

A DOLL'S HOUSE

STUDY GUIDE

NOTES

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A COMPLETE EXTENSIVE REVISION GUIDE WITH:

- **ANALYSIS OF PLOT, THEMES, CHARACTERIZATION, AND STYLE**
- **150+ CONTENT BUILDING SUMMARY ACT QUESTIONS, AND ANSWERS**
- **11 K.C.S.E STYLE EXCERPT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**
- **21 K.C.S.E STYLE ESSAY QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

INTRODUCTION

Henrik Ibsen wrote the play 'A Doll's House' in 1879, at a time when Norway was experiencing an economic boom. There was progression along the social stratum and the upper middle class particularly benefited. Social class strata brought with it feelings of identity and pride, and the pressure to conform to the stereotypical values of a prestigious class, but inevitably, socio-economic conflicts arose as depicted in Ibsen's play.

The play is centred on various socio-economic conflicts that affect the Helmers' and by extension other characters. The play depicts the societal stereotype of gender roles which are biased against women and deny them freedom of self-expression. Instead, the stereotypes relegate the women to be submissive house wives and subordinates of men. Nora is one victim of these stereotypes as she has to put up with her domineering husband. Torvald treats Nora as a 'thing' that has to be controlled in spite of the enormous sacrifices that Nora has made for the family and for Torvald in particular.

The hypocrisy in the society is also telling. As much as the women conform to the gender stereotypes they still cannot escape criticism, condemnation, and ostracism. The sacrifices that these women make can be overlooked in a flash and replaced with harsh judgement. Torvald's promise that he would stand by Nora's side 'no matter what' crumbles immediately he learns that Nora has engaged in a fraudulent deal. He wastes no time in admonishing her, and even forbids her from coming close to the children. All the while, Torvald ignores that Nora's fraud was for his life's sake.

Nora loses her patience to 'this patriarchal spectacle' that bounds women irrespective of their commitment and selflessness towards serving their families. Torvald's quick judgement ultimately opens Nora's eyes to the hypocrisy and the selfishness of her husband. The actions of Torvald are a grand betrayal for all the sacrifices that Nora made for the well-being of the Helmers' family. She forfeits her traditional duties to both her husband and her children, and walks away in a bid to understand herself and her place in the world.

The playwright through women characters such as Nora, Mrs Linde, and Anna challenges the gender stereotypes in a patriarchal society. Ibsen wants his audience to realise that the roles that women play in society will never equal the 'subordinate' tag that is thrown to the women. In fact, he subtly points out, that women are saviours of men and their families and we can only fully understand them if we allow them to express themselves freely.

PLOT

It refers to the general flow of the story including:

- ✓ The description of the various settings
- ✓ The narrations of various events and their consequences
- ✓ The introduction, description, and actions of various characters

ACT 1 – Money and Power

The setting of this act is at the Helmers' house. Nora Helmer returns to the house from her Christmas shopping. It is evident that it is a day to Christmas (Christmas Eve). Nora wants the Christmas tree hidden from the children so that they will only see it when it is lit in the evening. She pays the porter and leaves him with the change. Nora's humming catches the ear of her husband who affectionately starts a conversation with her. Nora calls her husband to see what she had bought. Torvald labels Nora a spendthrift for wasting money on shopping but Nora justifies her spending saying that Torvald was going to have a big salary soon. Torvald blames Nora's reckless spending habits on the fact that Nora is a woman.

Nora shows Torvald the Christmas presents that she has bought for both the children and the maids. The Helmers have invited Doctor Rank for dinner and they are also planning to invite him for the Christmas celebrations. The Helmers remember their last Christmas that was not so joyous, as they were not well off at that time. A bell rings in the hall and the maid informs Nora that a lady had come to visit her. The maid also informs Torvald that Doctor Rank had arrived and gone into his study room.

Mrs. Linde, Nora's childhood school friend gets into the house. Nora observes that Mrs. Linde looked paler and thinner. Nora also points out that she saw in the papers that Mrs. Linde's husband had died. She also informs her of the Helmers joy that Torvald, her husband, had been made manager of the Bank and with such a good paying job they would live a good life. Mrs. Linde reminds Nora that during their schooldays Nora was a great spendthrift but Nora counters and says that they have never been in a position to waste money and they have had to work to get it.

Nora further states that Torvald left his office since there was no prospect of promotion and he overworked himself in a bid to earn more than he did before. In the process, Torvald fell dreadfully ill and Nora had to take him for a vacation in Italy where they spend a whole year. The vacation saved Torvald's life but it cost Nora a lot of money. Nora lies that she got the money from her father. Nora feels disappointed since she could not go and nurse her sick father who later dies. At the time, Nora was taking care of her sick husband and she was also expecting Ivar's birth.

Mrs. Linde informs Nora that he got married to her husband because he could offer financial support to her bedridden mother and her two young brothers. Her husband's business was however uncertain and when he dies it collapsed and there was nothing left. Mrs. Linde tries her hand on several ventures but she is unsuccessful. Since her mother died and her younger brothers no longer needed her help she has come over to look for work. Mrs. Linde is hopeful that Torvald will help get her something to do. Nora promises to talk to Torvald over the matter.

Mrs. Linde belittles Nora's life troubles claiming that Nora concerns herself only with house care. Nora accuses Mrs. Linde of being like the other people in her life who think that she is incapable of anything. She then reveals that she is the one who saved Torvald's life. She further says that Doctors revealed only to her that Torvald's life was in danger. When Nora becomes unsuccessfully in cunningly pleading with Torvald to take her for a vacation in the south she procures the money that they use in the vacation. She cheats Torvald that the money was provided by his father. This saves Torvald's life. Nora has never revealed to anyone where he procured the money.

Nora fears telling Torvald that she procured a loan as this would upset their relationship and destroy their beautiful happy home. Nora therefore tells Mrs. Linde that she will reveal the secret in the distant future. She also states that she has had to save some money to pay for the quarterly interest and the instalments of the loan that she procured. She has also found other ways of making money. But Nora is excited that she would no longer worry about the loan as Torvald will start earning lots of money. Krogstad arrives to see Nora's husband. Mrs. Linde becomes nervous and turns to the window. Krogstad has a small post in the bank and because he has heard that Nora's husband will be their new boss he has come to see him for business matters. Nora allows Krogstad to go to Torvald's study room.

Mrs. Linde informs Nora that she used to know Krogstad many years ago when he was a solicitor's clerk. Krogstad has made a very unhappy marriage and he is a widower with several children. It is remarked that he carries on with various kinds of business. Doctor Rank comes out of Helmer's study and he is introduced to Mrs. Linde. Mrs. Linde informs Doctor Rank that she had come to look for work. Doctor Rank indicates that though he is sick he would like to live as long as possible. Doctor Rank says that Krogstad has a poor moral character. He informs Nora that Krogstad wanted to talk to Torvald something about the bank. Nora is pleased that Torvald is now the manager of the bank and he has power over many people. Nora offers Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde macaroons though Doctor Rank observes that Torvald had forbidden Nora from taking them.

