddenly bursts out laughing. Not explaining herself to Mrs. Linde or Dr. Rank, she asks if the employees of the bank will be under the power of Torvald after his promotion. She revels in the idea. Still happy, she offers a macaroon to Dr. Rank. She claims that the macaroons were a gift from Mrs. Linde. Nora then impulsively shares with Mrs. Linde and Dr. Rank that there is something that she would very much like to say if Torvald were able to hear: "Bloody hell!" Her companions' reactions are cut short by the emergence of Torvald from the study.

Having dispatched Krogstad, Torvald returns to the living room. Nora immediately asks him to give Mrs. Linde employment, and Torvald suggests that he can probably get her a job. Nora reminds Dr. Rank and Mrs. Linde that they are expected to return the same evening, and as Dr. Rank exits with Torvald, a nurse shows in the three children. While they are engrossed in a game of hide-and-seek, Krogstad knocks and half enters the room. The game abruptly stops when his presence is recognized. Nora, somewhat shocked, sends the children out to the nurse and speaks to Krogstad.

Krogstad asks whether Mrs. Linde has been given an appointment at the bank. Nora confirms this and cautions Krogstad to be careful about offending Torvald, for Krogstad will be Torvald's subordinate at the bank. Krogstad then asks Nora to use her influence to ensure that he will be able to keep his position at the bank. Nora is confused and explains that she has no influence on such matters. In response, Krogstad reveals that he is prepared to fight for his position at the bank as if for his life, implying that he will not hesitate to reveal Nora's secret. Krogstad explains that his reputation at the bank, destroyed by an indiscretion in the distant past, is extremely important to him and to his social respectability. He threatens again to reveal Nora's secret. Nora then vehemently responds that he can do his worst. At this, Krogstad reveals that he knows that Nora, by signing her father's signature and dating it three days after his death, committed fraud in order to secure her loan. Nora refuses to believe

that any court of law would convict her of a crime she committed only in order to save her husband's life. Krogstad leaves, still threatening to reveal what he knows.

When Krogstad leaves, Nora's children enter. Nora tells them not to mention Krogstad's visit to Torvald. She also reneges on her earlier promise to play with them, shooing them away. Nora begins to decorate the Christmas tree, and Torvald enters, asking what Krogstad came for. Nora asks about the nature of Krogstad's past indiscretion, and Torvald reveals that it was forgery. He condemns Krogstad in strong terms for failing to admit it. Torvald admits that he would have forgiven Krogstad had he owned up to his lie. He suggests that such moral hypocrisy would even infect Krogstad's family. Torvald makes Nora promise never to plead Krogstad's case again. He also reveals his intention to fire Krogstad from the bank. Torvald exits to his study. Nora will not allow the children to come into the same room with her. Prompted by Torvald's comments about moral corruption over forgeries, she is terrified that she will "infect" her own children.

Questions with suggested answers.

1.What is the significance of the fact that Nora eats macaroons, hides the package in her pocket, and wipes the crumbs from her lips?

She clearly doesn't want to be seen with them and suggests that she is not allowed to eat them. She doesn't want to get in trouble.

2.Torvald Helmer has several pet names for Nora. What do they include, and what do they say about how he regards her?

The names include "squirrel" and "skylark". They show that he sees her as a pet; a person whom he is above. He sees her as a person who has little power, who is insignificant, and someone whom he owns.

3.What points do Helmer and Nora each make in their first conversation about money?

Helmer says that Nora is such a spendthrift. Nora points out that they can spend more money because Helmer has a better job now, and they could take out a loan until he starts with his new salary. Helmer points out that if something happened to him, she wouldn't be able to pay off the debt and she would be in trouble. Moreover, either way, debt is not good.

4. How does this set up a framework for future action?

It shows how Helmer does not approve nor accept borrowing money. He finds it immoral.

5. When the family was short of money, what did Nora do so they could all celebrate Christmas? What does this symbolize, and what does it suggest about her character?

Nora spoke about it with Mrs. Linde. She said she only spent half as much, even less than the money Torvald had given her to buy dresses. She spent the rest paying back on her children, so as not to have shabbily dressed children. She cared for her children, like a mother should. It suggests that she has a kind mother's heart.

6. What does the reader infer about the Helmer family's choice to have servants even when they are in tight economic circumstances?

It can be inferred that the Helmer family is incapable of keeping the kids and house in the 'image of a home' without the servants. By keeping the servants, they keep the feel of being in society, even if they have tight economic circumstances.

7. More exposition occurs when Nora discusses Helmer's early career with Mrs. Linde. What does the reader learn about Helmer's career?

That he was a bank teller who did not earn much money and had to work a lot harder. However, he eventually got a promotion into being the bank manager.

8.What does Nora reveal about how she and Helmer have managed financially? How did they raise the money needed to go to Italy for his health? What is significant about her comments?

She tells Christine her secret of how she saved Helmer, and how she got a loan from someone to save his life. Not only did she say it with a lot of pride, but also said it quietly and cautiously so that no one else could hear.

9. What does Mrs. Linde admit about her marriage?

That she actually didn't love her husband, but she only married him to be able to support her ill mother and her little brothers.

10. Why has Mrs. Linde come to Nora's house?

Mrs. Linde's husband had just recently died without a single trace of a will for Christine to grief on. She was forced to look for a job wherever she could find, so she could support her household. When the household was finally able to fend for themselves, she went off on her own in look of real work. She then stumbles along Nora's house to ask Helmer for a job, which she succeeds in getting.

11. What is Mrs. Linde's initial reaction as Nora begins to reveal the source of the 250 pounds? What does this conversation reveal about the status of women?

Firstly, Mrs. Linde can't believe that Nora has earned the money herself for she thinks of her as a kid. Secondly, she believes Nora has won the money gambling in the lottery. Thirdly, she doesn't believe that Nora, a female, went and borrowed a loan on her own. This reveals that some women do think of themselves as inferior and unable to amount to greater things, than pleasuring their husbands, keeping a house clean, babysitting and cooking.

12. What does the fact that Nora pays the porter twice what she owes him suggest about Nora? What might this incident foreshadow about the play?

The fact that Nora pays the porter twice what she owes him indicates her spendthrift and wasteful nature or habit. It is also evident that Nora spends very generously before her husband has received his promotion and extra salary! This incident foreshadows that in the future, Nora might face problems because of her excessive spending.

13. What is the significance of the fact that Nora eats macaroons, hides the package in her pocket, and wipes the crumbs from her lips?

This depicts her reckless and luxurious desires that her husband Helmer may not approve of. Hence in order to avoid disappointing him, she hides these indulgences. It also shows that Nora is apparently very obedient and respectable of Helmer in front of him. However, it reveals a deceitful side of Nora's character as she continues to satisfy her wants behind Helmer's back.

14. Torvald Helmer has several pet names for Nora. What do they include, and what do they say about how he regards her?

Helmer's pet names for Nora include "little lark", "little squirrel", "little spendthrift" and "little featherhead". Each of these names has the word "little" included, which denotes a sense of superiority that Helmer has over Nora. Moreover, each of these names relates to animals and portrays Nora as "little" and irrelevant in the eyes of Helmer, giving her animal like qualities.

15. What points do Helmer and Nora each make in their first conversation about money?

Helmer appears to be a self-sufficient individual who prefers to save money and avoid spending it recklessly. He also believes in a life of no debt and no borrowing as there is no freedom or beauty in a life that is dependent on borrowing and debt. This shows a very independent and rational side of Helmer. It also shows that he is very careful of his finances and expenditure in order not to overspend.

On the other hand, Nora, who seems to have inherited her spendthrift nature from her father, is inconsiderate of the family's situation and believes that money is for spending. She also thinks that she is allowed to spend more money now that Helmer is going to start receiving a bigger salary on New Year's Day. Moreover, suggesting that she will not pay back the money lenders in case anything were to happen to Helmer, shows her irrational nature and carelessness.

16. How does this set up a framework for future action?

This sets up a framework for future actions as it begins to steer the plot in a direction the readers are expecting after seeing first reactions from both characters. The readers understand that Nora is a spendthrift, who wastes her husband's money and is unable to save anything. On the other hand, Helmer is a conservative man who considers it immoral to borrow as there is no beauty living in debt. These contradictive attitudes of both characters will be the reason for tension and family problems in the development of the play.

17. What does Nora's flirtatious behavior suggest about her relationship with Helmer?

Nora's flirtatious behavior denotes that Helmer and she have quite a stable relationship. They have a flirty yet sometimes serious and true relationship. Helmer bears with Nora's careless attitude about money although it seems to be slightly stretching his pockets. Moreover, he also cares and criticizes her habit of wasting money in an attempt to make her understand its value and importance. This behaviour also explains that there is still blooming love in their relationship, and they are not like an old grouchy couple fighting over petty issues.

18. What literary element is used when Helmer refers to Nora's father, and what does Helmer say about the father?

Helmer uses a simile to compare Nora's spendthrift nature and habits to that of her father's. Reconsider Nora to be "an odd little soul who always finds some new way of wheedling money out of him. He also reinstates that once she has money it seems to melt in her hands similar to her father. This quality is not necessarily something Helmer is proud of Nora acquiring from her father.

19. What does the reader learn when Helmer raises the subject of sweets saying! “Hasn’t Miss-sweet Tooth been breaking rules in town today”?

The reader learns that Helmer has actually prohibited Nora from visiting the confectioners and eating sweetmeats as he believes that it will ruin her teeth. Furthermore, she obviously lies to him as she denies having “taken a bite at a macaroon or two. Initially, Nora and Helmer are seen as a trusting and loving couple. However, after this incident it is evident from Helmer’s nice names for Nora and his behaviour that he has control over her and keeps telling her what to do and what not to do. Nora is seen as inferior to Helmer’s character and she is seen as the more submissive one obeying his orders in front of him. Furthermore, in order to avoid displeasing him she fulfills her desires and wants behind his back.

20. When the family was short of money, what did Nora do so they could all celebrate Christmas? What does this symbolize and what does it suggest about her character?

We learn that when the family was short of money and unable to afford Christmas decorations, Nora sat in a room for a full three weeks beforehand evening until long after midnight so that she could make ornaments for their Christmas tree. This explains a lot about Nora’s caring character who doesn’t want the family to lose out anything due to lack of money or funding and will do anything to ensure that everyone has a good time and is able to enjoy the festive season. Nora is not afraid to make sacrifices and work tirelessly for other’s to have a good time.

21. What does the reader infer about the Helmer family’s choice to have servants even when they are in tight economic circumstances?

Given their circumstances, the fact that the Helmer family still chooses to have servants can be an interpretation of their wish to live comfortably and hassle free. Furthermore, Nora does not have to worry about household chores as well as taking care of the children all the time as she has domestic help to aid her with her chores. Considering that the family is in a tight economic circumstance, this might

be a luxury for them that will definitely stretch their pockets! However ,they don't mind this for the sake of comfort. Also in the time and setting of the play, Norway ,1879 , having a servant symbolised class and well-being which seems to be of great importance to the Helmer family as we see Nora trying to buy the best of things for the house and her family.

22. When the doorbell rings! Why does Helmer say! "If it is a caller !Remember that I am not at home"?

Helmer says that so nobody can disturb him, since he believes most of his visitors arrive bearing requests about their financial disposition .Furthermore ,he has recently been appointed at a high post in the bank. Helmer also believes that this is going to be more common to find people coming into his house and causing disturbance in his life . This is very ironic as due to this behavior he turns away several individuals in a desperate plight like Nora's before she found somebody to lend her money for the betterment of his life.

23." How is Nora's self-centeredness illustrated in her initial conversation with Mrs. Linde?

Nora. Oh you are quite alone. How dreadfully sad that must be. I have three lovely children. You can't see them just now! For they are out with their nurse. But now you must tell me all about it.

No! You must begin. I mustn't be selfish today; today I must only think of your affairs. But there is one thing I must tell you. Do you know we have just had a great piece of good luck? Just fancy ! My husband has been made manager of the bank .Eager to say ! But resists till Mrs . Linde persistently asks her to share the news .

Without anyone interested in her life, Nora ensures that if anyone ever asks to find out about their family or such ,she shares the perfect stories in order to maintain reputation and class in society.