Nora informs Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde that she had a shocking secret but before she reveals it Torvald comes out of his room. Nora introduces Torvald to Mrs. Linde. He recalls her as a school friend of his wife. Nora informs her husband that Mrs. Linde was good at book-keeping and when she learns that Torvald had been appointed as the manager of the bank she travels to see if Torvald could find her some work. When Torvald indicates that Mrs. Linde came at a fortunate moment and that he will be able to

find something for her, Nora is excited as she has helped Mrs. Linde secure a job. Torvald then leaves accompanied by Doctor Rank, and Mrs. Linde.

Nora plays with her children before Krogstad appears. Nora takes the children to another room. Nora thinks that Krogstad has come for the monthly instalment of the loan but Krogstad would like to know whether the lady that was accompanying Nora's husband was Mrs. Linde. Krogstad says that he knew Mrs. Linde long time ago and he inquires whether Mrs. Linde will have an appointment in the Bank. Nora replies that that was the case and she also says she is the one who helped her get the job. Hearing that, Krogstad now insists that Nora should use her influence over her husband to ensure that he retains his subordinate position at the Bank. Nora claims that she was not afraid of Krogstad since by the end of the month she will have finished her payments to him. Krogstad affirms that he cannot afford to be fired as it will tarnish his name before his children – something that he has always been determined to prevent. Krogstad threatens to expose Nora's secret to her husband if she does not fulfil his demand.

Krogstad reminds Nora of the then circumstances when she took the loan. He states that Nora was anxious to get the money for the vacation that she forgot about the conditions of the bargain. Through their exchange Krogstad clearly proves to Nora that she committed a fraud by forging her father's signature. Nora confesses to this fraud. Before Krogstad leaves, he threatens Nora that if he lost his position at the bank then Nora too would lose hers as the wife of Torvald. Torvald it seems would achieve this by exposing Nora's fraud. Nora tells the children not to tell anyone about the stranger that had just left. Torvald arrives in the house and Nora lies to him that no one has been in the house. Torvald however saw Krogstad going out of the gate and he accuses his wife of being dishonest. He claims that Krogstad has been begging Nora to say a good word on his behalf. He does not approve of such an arrangement since Krogstad is a man with no moral character.

Nora says she is looking forward to the fancy-dress ball. Torvald says that he has got authority from the retiring manager to undertake necessary changes in the staff and he plans to use the Christmas week for that. Nora inquires whether Krogstad was guilty of something very bad. Torvald claims that Krogstad forged someone's name and he got himself out of the mess by using a cunning trick. He accuses Krogstad of being hypocritical and lacking a conscience. He also claims that anyone who turns out as bad in their early life was because they had a deceitful mother. Torvald urges Nora to dissociate himself completely from Krogstad as he had lost all moral character. He also claims it would be impossible for him to work with Krogstad because of his flawed character. The nurse tells Nora that the little children wished to come to her but Nora declines to see them and tells the nurse to stay with them.

Questions and Answers

i.) What is the setting of this scene?

The setting is at the Helmers' house.

ii.) How is Norah a jovial and generous character?

Norah is a jovial character as she goes for Christmas shopping and buys things such as a Christmas tree. This evidently shows that she looked forward to an exciting Christmas day. She is also generous as she pays the porter and still leaves him with the change.

iii.) What evidence portrays to Norah as secretive?

Norah informs Ellen, a servant, not to reveal to the children that she had bought a Christmas tree. She wanted the children to be taken by surprise.

iv.) Why does Nora approach her husband's door cautiously? What are macaroons, and what do they symbolize?

Nora does not want her husband to catch her eating the macaroons. Macaroons are soft round biscuits/cookies, and they symbolize Nora's defiance to the orders of her husband, as her husband has instructed her not to eat the macaroons.

v.) Torvald uses the words 'lark', 'squirrel', and 'featherhead' to affectionately refer to his wife but immediately gets concerned that Norah has spent so much money on the Christmas items. What does this reveal about Torvald's attitude towards Norah?

Torvald has a superior attitude towards Nora. He merely considers Norah as a wife that needs to be controlled like a child. Much as Torvald throws affectionate praises towards Norah, he is also quick to bluntly point out her flaws. This shows that Torvald lacks true love towards his wife.

vi.) Nora is not entirely a 'spendthrift.' What shows that she is reasonable with her approach to money matters?

Nora states that the family is justified to spend a little bit more since this was the first Christmas that they needed not to economise

vii.) How is Torvald portrayed in his approach to issues of money?

Torvald is portrayed as frugal. He is concerned that Nora is spending too much money on Christmas items. Even though Torvald will have a big salary after the New Year, he feels that they needed to economise so that they do not go into debt. He is also chauvinistic as he believes that women are poor in planning finances.

viii.) Discuss Torvald's attitude towards women.

Torvald is discriminatory towards women. He wrongly portrays women in general as incompetent with regards to managing finances just on account of Nora being a spendthrift.

ix.) What evidence demonstrates that Nora is stereotypical?

Nora's choice of Christmas gifts to her children is stereotypical. Her gifts of a suit, a horse, a sword and a trumpet for the boys shows that she is preparing them for the traditional roles of being leaders in society. She surprisingly gives a doll and a dolly's bedstead to her daughter, implying the traditional housewife role of nurturing that girls are expected to play in the society.

x.) What evidence portrays Torvald as judgemental?

Torvald criticises Nora's reckless spending and argues that her wasteful nature is a trait she has acquired from her father. Torvald is quick to form opinions and criticise others too quickly.

xi.) Comment on Nora's acceptance of the 'pet' names that she is called.

Nora's acceptance of the 'pet' names portrays her as submissive. She accepts the names as she thinks it is a portrayal of her husband's love towards her. Her husband however uses them to demonstrate his manliness and his total control over her life.

xii.) What does Torvald's inquisitive nature reveal?

Torvald's inquisitive nature reveal that he follows closely Nora's behaviour and he would like to control and direct it the way he wishes. It also shows Nora's lack of freedom in her own house, and by extension, in her life. For more high school resources 0714497530

xiii.) What evidence shows that Nora is dishonest?

Nora lies to her husband that she has not eaten any macaroons yet she did eat them secretly when her husband was in the study room.

xiv.) How are the Helmers portrayed as hospitable?

They are always welcoming towards Doctor Rank who does not have a family. They invite him for dinner and they are also planning to invite him for the Christmas celebrations.

xv.) What shows that the Helmers finances have not always been good?

The Helmers remember their last Christmas that was not so joyous, as they were not well off at that time. Torvald is relieved that those hard times were now over.

xvi.) What evidence shows that Nora is sympathetic?

She is saddened by Mrs. Linde appearance as she seemed troubled with the struggles of life and her husband had also died leaving her childless and penniless.

xvii.) What makes Nora optimistic about the future of his family?

Torvald's new job as a manager of the Bank means that the family will have lot of money and they will be able to live quite differently.

xviii.) Give illustrations that show Nora is conscious and keen.

Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she is aware that she is regarded as a spendthrift but she knows well that that is not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. He also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet.

xix.) Give evidence that shows the Helmers were a hardworking couple.