24. More exposition occurs when Nora discusses Helmer's early career with Mrs. Linde. What does the reader learn about Helmer's career?

Helmer used to be a lawyer but will start to work at a bank in the New Year. He does not take up any unsavory cases! He shows moral and ethics to fight for the right thing and abide by the law. Helmer did not get much work as it is an uncertain thing but he will start to receive more money as soon as he assumes the job at the bank.

25. What behavioral problem does Mrs. Linde rebuke Nora about?

Mrs. Linde chides Nora for her decadence and spendthrift nature in regards to money.

26. What does Nora reveal about how she and Helmer have managed financially? How did they raise the money needed to go to Italy for his health? What is significant about her comments?

Nora reveals that both of them worked. Helmer was a lawyer! However, since he didn't earn enough money or a promotion at his office ,he chose to leave it when Nora and he got married .Helmer overworked himself in order to provide for the family and fell critically ill in the first year itself. Nora continued to help out with the household finances by doing petty jobs such as needlework, crocheting, embroidery and the vaguely mentioned sort of other things-he mentions receiving money from her father to travel to Italy around the time of his death. This is extremely significant as Mrs. Linde reveals that Nora used to be very fond of her dad! However , she was confused to hear that she didn't visit him in his final days. This could mean that Nora is hiding something or not sharing the full truth with Mrs. Linde about where they gathered the money to make the trip to Italy. Also the coincidental visit of doctor Rank at the same time as Mrs. Linde generated suspicions as Nora reveals that Torvald came back as sound as a bell! However, still has a doctor visit him everyday. In her attempt to cover up and pose it as a friendly relationship ,she creates significant confusion and suspense amongst the readers causing them to wonder what really happened.

27.What does Mrs. Linde admit about her marriage?

Mrs. Linde admits that her marriage was just a contract in a helpless circumstance in order to be able to provide for her bedridden mother and two younger brothers. She admits that she married her ex-husband for the money and there was no love or romance in their relationship .Due to the unfortunate death of her husband and no one to live for anymore, Mrs. Linde wishes to occupy herself with some sort of a job.

28.Why has Mrs. Linde come to Nora's house?

Mrs. Linde has come to Nora's house in search of help from her husband Torvald in either finding a job or even borrowing money. She is emotionally dramatic when asking for the favour convincing Nora to help her in approaching Torvald regarding this matter.

29.Mrs. Linde says to Nora! "... you know so little of the burdens and troubles of life". What literary devices are used here?

Mrs. Linde uses juxtaposition and exaggeration to make her point about Nora's experience of the true world and reality. The readers see juxtaposition when they discover more about Mrs. Linda's life as a hardworking individual ! Struggling to earn money in order to make ends in meet in comparison to Nora's carefree! Near perfect lifestyle where she is able to attain things without having to worry where the expenses will be coming from. Mrs. Linde exaggerates the value of burdens and troubles in life and undermines Nora due to her naivety exclaiming she hasn't seen the true world.

30.What is Mrs. Linde's initial reaction as Nora begins to reveal the source of the 250 pounds? What does this conversation reveal about the status of women?

Initially, Mrs. Linde is puzzled when Nora starts to reveal the source of the 250 pounds and begins to wonder their actual source if not

reassures her that her father and him are very different individuals and that Nora's father's reputation as a public official was not above suspicion unlike his due to his honest and diligent endeavors in his career. He also swears to keep it this way as long as he holds office. This shows that Nora's father may have had discrepancies at work and may not necessarily have been a very honest man. This reintroduces Helmer's earlier elucidated belief that dishonest individuals poison their children! Hence creates a premise for Nora's fraudulent actions seeing as her father was infamous for his activities in the bank too.

10.What other reasons does Helmer give for refusing to rehire Krogstad?

Torvald states that he would overlook Krogstad's moral incompetence and secure his position. However, due to Krogstad's behavior and disrespect for him ,he feels that working at the bank with Krogstad will be intolerable as Krogstad believes it's okay to adopt a familiar tone with Helmer which is highly disregarded due to his high post.

11.What task does Helmer give to Helen the maid?

Helmer gives Helen the maid Krogstad's dismissal letter and requests her to find a messenger and tell him to deliver it instantly. This shows that Helmer had been planning Krogstad's dismissal carefully and had all the paperwork ready for Krogstad before he commenced his job at the bank in the New Year and makes a hasty and irrational decision to send it to him. Nora's attempt to soothe his anger and convince him to retain Krogstad's post all failed miserably as Helmer confronts Nora about his need to maintain his reputation and not falter to any requests by his wife. Helmer's ego has been hurt by Nora's views on his narrow-minded opinion about Krogstad , his personality and his post at the bank.

what happened to Nora's father and the disgrace caused to him in the newspapers will not be the case with Helmer since his reputation is above suspicion unlike Nora's father. He is going to abide by this and maintain his reputation too as long as he holds his office.

7 .What reason does Helmer give for saying Krogstad cannot return to the bank?

Torvald states that the major reason why Krogstad cannot return to the bank is because the other colleagues and workers are already aware of Torvald's decisions to dismiss Krogstad and no matter how much Nora attempts to convince him! He doesn't want it seem as though she influences his decisions as this will make him look ridiculous before his whole staff. Hence again this reinstates the importance of men in society and their disagreement to women's opinions and requests. The essential theme in this play is that of reputation in society!

8.What danger does Nora say Krogstad pose to Helmer?

Nora says that Helmer should retain Krogstad's position at the bank for his own sake as Krogstad writes in the most scandalous newspapers giving him the power to do unspeakable amounts of harm to their family's reputation and slander their image in society. Hence in order to take precautionary measures and avoid such incidents from occurring, Nora consistently insists that Helmer help him. She further demeans Krogstad saying you never can tell what mischief these men may plan showing that there is a lot at stake with her family and their happiness causing Nora to beg Helmer so earnestly to keep Krogstad at the bank.

9. How does Helmer dismiss this notion and what do we learn about the past?

Helmer dismisses this notion by confronting Nora about her fears from the past as such an incident has occurred with her father and then

their parents. This is a significant means of foreshadowing the conclusion of this play.

4. What has Mrs. Linde concluded about the source of the loan?

Mrs. Linde assumes and concludes due to Nora and dr. Rank's friendly relationship that he is the source of the loan. Mrs. Linde quotes what Nora had misleadingly said earlier about a fictional admirer who had given her the loan, however then later went on to say this was untrue. She believes that due to his daily visits and his social relationship with the family that Dr. Rank is the provider of the money for the family's trip. Nora has to try very hard in order to convince Mrs. Linde that Dr. Rank is not the lender of the money.

5. What is Nora's reaction?

Nora disbelieved that Mrs. Linde thinks of Dr. Rank as her secret admirer and misinterprets that he provided her with the loan behind her husband's back. She is insolent towards Mrs. Linde's unexpected interrogation and accusation about the source of the loan. Nora tries not to respond defensively wherein it seems as if she is hiding something and trying to protect a secret! However, she provides reasonable judgment as to why she would never take money from Dr. Rank given his financial status at the time.

6. When Helmer returns, what does Nora ask him to do?

When Helmer returns, Nora pleadingly convinces him to allow Krogstad to retain his post at the bank in order to prevent any slandering of their family reputation in the public newspapers and moreover the revelation of her secret. Helmer interprets this request as determination to maintain a thoughtless promise that Nora had given Krogstad and refuses to submit to this request despite all her offers to run about and do all her tricks! Chirp about in every room! And play the fairy for him and dance in the moonlight. Helmer believes that

Question's with suggested answers .

1.What is tormenting Nora as Act II opens ?

Nora paces about the room with fear of the thought that Krogstad will reveal her secret about the document forgery to Helmer on Christmas Day and ruin the occasion for her and her family. She is extremely attentive and keeps checking outside the door and in the letterbox to ensure Krogstad doesn't come or send a letter revealing her secret. However, she tries to convince herself that Krogstad would not do such a thing and that her secret would never be revealed as it is impossible and Krogstad couldn't really have meant it considering she has three children and a perfect family to take care of.

2. What fears does she reveal as she talks to the nurse?

Nora discloses her fear that her children would forget her if she leaves altogether and then begins to ask the Nurse about how she was able to send her children away when she came to work for Nora's family. This shows that Nora still believes to some extent that Krogstad is going to reveal her secret which will forcefully drive her out of her own home, family and the society.

3.What is significant about Nora's account of doctor Rank's disease?

Nora states that doctor Rank suffers from a "very dangerous disease due to his father's lifestyle and it has greatly affected him due to this. She explains that doctor Rank has "consumption of the spine and that he bears great pain each day. This explains Nora's affection and care for doctor Rank. Furthermore, it is relative to Nora as it implies that due to Nora's certain lifestyles she could be the reason for her children's suffering in the future. This technique of naturalism is commonly used in literature during the times of A doll's House where offspring inherit social conditions, environment and character from

to play for her and correct her while she dances. Dr. Rank, until now an observer, eventually takes over at the piano so Torvald can stand and correct Nora better. Her dancing grows more wild and desperate until her hair has all come undone. While Nora is still dancing, Mrs. Linde returns and observes that she is dancing like her life depended on it.

Torvald eventually calls everything to a halt, chastising Nora for having forgotten everything he has taught her. Nora replies that she has indeed forgotten everything and needs his help to relearn the dance. She tells him that he must not think of anything else, especially not any letters. Torvald remarks that he can tell from her behaviour that there is a letter from Krogstad waiting for him. Nora responds that she does not know, but that there might be. She begs him not to let anything horrible come between them until after the party. Torvald takes her into his arms, calling her a child and agreeing that she must have her way. He promises to work with her until after the party-at which point, in Nora's words, he will be free.

They all retire to dinner. Nora calls for lots of macaroons. As they leave, Torvald and Dr. Rank exchange a few words about Nora's state of mind in a way that makes clear that they have discussed this matter before. Dr. Rank, concerned, asks if Nora is expecting something. Torvald finally dismisses her concerning behaviour as evidence of childish nervousness, and they exit.

Alone with Nora, Mrs. Linde tells Nora that Krogstad has gone out of town. Nora seems unconcerned and refers again to the miracle. Mrs. Linde presses Nora to explain herself, but Nora dismisses her questions, telling her she would not understand. She sends Mrs. Linde into the dining room. Now alone, she composes herself, checks the time, and observes that she has thirty-one hours to live (that is, until after the tarantella). Torvald's voice then rings out; he is asking for his "little skylark." The act ends with Nora going to him with her arms wide.

and Nora replies that she does, very well. Krogstad now replies that he will not make the matter public after all, but he will keep it between Nora, himself, and Torvald. Nora protests that Torvald must not know, but Krogstad replies that, even if she did have the money to pay the outstanding balance on the loan, he would still involve Torvald, for his intention is not to expose Nora but to blackmail Torvald. That is, he now intends to use Nora to pressure Torvald into giving him a new, highly-placed job at the bank. Krogstad exits and drops a letter to Torvald into the locked letter-box to which only Torvald has a key.

Mrs. Linde returns, and Nora reveals her problem, asking her friend to be her witness in case anything should befall Nora. Nora insists that, in such a case, Mrs. Linde should tell everyone that Nora was not insane and, more importantly, was completely responsible for everything. Mrs. Linde responds in confusion, and Nora asserts that Mrs. Linde could never understand the miracle that is about to happen. This miracle, Nora elaborates, is frightening, yet it mustn't happen, not for anything in the world."

Mrs. Linde offers to try to convince Krogstad to retrieve the letter-she would use her old amorous connection with him as a method of persuasion. Nora says that it is hopeless. But when Torvald begins knocking on the door, Mrs. Linde resolves to try and exits quickly. Nora unlocks the door for Torvald and Dr. Rank, but they are surprised because they expected Nora to be trying on her dress; Torvald says that Rank has been preparing him for some great transformation scene. Torvald observes instead that Nora looks worn out and asks her if she has been practicing her dancing too much. Nora replies that she could not even do so without Torvald because she cannot remember anything without him. Hoping to distract him long enough to solve the problem with the letter, she asks him to help her all day and night until the party. Torvald agrees.