When Torvald leaves his office for another job he overworks himself in an attempt to earn more than before. Nora too engages in needlework, crotchet work, and embroidery. These attempts were made in order for them to make more money for the family.

xx.) What evidence shows that Nora is a dishonest character?

Nora lies to Mrs. Linde that she got the money for Torvald's treatment from her father.

xxi.) What shows that Nora was selfless?

Nora does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She accompanies Torvald for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. She also goes out of his way to get the money. Though the vacation costs her a tremendous lot of money, she is able to save Torvald's life. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. This is despite the fact that she was very fond of her father.

xxii.) Which instance portrays Mrs. Linde as determined?

When Mrs. Linde's husband dies and his business collapses she tries her hand in various ventures in order to make a living. She opens a small shop, a school among other ventures but when all fail she seeks the assistance of Nora.

xxiii.) What shows that Nora is skilful?

Nora plans to cleverly share Mrs. Linde's troubles with Torvald in such a way that Torvald will help get Mrs. Linde a job.

xxiv.) "You ought not to be so superior." What makes Nora make this remark?

Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child. This is not true as Nora, too, has had to make sacrifices for the sake of Torvald's life.

xxv.) What proves Nora as secretive in her conversation with Mrs. Linde?

Torvald and other people think that Nora got the money for their vacation from her father. However that is not accurate as it is Nora that procured the money.

xxvi.) What evidence proves that the society in this play is patriarchal?

Nora tells Mrs. Linde that she could have borrowed the huge sum of money used in their vacation. Mrs. Linde however dismisses Nora's remark claiming that a wife cannot borrow money without her husband's consent. This shows that this society was patriarchal.

xxvii.) Explain how Nora shows a lot of skill in handling Torvald's sickness.

Nora is informed that Torvald was dreadfully ill and he was not supposed to know the dangerous condition he was in. Torvald could only be healed by living in the south. Nora skilfully tries to implore her husband to take her for a vacation in the south. She even suggests that Torvald takes a loan for the vacation. When Torvald becomes hesitant she takes matters into her own hands and secures the money for the vacation. Her action saves Torvald's life.

xxviii.) "A man who has such strong opinions about these things." What does this reveal about Torvald's character?

Torvald was chauvinistic as he strongly believed that women should not take loans without the consent of their husbands.

xxix.) What proves that Nora is modest?

Nora does not want to reveal to Torvald that she went out of her way to procure money that was used for Torvald's treatment. She does not want Torvald to be guilty that he owed her anything.

xxx.) What actions portray Nora as selfless?

Though the loan that Nora procured was used for Torvald's treatment, she goes out of her way and starts paying it. She saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money. She does not burden Torvald over the loan that she procured.

xxxi.) What are the feelings of Nora towards the whole loan procurement issue?

Nora is optimistic since she will no longer have to care about where she would get the money to pay the quarterly interest and the instalments. This is because Torvald will soon start earning a lot of money that she will use to pay the loan.

xxxii.) What shows that Nora was unwelcoming towards Krogstad?

Nora does not greet Krogstad and she addresses him in a strained low voice. She further interrogates him on why he wanted to see her husband.

xxxiii.) Who is a clerk?

A clerk is a person whose job involves keeping records or accounts in an office.

xxxiv.) What shows that Mrs. Linde is secretive?

Mrs. Linde does not inform Nora that Krogstad was once her fiancé and she leaves him because she lacked the money to provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers.

xxxv.) Nora feigns ignorance on the kinds of business that Krogstad involves in. How does that portray her?

Nora is portrayed as dishonest as it is Krogstad that helps her procure a loan that is used for their vacation. Nora does not wish this information to be known.

xxxvi.) What evidence portrays Doctor Rank as determined?

Even though Doctor Rank is sickly, he wishes to live as long as possible.

xxxvii.) "He suffers from a diseased moral character." How does this statement portray Doctor Rank?

Doctor Rank is portrayed as judgemental. He is quick to accuse Krogstad as a man with no moral character.

xxxviii.) What evidence shows that Nora is proud?

Nora was able to save her husband's life and now Torvald has a big job that makes him have power over so many people. Nora is proud of herself and her husband.

xxxix.) "What, macaroons? I thought they were forbidden here." What does this statement say about Nora?

Nora is defiant. She does not want her life to be controlled. She desires to be left to engage in leisure that makes her happy.

XL.) What evidence shows that Nora is secretive?

Nora claims that there is a secret that she is hiding from Torvald. She is however reluctant to reveal it even to Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde.

XLi.) How does Mrs. Linde show her determination to get a job?

After trying without success several income generating ventures, she travels to the Helmers hoping that Nora will help her get a job. Nora eventually helps her get a job.

XLii.) What evidence shows that Torvald was kind?

Torvald empathises with Mrs. Linde's struggles to get a job and he promises to get her a

job.

XLiii.) “Nora is skilful.” How true is this statement?

Nora convinces her husband that Mrs. Linde’s hope of getting a job lay on the Helmers. She also tells Torvald that he should help Mrs. Linde for her sake. Torvald obliges and promises to get Mrs. Linde a job.

XLiv.) What evidence shows that Nora is a loving and caring woman?

After everyone leaves, Nora gets time to play with her children.

XLv.) Give the actions/words of Nora that show she did not want Krogstad in the house.

Nora does not greet Krogstad but with a stifled cry questions what he wanted in the house. She also tells Krogstad that her husband was not in the house meaning that she was uncomfortable with him alone and she therefore expected him to leave. Nora refers to Krogstad as ‘a stranger’ in front of the children yet he was not. She also does not give Krogstad time to explain what he wanted to speak to her about. Instead, she jumps into conclusions by reminding Krogstad that it was not yet the first of the month. Nora thinks that Krogstad had come to demand for the monthly instalment of Nora’s loan.

XLvi.) Why is Krogstad so inquisitive about Mrs. Linde?

This is because Krogstad was known to Mrs. Linde some years back and he knew her training. He is worried that she might replace him as he has seen her together with Torvald who seems to have an issue with Krogstad’s moral character.

XLvii.) How is Nora’s harsh character shown?

Nora’s response to Krogstad’s question is very unkind. She tells Krogstad that as her husband’s subordinate, he had no right to question her. She further tells Krogstad bluntly that she is the one who pleaded for Mrs. Linde’s appointment. Mr Isaboke Micah 0714497530

XLviii.) How was Nora’s words towards Krogstad demeaning?

Nora tells Krogstad that he ought not to offend anyone who had influence. This means that Nora felt she was superior to Krogstad and that is why she looks down upon him.

XLix.) What shows that Krogstad is conscious of what is going on?

Krogstad is certain that Mrs. Linde will be working at the bank and he fears that Mrs. Linde might take up his job.

L.) What evidence shows that Krogstad is manipulative?

Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora’s secret of obtaining a loan fraudulently to her husband if she does not prevent him from firing her.

Li.) Why does Nora threaten to throw Krogstad out of the house?

Krogstad talks of Nora's husband without any show of respect and Nora tries to be protective of him.

Lii.) "I am not afraid of you any longer." What does this statement reveal about Nora?

Nora was fearless. She knows that Torvald will have lots of money and she will be able to pay off Krogstad's remaining loan.