But he heads toward the letter-box first, so Nora stops him by playing the first bars of the tarantella she is going to dance. She then lures him

her dancing for the next night's ball. He also instructs her to direct Dr. Rank to his study, leaving her alone. His tone is that of a father figure.

Nora is bewildered with anxiety until she is interrupted by the arrival of Dr. Rank. Nora detains him and tells him that she always has time for him. Dr. Rank replies in kind. Confused by his statement, Nora asks him to clarify his interests, asking him if anything is likely to happen between them. Dr. Rank reveals that he expects to be dead within a month. He then asks Nora to prevent Torvald from entering Rank's sickroom once he has entered the final stages of his disease. He arranges to leave Nora a visiting card with a black cross on it at the right time to signify that he is about to die. As night approaches, Nora and Rank have an odd conversation which flits between the serious and the mildly flirtatious.

Nora is clearly building up toward asking Dr. Rank for financial help. He then, seemingly unexpectedly, confesses that he loves Nora. He says that he only visits the household on her account. This confession makes her request for money impossible, for it now would make their relationship tangled and explicit. Nora leaves the room briefly to bring in a lamp. Steering the conversation back to safer territory, Nora explains why she loves Torvald even though she seems to enjoy her time with Dr. Rank more. She observes the similarities between her relationships with Torvald and with her deceased father.

The maid enters with Krogstad's visiting card, telling Nora that he has refused to leave until he has seen Nora. Dr. Rank finally retires to Torvald's study. When Krogstad enters, Nora tells him to speak low, warning him that Torvald is home. Krogstad, unperturbed, asks her for an explanation for his dismissal from the bank. Nora replies that she did her best pleading his case but could not sway her husband. Assuming that Nora told Torvald everything, Krogstad replies that Torvald must love her very little to have made such a decision. Nora informs him that Torvald still knows nothing about the matter. Krogstad asks her if she now has a clearer idea of what she has done,

approaching, Nora does not answer and bustles Mrs. Linde into another room in order to hide the fancy-dress costume from him.

Torvald and Nora discuss her dress. As he leaves, Nora stops him and asks him repeatedly if he would do something for his "little squirrel" or "skylark" if she were to act very "prettily," dancing and singing for him. Nora asks him to reconsider dismissing Krogstad from the bank, but Torvald becomes angry, revealing that it is Krogstad's post that he has promised to Mrs. Linde. Nora tells Torvald that she fears Krogstad who, once dismissed, will attempt to besmirch their name in the newspapers.

Torvald thinks that Nora is afraid of libel because her father's name was sullied in the newspapers after his death, so he reassures Nora that, unlike her father, he is beyond reproach. Nora warns about the contrivances of men like Krogstad against their happy, family home. Torvald finally replies that Nora's pleas make it all the more impossible for him to change his mind. What if word got out that he had reversed his decision simply because of his wife's anxieties? Torvald argues that Krogstad is taking advantage of their early childhood friendship to speak to him in an inappropriately familiar manner, which would make his position as manager intolerable. Incredulous, Nora tells Torvald that he surely must not be so narrow-minded. Becoming ever more angry, Torvald orders the maid to send Krogstad his letter of dismissal at once.

To calm Nora, who is panicking, Torvald assures her that, come what may, he will have the courage to take upon himself anything and everything that happens. Nora is particularly intrigued and horrified by this statement, so she asks Torvald to clarify it. He simply repeats that he will take upon himself everything that comes their way. Nora states that this will never happen. Torvald interprets her statement as a desire to share the burdens as husband and wife and assures her that this is what he has in mind as well. He then dismisses the whole topic, asking her if she feels better and telling her to go back to practicing

ACT II

Summary

Act II occurs in the same room as Act I. The Christmas tree's decorations have been taken down, and the candles have burned out. Nora is alone, anxiously worrying about whether Krogstad will write to Torvald revealing her secret. She is interrupted by the Nurse, who brings in a box of fancy clothes to look at. Nora asks about her children and hints at negative events to come, telling the Nurse that Nora will not be able to be with her children as much as before. When the Nurse replies that the children will cope with her absence, Nora wonders aloud if they would forget her altogether if she were to go away. The Nurse is shocked.

Nora asks her how the Nurse could have felt comfortable leaving her own children among strangers when she first came to nurse Nora, when Nora was only a child. The Nurse replies that she was grateful for such a good position and that, given her financial situation, she could not pass up the opportunity. Nora tells the Nurse what a wonderful mother she has been for Nora-and she would be a wonderful mother to Nora's children if they were suddenly without a mother. The Nurse exits.

Alone again, Nora unsuccessfully tries to concentrate on the party being held that night in the upstairs flat, so that she could forget the problem of Krogstad revealing her secret. She is interrupted by Mrs. Linde's arrival. Mrs. Linde enquires about Dr. Rank's depressive mood the day before, and Nora explains that Dr. Rank suffers from a very dangerous spinal tuberculosis that he has had from childhood.

Mrs. Linde quietly continues to inquire about Nora's relationship with Dr. Rank and wonders if he is Nora's "rich admirer." Nora replies that Dr. Rank is a family friend and that there is no such admirer. Mrs. Linde pursues her idea, calls Dr. Rank tactless, and presumes that he is the one from whom Nora borrowed the money. Hearing Torvald

considerably a flat character that has not played a significant role in the development of Act 1 and is seen as the stereotypical grieving widow who is looking for alternatives to start a new life in society. Mr. Rank is also the friendly societal component who shares a close relation with the Helmer family and finally Torvald Helmer himself in my opinion is a very flat character in act 1 as he is seen to be the stereotypical perfect husband who believes that his family must be honest and truthful to each other and abide and live by the norms and regulations of society. He has not been fully shaped by Ibsen just yet as he will surely have a drastic change in character and reaction once Nora's secret is revealed .Hence, he is simply a flat character for the duration of act1.