Liii.) What shows that Krogstad is a determined character?

Krogstad tells Nora that he was prepared to fight for his post at the bank.

Liv.) Which evidence points to Krogstad as a morally corrupt character?

Krogstad engages himself in morally unacceptable actions but he was lucky as the matter never came before the court.

Lv.) What shows that Krogstad was protective?

Krogstad wants to safeguard his reputation for the sake of his children. He is prepared to ensure that happens by doing everything he can to prevent losing his job at the Bank.

Lvi.) What evidence points to Nora as emotional?

When Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband, Nora begins to sob. This is because she knows she will be badly exposed.

Lvii.) What shows that Krogstad is intimidating towards Nora?

Krogstad reveals detail by detail Nora's fraud. He does this in-order to intimidate her into talking to her husband against sacking him.

Lviii.) What evidence portrays Nora as being fraudulent?

Nora forges her father's signature in a bid to procure a loan for their vacation. She does this because her father had died and she was worried of her husband's illness.

Lix.) Which confessions does Nora make?

Nora confesses that she is the one who wrote her father's name and signed the paper for the procurement of the loan.

Lx.) Why did Nora not send the paper to her father?

Nora's father was ill and if she had asked for his signature she would have had to tell him that the money was to be used for her husband's treatment since his life was in danger. This would have worsened his father's condition.

Lxi.) What evidence shows that Nora was loving and caring?

Nora says that she would never have given up her trip abroad since she had to save her husband's life.

Lxii.) What shows that Krogstad was cold?

Krogstad put so many difficulties along Nora's way when she attempts to procure a loan for Torvald's treatment. He did not sympathise with Nora whose husband was critically ill.

Lxiii.) What evidence portrays Krogstad as intimidating?

Krogstad tells Nora that if he were to produce the paper with the forged signature in court, the law will not care about her motives and Nora will be judged. Krogstad tells Nora this for her to realise that she is guilty of fraud no matter her motives. He also tells Nora that if he were to lose his position at the Bank then the Helmers too will lose theirs.

Lxiv.) Show the effectiveness of Nora's use of rhetorical questions.

Nora is surprised that whatever she did she did for the good of her loved ones yet she is being accused of committing a crime.

Lxv.) What shows that Nora is a dishonest character?

Nora lies to Torvald that no one had been in the house. This is inaccurate as she has just been speaking to Torvald a few moments ago. She does not want her husband to realise that she has any associations with Krogstad.

Lxvi.) What evidence shows that Torvald is overbearing?

Torvald talks down his wife for talking with Krogstad and also for lying to him.

Lxvii.) What shows that Torvald's position at the Bank is powerful?

Torvald now has the powers to undertake necessary changes among the staff and the re-arrangement of the work at the Bank.

Lxix.) What evidence portrays Nora as dependent?

Nora urges her husband to assist in her preparation for the fancy dress ball. She urges him to suggest the dress that would suit her for the function.

Lxx.) What crime is Krogstad alleged to have committed?

Krogstad forged someone's name and he gets out of the crime by a cunning trick.

Lxxi.) What evidence portrays Torvald as chauvinistic?

Torvald claims that people who have had a bad character since their young days had deceitful mothers. This is a stereotypical observation and Torvald chooses on women since he views men as a more superior gender.

Lxxii.) "I literally feel physically ill when I am in the company of such people." What does this statement reveal about Torvald's character?

Torvald is portrayed as demeaning as the mere fact that Krogstad has a flawed character does not make him lose his humanness to an extent that he can cause physical illness to others. for more high school resources 0714497530

Lxxiii.) What evidence portrays Nora as conscious?

Nora observes how her husband accuses Krogstad of poisoning his own children and home. Nora puts herself in Krogstad's shoes since she, too, has committed the same crime of forgery and she is troubled that she might instill the wrong values in her children. This explains why she begins to keep a distance between her and her children.

ACT II – Crumbling of Secrets

The events in this act take place at the Helmers' house on Christmas day. Nora inspects the letterbox and finds that it is empty. She believes that Krogstad will not inform her husband as she had three little children and Krogstad will dare not destroy her family. Nora tells the children's nurse that she will not be able to be with them as before. Nora asks the nurse why she left her child among strangers. The nurse says that she was obliged to leave the girl behind, if she wished to be Nora's nurse. She also claims the girl's father did not offer any support to her. The nurse says that the girl wrote to her when she was confirmed and when she got married.

Mrs. Linde enters and Nora asks her to help her mend the dress that she plans to wear at the fancy-dress ball. Nora claims that Doctor Rank has a dangerous disease which he inherited from his father. She further states that Doctor Rank is her husband's most intimate friend. Nora disputes Mrs. Linde's remark that Doctor Rank was the rich admirer she was talking about. Nora says that then, Doctor Rank had no money to lend. Mrs. Linde asks Nora if she was concealing something from her but before the conversation goes further Torvald enters and Nora asks Mrs. Linde to move to the children's room as her husband could not bear to see dressmaking. Nora brings up her earlier request that her husband should let Krogstad keep his post.

Torvald informs Nora that he had already assigned the post to Mrs. Linde. Nora reminds Torvald that Krogstad may ruin their happy family but Torvald will hear none of it. He informs Nora that it is already known at the Bank that he plans to dismiss Krogstad and he cannot change his mind because of her. Torvald claims another reason he cannot keep Krogstad is their familiarity which Krogstad misuses to address him casually and disrespectfully. When Nora accuses Torvald of being narrow-minded, Torvald gets angry and sends a maid to take Krogstad's dismissal letter to a messenger who should deliver it. Nora unsuccessfully pleads with Torvald to order the maid back. Torvald asks Nora to practise through her dance then he goes to his room.

Nora is worried of what will happen next after her husband's dismissal of Krogstad. Doctor Rank gets into the house and Nora lies to him that her husband is busy with something. Doctor Rank tells Nora that he will die in a month's time but he will confirm after a final examination. He says that he would not like Torvald to know of his sickly condition. Doctor Rank is angry that his sickness is as a result of her father's youthful amusements and he promises to send Nora a card with a black cross to mean that his time to die had come.

Doctor Rank flirts with Nora. Nora says that she will dance beautifully the next day to please both Torvald and Doctor Rank. Nora prepares to ask for a favour from Doctor Rank but when Doctor Rank confesses his affection towards Nora, she is taken aback

and does not ask the favour she wanted from him. Nora compares her father to Torvald since they both wanted to control her life and decide what she could and could not do. Nora tells Doctor Rank to go to Torvald's room and asks him not to tell her husband that she had ordered for a new dress.

Nora is worried that her secret will be out soon when she learns from the maid that Krogstad wanted to get into the house. Krogstad gets into the house and Nora informs him that her husband was at home. He informs Nora that he had got his dismissal letter. Krogstad suggests that the whole issue be resolved amicably. He informs Nora that he had carried a letter which he will give to her husband. Krogstad makes fresh demands saying that he now wanted to get into the Bank again, but in a higher position. He hopes to be Torvald's right hand man and this will give him an opportunity to influence the operations of the Bank. Krogstad tells Nora that when Torvald gets his letter that contains Nora's secret and his demands he expects Torvald to contact him. Nora observes as Krogstad drops the letter into the box.

Mrs. Linde comes in carrying Nora's dress that he had finished mending. Nora shows Mrs. Linde Krogstad's letter in the letter-box and immediately, Mrs. Linde guesses right that it was Krogstad who lent Nora the money. She informs her that her husband usually keeps the key to the letter-box. Nora further tells Mrs. Linde that she forged a name. Nora tells Mrs. Linde that if any misfortune were to befall her, then she, Nora would take all the responsibility. Mrs. Linde informs Nora that Krogstad was once her close friend and she plans on going to see him immediately. She says that she will tell Krogstad to find some pretence in order to ask for his letter back unread. She also advises Nora to make sure that Torvald delays to read his letters.

Doctor Rank and Torvald come out of the study. Torvald observes that Nora looked worn out. Nora claims that she had forgotten how to dance and she asks Torvald to devote all his evening to her. Torvald almost goes to check his letterbox but stops in the doorway when Nora plays the first bars of the tarantella. Mrs. Linde enters. Nora plays wildly and she therefore tells Torvald that he should coach her till the last minute. Helmer suggests that Nora was still afraid of Krogstad and that a letter from him was in the letterbox. Nora accepts that there might be but tells Torvald not to read such letters until the fancy dress ball event is over.

Dinner is served and Nora asks for a few macaroons for one more time. Torvald tells Doctor Rank that Nora's anxiety is nothing but her childish nervousness. Mrs. Linde tells Nora that Krogstad had gone out of town and that he would return the evening of the following day. She however states that she had left a note for him. When Mrs. Linde goes to join the others for dinner Nora counts the hours before fancy dress ball will be over after which Torvald will open the letterbox and read his letters.

Questions and Answers

i.) Give the setting of this act.

This act takes place at the Helmers' house.

ii.) "Of course he can't be in earnest about it." What is the context of Nora's remark?

She hopes that Krogstad was not serious with his threat of revealing Nora's secret to her husband. That's why she peeps at the letterbox to see if there could be such a letter from Krogstad.

iii.) Why is Nora beginning to create a distance between herself and her children?

This is because of Torvald's remarks that people with lack of moral character poison their children's life. Nora is conscious of the fraud that she committed and she is worried as Torvald stated of Krogstad that she too might be a bad influence to her children.

iv.) What shows that the nurse was selfless?

The nurse leaves her daughter behind to work as Nora's nurse, a job she has done well and Nora is confident that she too can take good care of Nora's children.

v.) What evidence portrays Nora as superstitious?

Nora believes that Doctor Rank has been sickly from childhood because his father indulged in things more than was necessary and therefore his sickness is a price he is paying for his father's faults.

vi.) What shows that Doctor Rank is a good listener?

Nora says that her husband was never interested when she mentioned other people in her life so she naturally spoke of such matters with Doctor Rank who liked hearing them.

vii.) What shows that Mrs. Linde is observant?

Mrs. Linde tells Nora it seemed something was troubling her mind and Nora was hiding it from her.

viii.) What evidence portrays Nora as determined?

Nora brings up the matter of Krogstad's dismissal once more. She promises to be submissive to Torvald if he lets Krogstad keep his job. This is because she fears that Krogstad might reveal her secret and bring a conflict between her and her husband.

ix.) Torvald is a rigid character. How true is this statement?

Nora tries as much as she can to convince Torvald to let Krogstad keep his job but Torvald can hear none of it. Even Nora's promise to be more submissive or to play the

fairy and dance to Torvald, something Torvald is obsessed with does not change his mind.

x.) "Well, my skylark does that anyhow." What does this statement portray about Torvald's character?

Torvald is conceited. He states that he does not need to do Nora any favour for her to act submissively towards him as Nora has always acted that way.

xi.) Nora suggests that Torvald dismisses some other clerk but not Krogstad. What does that tell about Nora's character?

Nora is selfish. She puts her own interests before others. She is more concerned about her secret not being revealed than any other misfortune that can befall others that stand in her way.

xii.) Why is Nora fearful of Krogstad?

Nora fears that Krogstad may tarnish the reputation of the Helmers' if he reveals that she obtained money by fraud.

xiii.) What shows that Torvald is a proud character?

Torvald tells Nora that unlike her father whose actions at work were suspicious, he was beyond reproach. He also claims he cannot keep Krogstad because he is too familiar with him since they were childhood friends. Torvald complains that Krogstad addresses him casually in front of other people yet he is Krogstad's boss.

xiv.) Why can't Torvald change his mind about dismissing Krogstad? What does that tell about Torvald's character?

It was already known at the Bank that Torvald was to dismiss Krogstad and he cannot change the decision because of his wife as this would make him look ridiculous before his staff. Torvald is portrayed as principled.

xv.) What evidence shows that Torvald is temperamental?

When Nora accuses Torvald of being narrow-minded he becomes very angry and immediately orders for Krogstad's dismissal letter to be sent to Krogstad.

xvi.) "He will do it in spite of everything." What is Nora referring to?

Nora is referring to Torvald who wants to dismiss Krogstad yet Nora has pleaded with Torvald not to do it. Nora is bewildered that after all her sacrifices, including saving Torvald's life, Torvald cannot listen to her pleas.

xvii.) Why is Doctor Rank hopeless about life?

Doctor Rank has been suffering from a terrible disease and he tells Nora that soon he

was going to die.

xviii.) What does 'a card with a black cross' that Doctor Rank says he will send Nora signify?

The card with a black cross signifies Doctor Rank's imminent death.

xix.) What evidence portrays Doctor Rank as superstitious?

Doctor Rank claims that he is cursed as he is paying the price for his father's youthful exuberance and excesses.

xx.) How are both Doctor Rank and Nora portrayed as flirtatious?

Nora tells Doctor Rank that she shall dance beautifully for him and for Torvald. She also allows him to ogle at her lovely stockings and Doctor Rank asks her what other nice things he was allowed to see.

xxi.) What proves that Nora is reasonable?

Nora refuses to ask Doctor Rank for the favour she was meant to ask him after she realises that Doctor Rank was affectionate towards her. She knew that her favour might be misconstrued to mean something else now that Doctor Rank had expressed his affections towards her.

xxii.) What evidence shows that Doctor Rank is immoral?

Doctor Rank knows that Nora is a married woman yet he goes ahead and declares his affection for her.

xxiii.) What shows that Nora is secretive?

Nora buys a new dress but he doesn't want her husband to know about it as he will accuse her of being a spendthrift.

xxix.) Why doesn't Krogstad want to go away?

Krogstad probably had received his dismissal letter and he was coming to register his displeasure to Nora.

xxx.) What dreadful thing does Nora fear might happen?

Nora fears that Krogstad may reveal her secret about the loan that she procured. She cannot believe how this issue will expose her yet she took the loan in order to save the life of her husband.

xxxi.) Why does Nora inform Krogstad that her husband was at home?

Nora did not want her husband to catch them talking since she had been warned against talking to Krogstad. Nora also hoped that Krogstad would not reveal her secret to her

husband.

xxxii.) What did Nora do to try and prevent Krogstad's dismissal?