Honesty vs deceit:

The presence of this theme is visible in the actions of Nora and morals and beliefs of Torvald Helmer. Nora tries to protect her husband's life and in the bargain has to end up lying to him constantly and deceitfully hiding the truth about the circumstance. Honesty is depicted through Torvald's lectures to Nora about how lies are poisonous and infections and dissimulates the facts leading the destruction of one's family. This theme will definitely have a vital role in the further development of the play as readers believe that Nora's secret will soon be revealed.

betrayal :

This theme is constantly seen as Nora betrays her husband in many aspects including borrowing money, communicating with Krogstad and attempting to stabilize his situation at the bank and most importantly hiding the truth about the forgery and the loan borrowed to save Torvald's life.

65. Looking over Act I identify the protagonist and antagonist and classify Nora! Helmer! Krogstad! Mrs Linde and doctor Rank as to whether they are round or flat characters.

After the development of the plot in Act 1 and the occurrence of several pinnacle events it is obvious that Nora plays the role of the protagonist whereas Krogstad with his sinister attitude and negative feeling is the antagonist. Due to the revelation of Nora's actual purpose of the loan and the concern for her family in contrast to her previously seen appearance as a wasteful spendthrift, Ibsen gives Nora a very round character with different traits to enhance her role as a protagonist similarly Krogstad too has a very round character as he is initially seen to be a sorrowful man repenting for his past deeds. However, Krogstad 's ominous and threatening attitude is seen in his conversation with Nora with regard to the money. Mrs Linde is

portrayed as a spendthrift but later is revealed as a concerned and loving wife to Helmer. Helmer's character foil Krogstad is seen to operate with no morals or honesty in comparison to Helmer who believes that honesty is the way of life in order to build a family and hold a good position in society. Only these two characters are used as foils to Nora and Helmer.

64.What are the main themes of the playas established in act I?

The main themes established in act 1 are :

-power and reputation in society .

This is constantly repeated with Nora's situation as women are expected to comply with their husband's wishes in order to maintain a good reputation and image in society. This shows that women were generally powerless in society! However, Nora goes behind her husband's back in order to borrow money and save his life. Society is also seen to disapprove of dishonesty and fraudulence as Krogstad suffers from disrepute after one simple mistake that cost him his reputation and power in society.

Family and relationships :

This theme is visible as we see Nora trying to hide secrets and her faults in order to protect her family and relationship with her husband from crumbling. She shows great concern and care for the well-being of her children and husband and the importance of family is observed through this .Secondly ,Mrs .Linde's sacrifice and contracted marriage to support her mother and brothers also repeats the importance of family in society and during the setting of the play.

dishonesty as according to Torvald they are generally the more responsible ones. This once again shows how women are always undermined and attributed to negative impacts in society during those times and also foreshadows how Torvald might see Nora after her secret is revealed.

61. Why does Nora reject the return of her children at the end of this act?

Nora rejects the return of her children at the end of the act after hearing Torvald's beliefs as she thinks after committed the fraudulent act , she too will poison her children with lies and dissimulate them. Hence, she wants the maid to keep them with her and out of Nora's contact so she doesn't corrupt them.

62. What does Nora's final comment" It's not true. It can't possibly be true." -say about her state of mind?

Nora's final comment! "It's not true. It can't possibly be true" shows her distress and panic and her belief that she has begun to poison her house and family with her dishonesty and fraudulence. She begins to go into denial about the fact that she forged her father's signature to borrow money and begins to refute the fact that she broke a law. We see an inner conflict with Nora's character here as the audience is aware that she committed the crime for the well-being of her family, but after hearing her husband's opinion she begins to instantly regret what she had done for him.

63. Are lesser characters used to create foils to Nora and Helmer?

There are only two characters used to create foils of Nora and Helmer and this helps to increase the impact and role of these characters in the events of the play. Nora's character foil Mrs. Linde , appears to be the homely kind who believes in saving money for the better and also has high morals whereas seen in contrast to Nora who is initially

and decide what she should wear for the fancy dress ball so she can look presentable and of good taste in front of the society. The couple wants to maintain their front and status in regard to their family and Torvald's new job amongst their friends and other members of society.

58.What is ironic about Krogstad's crime?

It is ironic that Krogstad committed a similar crime as Nora as he forged someone's name! However, he threatened to reveal Nora and disclose her forgery if she refused to comply with his demands.

59.What does Helmer say about Krogstad's morals and his current life?

Helmer says that many men have been able to retrieve their character if they openly accept the blame for their crime and take the punishment. However, because Krogstad took the shortcut and played a cunning trick to get away with it, he is even more guilty and has to put on a facade in front of everyone near him. Helmer metaphorically attributes Krogstad's morals and lies to poison that has infected his home and family and not just Krogstad. Hence, the germs of evil have infected his current life and household.

60.What does Helmer say about mothers and why is this ironic?

Helmer says that mothers generally have a negative influence on their children and hence anyone who has turned to doing something bad early in their life has had a deceitful mother. This is very ironic as Nora tried to save Helmer's life and put everything on stake just for her husband's life and she is the one who cares for the whole family. In this way , Helmer unknowingly and indirectly degrades Nora's character that has so far done everything to protect her family and husband. In addition to this, it is also ironic as he says Krogstad as a father has been persistently poisoning his own children with lies and

money and forged bonds to her husband which will destroy her family. We conclude that Krogstad is a very sinister and crafty character that starts to manipulate Nora for his benefit due to his power in the situation.

55. Why does Ibsen show Nora telling her children that she cannot play with them?

Ibsen adds the scene of Nora telling her children that she cannot play with them in order to show a contrasting side to her previously portrayed character as a playful and childlike mother romping around with her children. She is so overcome by Krogstad's threat and behaviour as well as afraid of Helmer discovering her secret that she cannot focus on anything else at the time.

56. What does Helmer scold Nora for when he returns?

Helmer scolds Nora for lying to him about Krogstad's visit. He is also upset that Nora was thinking of convincing him to secure Krogstad's position at the bank even after all the wrong he has done and disgrace he has gained. He sends out a gentle reminder and warning to her saying that his little songbird must never do that again as the songbird must have a clean beak to chirp with no false notes. This is a metaphorical example of what Nora's character should be. However, the audience already knows that Nora has used false notes and doesn't have a clear conscience as she borrowed money from Krogstad against Torvald's wishes and has to say many lies and false statements to cover up.

57. Why does Ibsen include the conversation between Helmer and Nora about the fancy dress ball?

Ibsen includes this conversation between Helmer and Nora to restate the importance of an earlier seen idea of a good reputation and standing in society. Nora convinces Helmer to go shopping with her

inevitably lose his post at the bank. This would also make Krogstad more infamous than he already is and ruin his reputation.

52. What does Krogstad reveal about the bond used to secure the loan?

Krogstad reveals that the bond required the signature of both Nora and her father legal a surety for the borrowed money, however the signature of father was dated three days after his death on the bond. This form of discrepancy gives Krogstad the upper hand in the situation as it is certain that Nora forged her dad's signature as he was in a critical condition and she couldn't tell Torvald about the situation. Krogstad reveals that Nora committed a fraud on him by forging the signature on the documents.

53. Why did Nora forge her father's signature?

Nora chose to forge her father's signature as he was extremely ill and in a critical condition. Furthermore, she would have to post the document to her father which would take very long and further affect Torvald's condition. If she were to do so, she would also have to provide a reason for the borrowing of such a large sum of money to her father and explain its usage to him! However, she could not do that as he was so ill himself that she couldn't tell him that her husband's life was in danger. Hence, to avoid the distressing circumstance of telling Torvald about the loan she conveniently forged the signature on the document.

54. How does the conversation end?

The conversation between Nora and Krogstad ends with him telling her if I lose my position a second time, you shall lose yours with me. This threat from Krogstad plays as a very great role as he compels Nora to convince Torvald to retain Krogstad's position at the bank and not fire him otherwise he will reveal Nora's secret about the borrowed

49.In another example of exposition! What does Krogstad reveal about himself?

Krogstad reveals to Mrs. Helmer that he too on one incident had committed a fraudulent act which was “nothing more or nothing worse than what she had done. He also reveals that this indiscretion , what he considers himself guilty of was one false step, which lost him all his reputation. Hence, in order to gain back his reputation ,he is willing to go extents in order to secure his position at the bank and regain his reputation in society.

50.What does Krogstad mean when he says! “I have the means to compel you?

Krogstad tries to indicate that due to Nora’s forgery of the signature and the fraud ,which she committed when attempting to borrow the money, he has the power to manipulate her and force her to do things that she may disagree to. Furthermore, since Torvald doesn’t know that Nora approached Krogstad to borrow money for their trip, he could tell him causing disrepute to Nora .This example is seen when he tries to get Nora to convince Torvald to secure his position at the bank, otherwise he threatens to reveal her well-kept secret. Through these means Krogstad is going to compel Nora into doing things for his benefit, even if she disagrees to, as he currently has vital information that has the power to destroy her family and ruin her life and reputation in the society.

51. What is Nora’s reaction?

Nora begins to panic and is afraid that if she doesn’t comply with Krogstad’s wishes , he will reveal her secret to Torvald. She wants to avoid this situation as she is also afraid of the consequences Torvald will impose when he discovers this secret. Nora responds cleverly and tells Krogstad that if he told Torvald about the loan and Nora’s circumstances, then he would appear to be a blackguard and would

47. What is ironic about the following conversation?

Nora: When anyone is in a subordinate position! Mr. Krogstad! They should really be careful to avoid offending anyone who- who

Krogstad: Who has influence?

This conversation appears to be very ironic as Nora implies that Krogstad is in the subordinate position when dealing with bank matters with Torvald, hence she demands respect and warns him to be careful not to offend anyone, in this case herself, if he is expecting any changes with his situation at the bank and hoping to receive help from Torvald. This is contradictory, as it has just been revealed that Krogstad knows that Nora forged her father's signature on the loan documents which gives Krogstad the upper hand and the position to blackmail Nora who is seen as the subordinate in that matter. Krogstad can use this to get Nora in trouble and hence Nora should be really careful not to offend Krogstad since he has the evidence and influence to destroy her life.

48. What is discordant about Krogstad's request that Nora influence Helmer in the matter of Krogstad's job?

Why does Krogstad think he is being fired?

Krogstad believes that he will be fired as he saw Mrs. Linde walk with Torvald and thinks that he is going to get her a job at the bank in order to replace Krogstad. Krogstad has a mindset that Torvald has the ability to influence decisions at the bank considering he will be taking up the post of the bank manager. Furthermore, this fear arises from the thought that Torvald and him do not share the best working relations. Hence, his job at the bank is at risk.

order to keep her family in harmony. This also shows that Torvald loves Nora a lot as he allows her to direct his decisions in a society where women are generally considered inferior and disallowed from making decisions or conducting them generally. This also shows that Nora has been able to maintain Torvald's trust and balance a healthy relationship.

45. Why does Ibsen insert a scene of Nora romping with her children?

The insertion of the scene of Nora romping with her children depicts Nora as young and playful character who cares about her children very much. Her children adore her and this portrays her as a motherly figure that is idolized by her children. This supports the fact that she cares about her family as she has kept the debts a secret and is paying them off individually in order to avoid any further strain to her husband. The placement of this scene also helps to lighten the mood of the play and comes across as a calm before the storm as after this, it is revealed to us that Nora is indebted to Krogstad.

46. What is Krogstad's relationship with Nora?

Krogstad is Nora's moneylender and provides her money for the family to travel to Italy in order to provide Torvald with the required treatment to save his life. Nora lied to Krogstad and forged her father's signature on the official documents which is later discovered by Torvald who uses this secret to better his position at the bank with Nora's help. He uses this crime to blackmail her into convincing Torvald to help him gain his reputation in society.

introduce her situation with the person she previously borrowed money from to take the trip to the south. This also introduces the theme of power as it is constantly repeated that power is greatly appreciated in their society and Nora believes that this could be a good thing for her family after their troubles.

42.What is important about Nora's offer of macaroons to Mr. Rank?

Nora's offer of macaroons to Mr. Rank shows that she either shares a good relationship with him that she is allowing her secret of purchasing macaroons to be revealed .Or secondly, she is in a mood to celebrate news and hence does so. She provides Mr. Rank with something sweet to distract him, even though she knows that she is behaving irresponsibly and sharing forbidden sweetmeats with Mr. Rank.

43.How does Nora manage the conversation when she asks her husband to give Mrs . Linde a job?