Nora pleaded with Torvald not to dismiss Krogstad because he would tarnish his name. She also told Torvald that he would destroy the peace that the family enjoys. This however does not prevent Torvald from dismissing Krogstad.

xxxiii.) How does Krogstad mock Torvald?

Krogstad says that Torvald would be overwhelmed if he learnt Nora's fraud and that is why he is better off in the dark as he would lack the courage to face such revelations.

xxxiv.) What shows that Nora is protective?

When Krogstad mocks Torvald's lack of courage, Nora reminds him not to show disrespect to her husband. She also tells Krogstad not to reveal her secret as it would affect their children's lives.

xxxv.) What evidence portrays Krogstad as vengeful?

Krogstad wants to revenge for his dismissal by Torvald. He is ready to expose Nora's fraud. This will tarnish the image of the Helmers.

xxxvi.) What shows that Krogstad is manipulative?

He is no longer interested in getting back Nora's loan. Instead, he wants Nora's fraud to remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank. He therefore plans to hold Torvald hostage by intimidating him with Nora's fraud. Krogstad also wants to use Nora's fraud to get back his reputation.

xxxvii.) Why does Nora wish to run away from her home?

Nora fears Torvald's reaction if he were to learn that she engaged in fraud.

xxxviii.) What do you think that the letter that Krogstad is carrying contains?

Krogstad's letter contains the details Nora's fraud and his demands for him not to expose the Helmers for the fraud.

xxxix.) How is Nora portrayed as naïve?

Nora thinks that Krogstad is only interested in the money. He does not know that Krogstad wants to keep his reputation intact and he is determined to go all the way to ensure that happens. Krogstad is no longer interested in the money.

XL.) What shows that Krogstad is demeaning towards Nora?

Krogstad calls Nora a 'fine spoilt lady'. This shows that he lacked any respect for Nora for he addresses her in a casual manner.

XLi) What evidence portrays Krogstad as intimidating?

Krogstad promises to have Torvald in his power and he also reminds Nora that he still has her bond and therefore her reputation.

XLii.) Why does Nora utter a stifled cry?

Nora knew that Torvald would get Krogstad's letter and therefore her secret would be out.

XLiii.) How is Nora portrayed as selfless?

Nora tells Mrs. Linde that if anything was to happen to her she would take all the responsibility. This is surprising since she took the loan for Torvald's sake but she does not involve him in the conflict.

XLiv.) What evidence shows that Mrs. Linde is supportive?

When Mrs. Linde learns that it is Krogstad who lent Nora the money she offers to go and talk to Krogstad to drop the matter.

XLv.) What evidence portrays both Mrs. Linde and Nora as skilful?

Mrs. Linde hopes to convince Krogstad to find some pretence and use it to ask for his letter back. She also tells Nora to delay her husband's from opening his letter-box. Nora pretends that she has forgotten to dance so that her husband can commit his time to coaching him rather than reading his letters.(Mr Isaboke Micah 0714497530)

XLvi.) What shows that Torvald was observant?

Torvald notices that Nora looked worn out. He does not know that Nora is worried that her secret is going to be revealed.

XLvii.) What shows that Torvald is instinctive?

Torvald correctly points out that Nora is nervous and fearful of Krogstad and he also says that Krogstad's letter was lying somewhere. He speaks all these without knowing that everything he said was true.NOTE: **CONTACT Mr Isaboke Micah 0714497530**

XLviii.) What shows that Torvald is demeaning?

When Nora is unable to dance well, Torvald says it is because of Nora's childish nervousness.

XLix.) What is a bond?

A bond is a legal agreement that binds two or more parties to a particular promise.

ACT III – Judgement

The action takes place at the Helmers' house. Mrs. Linde is anxiously waiting for Krogstad who later arrives. Krogstad accuses Mrs. Linde of abandoning him for another man who had more money. Mrs. Linde explains that she got married to the other man since she needed someone who could provide money for her helpless mother and her two little brothers. She says that at that time Krogstad did not have good money prospects. Krogstad tells Mrs. Linde that because of her actions his life was turned upside down. Mrs. Linde also shares similar sentiments and they decide to be married so as to give each other company as their lives were empty. Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad that it was his position at the bank that she was going to take.

Mrs. Linde urges Krogstad to leave as the Helmers might be back soon. Krogstad regrets sending the letter about Nora's fraud to her husband. Mrs. Linde informs him that the letter was still in the letter-box. Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad not to recall his letter arguing that it would be wiser if Torvald knew Nora's secret so that a complete understanding between them is reached. Nora and Torvald enter from upstairs. Nora protests that they have left early and she wishes to go upstairs but Torvald is reluctant to the idea. Torvald talks to Nora affectionately. Mrs. Linde urges Nora to tell her husband about her fraud, or Krogstad's letter would. Mrs. Linde wishes the Helmers a good night, and she leaves.

Torvald calls Mrs. Linde a frightful bore. He talks to Nora affectionately but Nora is uninterested. Torvald is irritated when Doctor Rank gets into the house. Nora intelligently asks Doctor Rank about her health and he replies that he was going to die soon. Doctor Rank borrows a cigar from Torvald and leaves. Torvald finds Nora's broken hairpin at the lock as he goes to check the letter-box. He empties the letters and finds two cards from Doctor Rank with a black cross over the name. Nora explains that Doctor Rank had informed her that the cards were a sign that he was going to die. Torvald explains that Doctor Rank's death will give him and Nora a chance to be closer to each other.

Torvald tries to be affectionate again and tells Nora that he wished that she could be in any form of danger so that he risks his life for Nora's sake. Nora tells Torvald goodnight and Torvald takes his letters and goes to his room. Nora decides to abandon her family but when she is just about to rush out through the hall Torvald holds her back and demands an explanation from her over Krogstad's letter. Nora tells Torvald that everything in the letter was true. Torvald insults Nora calling her a hypocrite, a liar, and a criminal. He accuses Nora of inheriting her father's lack of moral character. He tells Nora that she had destroyed his happiness and ruined his future. He also tells Nora that he is worried that he may be suspected of being party to Nora's criminal action. He tells Nora to remain in the house but she will not be allowed to bring up the children.

Just then the maid hands in a letter addressed to Nora. He refuses to give the letter to Nora and opens it by himself. In the letter, Krogstad sends Nora's bond back. Torvald tells Nora that he has forgiven her and since the matter was now settled, their lives should go back to normalcy. Nora tells Torvald that she would not sleep in the house that night and she asks him to sit down for a talk. She accuses Torvald and her father of controlling her life and that is the reason Nora had made nothing out of her life. She accuses Torvald of making her his doll wife.

Torvald promises that the future would be different but it is too late. Nora reminds Torvald of her hypocrisy and selfishness. While Nora sacrificed her life for Torvald's, Torvald does not reciprocate. Torvald however says that no man would sacrifice his honour for the one he loves. Nora states that she was leaving and Mrs. Linde would take her in for the night. She tells Torvald that she wants to think over things for herself and understand them. Nora informs Krogstad that she did not love him anymore.

Nora hopes that now that she had deserted her husband's house, Torvald was legally freed from all obligations towards her. Nora tells Torvald never to write to her nor send her any money. She says that for them to ever come back together then both will need to transform themselves. Nora goes out through the hall as Torvald is saddened by Nora's departure.

Questions and Answers

i.) Where is the setting of this act?

This act is set in the Helmers' house.

ii.) Why is Mrs. Linde worried that Krogstad has not yet shown up?

Mrs. Linde is worried that the Helmers might come back from upstairs and therefore jeopardize her planned meeting with Krogstad. She might also be worried that they might not be able to prevent Torvald from reading Krogstad's letter that reveals Nora's fraud.

iii.) What makes Krogstad surprised that the Helmers are at a dance?

Krogstad expected the letter he wrote to Nora's husband to bring a disagreement between the couple.

iv.) What evidence shows that Mrs. Linde is regretful for abandoning Krogstad?

Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad that her decision to leave him for another man was not deliberate but she was forced by circumstances.

v.) What shows that both Krogstad and Mrs. Linde are broken-hearted?

Krogstad says that when he lost Mrs. Linde his life was greatly affected while Mrs. Linde claims that she is living a lonely life.

vi.) What evidence portrays Mrs. Linde as open-minded?

Mrs. Linde suggests to Krogstad that since they were both living troubled lives they should get married so that they give each other company.

vii.) What shows that Mrs. Linde is an understanding woman?

Mrs. Linde believes that Krogstad might have been driven to his bad character because he lacked hope in life therefore she has no worries about getting married to him.

viii.) Why does Krogstad ask Mrs. Linde many questions?

Krogstad wants to assess the seriousness of Mrs. Linde statement that she wished them to get married. This is because Mrs. Linde once abandoned him for another man.

ix.) What shows that Mrs. Linde is reasonable?

Mrs. Linde asks Krogstad not to recall his letter so as to let Torvald know about Nora's secret and for the married couple to have a complete understanding between them.

x.) What evidence portrays Mrs. Linde as cautious?

Mrs. Linde does not want the Helmers to find her talking to Krogstad so she asks Krogstad to hurry up and leave.

xi.) Why does Nora want to go upstairs again?

Nora wants to pass time before her secret is revealed. She also hopes that it will give enough time to Mrs. Linde to get Krogstad and convince him to recall the letter.

xii.) What shows that Torvald is affectionate?

Torvald shows feelings of love towards his wife by talking endearingly to her.

xiii.) What evidence portrays Torvald as nasty/ hypocritical?

Torvald pretends to be at ease with Mrs. Linde's presence in their house but immediately she leaves, Torvald calls Mrs Linde a 'frightening bore.' He is also irritated when Doctor Rank comes into the house yet Doctor Rank was his close friend.

xiv.) Nora is removed from Torvald's affection. What could be the reason?

Nora is anxious that her secret is finally going to be out and she is worried about Torvald's reaction.

xv.) What shows that Torvald is domineering?

Torvald talks to Nora as if he is in total control over her and he insists on talking endearingly towards Nora despite her protests. He also tells Nora to train the children not to break into things; a duty they should both share as the children are theirs and not

Nora's.

xvi.) What shows that Doctor Rank speaks metaphorically?

Doctor Rank says that at the next fancy dress ball he will be invisible. That was a clever hidden way of saying he would be dead.

xvii.) What evidence shows that Nora is anxious?

Nora observes Torvald at the window as he turns over the letters. He is worried of what will happen when Torvald finally picks Krogstad's letter.

xviii.) What shows that Torvald is instinctive?

Torvald says that something ugly had come between him and Nora. He thinks that it is Doctor Rank's death. However the real ugly thing is Nora's fraud which is just about to be exposed.

xix.) What evidence portrays Torvald as insulting/ abusive?

When Torvald finally reads about Nora's fraud, he abuses her calling her 'a miserable creature', a 'liar', a 'hypocrite', a 'criminal', and a 'blind foolish woman' among other names.

xx.) What shows that Torvald was demeaning?

Torvald insults Nora and accuses her of taking after her father's lack of moral character.

xxi.) What evidence portrays Torvald as morally decadent?

Torvald tells Nora that he ignored her father's crimes for her sake and Nora was now paying back by committing crimes that will tarnish Torvald's name.(0714497530)

xxii.) What evidence portrays Torvald as judgemental?

Torvald is quick to criticise Nora's fraud but he does not see the sacrifice that Nora made to save his life.

xxiii.) What shows that Torvald is selfish?

Torvald was more concerned about his reputation and honour and not the sacrifice that Nora made in order to save his life. He plans to appease Krogstad so as not to make the fraud public but he punishes Nora by placing restrictions in her life. When Krogstad sends back Nora's bond, Torvald is joyous that he had been saved from the matter. He only thinks of himself and not Nora.

xxiv.) What shows that Torvald is hypocritical?

Torvald has been harsh towards Nora but immediately he reads Krogstad's second letter that cancels out Nora's fraud he changes tact and acts friendly towards Nora. Earlier on, Torvald had stated that he could sacrifice anything for Nora's sake. However when an

opportunity arrives for Torvald to prove her words he fails by not taking Nora's side in the issue of the fraudulent loan.

xxv.) What shows that Nora is portrayed as brave/ courageous?

Nora makes a decision to leave Torvald because of his hypocrisy. Nora has the courage to tell him to sit down so as to explain to him her action. She also tells Torvald not to interrupt her but to listen to what Nora had to say. Nora also tells Torvald that he treated her as a doll-wife. And he was not the man to educate her into being a proper wife. She also says Torvald will not be able to prevent her from leaving.

Xxvi.) What evidence portrays Nora as conscious?

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Nora is aware of how both her father and Torvald controlled her life and she blames them that she made nothing out of her life.

xxvii.) What shows that Torvald was chauvinistic?

Torvald says that Nora's duties were only being a 'wife' and a 'mother'. Such beliefs give Torvald the power to dominate and control Nora's life the way he wishes. This has led to the present conflict.

xxviii.) What evidence portrays Nora as resolute?

Nora makes a decision that she would leave the house that night and no amount of harsh statements from Torvald can make her change her mind. She also tells Torvald not to send her any letters or money.

xxix.) What shows that Torvald is regretful?

When Nora finally walks out of their marriage, Torvald buries his face in his hands meaning that he was disappointed that Nora had left and he knew that he was the cause.

CHARACTERIZATION

Characterization is the giving of character traits to characters. Often, adjectives and descriptive nouns are used. Character traits can be identified through:

- a.) The physical description of a character
- b.) The author's description of a character
- c.) What a character thinks
- d.) A character's actions
- e.) A character's dialogue with others
- f.) Other character(s) description of a character

NORA HELMER

Nora is Torvald's wife and mother to Ivar, Emmy and Bob. The following are the suggested character traits of Nora.

➤ **She is generous**

Nora is portrayed as a generous character. She pays the porter who carries her Christmas tree, and her basket, and still leaves him with the change. (p.1)

➤ **She is secretive**

Nora informs Ellen, a servant, not to reveal to the children that she had bought a Christmas tree (p.1). She wanted the children to be taken by surprise.