Nora approaches the subject very carefully and emphasizes the fact that Mrs. Linde has taken along journey in order to see Torvald. After this, she uses persuasive language and praises Helmer in order to manipulate and convince him into giving Mrs .Linde a job. She praises both of them by saying! Christine is tremendously clever at book-keeping as well emphasizing the fact that she is “anxious to work under some clever man. “These techniques helped to convince Torvald into considering helping Mrs .Linde.

44.Why is Nora's management of the conversation significant?

Nora's management of this conversation was significant as it depicts her power and influence over Torvald. Through this, the audience sees her ability to manipulate Torvald.This could also be a foreshadowing of another incident where she may be forced to manipulate Torvald in

Nora to manipulate her husband. He says he has come to discuss bank business but he could use Torvald to help gain back his reputation in society.

39.What does the reader learn when Nora and Mrs. Linde discuss Krogstad?

The reader learns that Krogstad was once a solicitor's clerk in Mrs .Linde's town through which she has heard of him. We also learn that Krogstad had a very unhappy marriage and is now a widower and single parent. A sense of vagueness is noted when Mrs .Linde says he carries on various kinds of business but doesn't give detail about this. This implies that he leads a private and a possibly immoral life and indulges in fraudulent business.

40.What is revealed in the conversation between Mr. Rank and Mrs .Linde?

It is revealed that in society in the earlier days , women were expected to be young and lively and not work. Mr. Rank taunts Mrs . Linde of having some slight internal weakness when she states she can't manage stairs well' . Furthermore, he shows disbelief when she explains she hasn't come to town to amuse herself with entertainments, but in fact "to look for work.

41.What can the reader infer from Nora's question as to whether "all the people who are employed in the bank are now "dependent on Torvald?

The nature of Nora's question shows that she likes when Torvald has power and has people depend on him. Her overjoyed reaction to the doctor's answer shows that she wants this to be the case as Torvald had previously said that living with debt means you are dependent on someone and your life is not your own and with having people dependent on Torvald, it shows that he is in power. This could also

36. At this point in the play! Where is the power allocated among Helmer! Nora! And Mrs. Linde?

At this moment in time, most of the power is allocated between Helmer and Mrs. Linde in comparison to Nora. Helmer, because he is unaware of a Nora's secret ,which could destroy their family simply because of Helmer's high moral values , hence why Nora has kept the borrowing of the money a secret in fear of the consequences. Mrs. Linde also has a fair share of power as she is let in on Nora's secret and can use this to harm the Helmer family or blackmail Nora into getting her a job at Torvald's bank. After borrowing without her husband's consent , lying to her husband and getting a job to pay off the previous debts , Nora seems to be quite powerless and subdued by the fear of Helmer and his reaction to her past actions which she is afraid might have dire consequences.

37. Who is Krogstad?

Krogstad is a lawyer who suffers from great disrepute due to his past. He is closely related to the Helmer family as Nora had previously borrowed money from him in order to pay for her husband's treatments and the family's trip to the south. He is currently working at a very low post at the bank , which Torvald is due to join and feels threatened due to the arrival of Mrs. Linde. He blackmails about revealing her secrets if she refuses to help him retain his position at the bank .For a first interaction with the audience, Krogstad appears to be of a very menacing and sinister character ,which could possibly be a threat to the Helmer family.

38. What else could Krogstad possibly come to the Helmer home to discuss?

Krogstad keeping in mind that he is aware of Nora's dark secret, could have come to the Helmer home to discuss a raise or a promotion at the bank, which if he doesn't attain with Torvald's help ,he will force

33. How has Nora managed her own finances to address her debts?

Nora has always saved a little here and there as she has been unable to put aside money from the household finances in order to keep the family looking happy and healthy. She spent very little on herself from the money Torvald gave her by buying the simplest and cheapest things and saving the rest of the money to address her quarterly interests and installment payments.

34. Why has Nora's work copying documents been so important?

Copying documents has been very significant for Nora as she attributes this job as her source for income and money in order to pay off debts. However, we have learned earlier that Torvald thinks she shut herself in to create Christmas decorations. This tells the reader that Nora's keeping a secret from Helmer and the society, as well as Ms. Linde. This could mean a development in the plot and the introduction of a new character in the play that could influence the relationship between Nora and Helmer. In order to protect her family and the bond, she has chosen to keep this as a secret. Furthermore, Nora also states that being able to earn money and do a job was like being a man.

35. What dangers exist in Nora's employment?

Nora's employment consists of performing small tasks like writing and copying for which she may earn a minimal sum of money. However, since there are several tasks to perform in her employment she loses track of the money she has paid back, where on the other hand, the remainder she owes continues to increase due to quarterly interests.

obtained from Nora's father. As the plot progresses , Mrs. Linde states that "a wife cannot borrow without her husband's consent which implies that women hold a lower status in society than their husbands or any man and require the consent of their husband in order to take critical decisions, in Nora's case, borrowing 250 pounds. This belief corroborates with what we know about the status of women in the earlier years, like that which the play has been set in.

31. Nora suggests that she might have obtained the money from an admirer! But she is insulted when Mrs. Linde suggests imprudence on Nora's part. How does this exchange add to the reader's understanding of Nora?

Nora is insulted when Mrs. Linde suggests imprudence on Nora's part , as Nora thinks very highly and dignified of herself that she gets extremely defensive when Mrs. Linde implies obtaining money from a secret admirer is an act of disloyalty towards her husband. She tries to defend herself and claims it was all for the benefit of her husband as he refused to travel south after several previous attempts to convince him. This clarifies that Nora's apparently virtuous and loyal façade, wherein she is extremely conceited in thinking of herself that way after this previous incident. The reason for her extremely defensive front could be due to her worry and insecurity about society judging her and the family ; hence, she has kept the truth a secret and continues to credit her father for the money.

32. Nora gives Mrs. Linde a summary of the source of the funds. In terms of the "well-made play" Why is this important?

This is relative as a well-made play usually contains a strong and climatic buildup based on the suspense between characters through secrets and misunderstanding. As Nora reveals the truth of the money to Mrs. Linde ,the buildup occurs which then triggers climatic and turning point events that lead to the denouement of the play.