Nora does not reveal to Torvald that she procured the money used for their trip to Italy (p.17). The trip saved Torvald's life as he had been dreadfully ill.

Nora claims that there is a secret that she is hiding from Torvald (p.27). She is however reluctant to reveal it even to Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde.

Nora buys a new dress but he doesn't want her husband to know about it as he will accuse her of being a spendthrift. Nora urges Doctor Rank not to tell Torvald that she had bought a new dress (p.71).

➤ **She is loving and caring**

Nora wants the best for her family. She goes out of her way to bring joy to her

children by buying a Christmas tree (p.1).

Nora does not use the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed (p.21).

After everyone leaves Nora gets time to play with her children (p.30-31).

Nora says that she would never have given up her trip abroad since she had to save her husband's life (p.40).

➤ **She is defiant**

Nora disobeys her husband's instructions that she should not eat macaroons. She secretly eats the macaroons (p.2). She later even shares the macaroons with Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde (p.27). It seems Nora does not want her life to be controlled. She desires to be left alone to live a life that pleases her.

➤ **She is extravagant**

Nora spends a lot of money on Christmas items claiming that they have had to economise in all the other preceding Christmas festivities. She also claims that Torvald was going to have a big salary (p.2). Torvald however is fearful of going into debt and points her out as being a spendthrift (p.3).

➤ **She is stereotypical**

Nora's choice of Christmas gifts to her children is stereotypical. Her gifts of a suit, a horse, a sword and a trumpet for the boys (p.4) shows that she is preparing them for the traditional roles of being leaders that control society. She surprisingly gives a doll and a dolly's bedstead (p.4) to her daughter, implying the traditional housewife role of nurturing that women play in the society.

➤ **She is submissive**

Nora's acceptance of the 'pet' names portrays her as submissive (p.6). She thinks that Torvald calls her the names as a demonstration of his love towards her.

Nora is aware of Torvald's chauvinistic nature. Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life (p.20). This shows that Nora was aware of Torvald's chauvinistic tendencies and she chooses not to question him because she feared to upset him.

➤ **She is dishonest**

Nora lies to her husband that she has not eaten any macaroons (p.7) yet she did eat them secretly when her husband was in the study room. This is however an act of defiance against the domineering nature of her husband.

Nora initially lies to Mrs. Linde (p.13) and to Torvald (p.19) that she got the money for Torvald's treatment from her father. This is false as it is Krogstad that helped her obtain a loan.

Nora claims that she does not know anything about Krogstad's many kinds of business (p.24) yet she procured a loan from him. This is because she feels guilty that she engaged with a morally corrupt man and the loan was not procured in the right way.

Nora lies to Torvald that no one had been in the house (p.43). This is inaccurate as she has just been speaking to Krogstad a few moments ago. She does not want her husband to realise that she has any associations with Krogstad.

Nora lies to Doctor Rank that Torvald was busy yet Torvald told Nora to direct Doctor Rank to him when he arrives. Nora does this because she wanted to ask Doctor Rank for a favour (p.63). Contact 0714497530 for all high school notes

➤ **She is hospitable**

The Helmers are always welcoming towards Doctor Rank (p.7) who does not have a family. They invite him for dinner and they are also planning to invite him for the Christmas celebrations.

➤ **She is selfless**

Nora buys her children Christmas presents but does not buy herself any (p.6). This portrays her as selfless as she puts her children's needs before her own. When the family had no money during the previous Christmas, she tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things (p.8).

Nora also does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She accompanies Torvald for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. She also goes out of his way to get the money (p.18). Though the vacation costs her a tremendous lot of money, she is able to save Torvald's life. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. This is despite the fact that she was very fond of her father (p.12-13).

Though the loan that Nora procured was used for Torvald's treatment, she goes out of her way and starts paying it in instalments (p.20). She saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money (p.21). She does

not burden Torvald over the loan that she procured.

Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses (p.21). This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment.

Nora tells Mrs. Linde that if anything was to happen to her over the fraudulent loan she would take all the responsibility (p.78). This is surprising since she took the loan for Torvald's sake but she does not involve him in the case.

➤ **She is sympathetic**

Nora is saddened that Mrs. Linde appears troubled with the struggles of life and her husband had also died leaving her childless and penniless (p.10). She promises to convince her husband to get her a job, a promise which she keeps (p.28-29).

➤ **She is optimistic**

Torvald's new job as a manager of a bank means that the family will have lot of money and they would be able to live quite differently (p.11-12).

Nora thinks that she will no longer have to care about where she would get the money to pay the quarterly interest and the instalments of the loan that she procured (p.22-23). This is because Torvald will soon start earning a lot of money that she will use to pay the loan.

➤ **She is keen/conscious/observant**

Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she is aware that she is regarded as a spendthrift but she knows well that that is not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. She also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet (p.12).

Nora is aware of the superior attitude that other people have towards her. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she was just like the other people who thought her incapable of anything serious (p.16).

Nora is aware of Torvald's chauvinistic nature. She does not inform him that she procured a loan because Torvald would not approve of her, a woman, talking a loan without the knowledge of her husband (p.20). Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora

anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life.

Nora observes how her husband accuses Krogstad of poisoning his own children and home. Nora puts herself in Krogstad's shoes since she, too, has committed the same crime of forgery and she is troubled that she might be a bad influence to her children. She therefore decides to minimise her interactions with her children (p.48-50).

Nora is surprised that in spite of her sacrifices towards Torvald, he cannot listen to her pleas. Torvald wants to dismiss Krogstad yet Nora has pleaded with Torvald not to do it. Nora is bewildered that after all her sacrifices, including saving Torvald's life, Torvald cannot do him a favour (p.62).

Nora is aware of how both her father and Torvald controlled her life and she blames them that she made nothing out of her life (p.111).

➤ **She is hard working.**

When Torvald leaves his office for another job the Helmers work hard to get extra money. Nora engages in needlework, crochet work, and embroidery (p.12). These attempts were made in order for them to make more money for the family.

In order to be able to pay the instalments, Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and this enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan (p.21).

➤ **She is inquisitive**

Nora asks Mrs. Linde several questions about her past life (p.14). This makes her aware of Mrs. Linde's struggles. She sympathizes with her and later convinces her husband to get her a job.

Nora asks Doctor Rank questions on the nature of Krogstad's visit (p.26). This is because she is worried that Krogstad might reveal that she procured a loan from him.

➤ **She is skilful**

Nora promises Mrs. Linde that she will find a clever way of helping her get a job from Torvald (p.16). Nora indeed manages to convince Torvald to get her a job at the bank. for more high school resources whatsapp 0714497530.

Nora is informed that Torvald was dreadfully ill and he was not supposed to know the dangerous condition he was in. Torvald could only be healed by living in the south. Nora skilfully tries to implore her husband to take her for a vacation in the south. She even suggests that Torvald takes a loan for the vacation (p.19). When Torvald becomes hesitant, she takes matters into her own hands and secures the money for the vacation. Her action saves Torvald's life (p.17-18).

Nora convinces her husband that Mrs. Linde's hope of getting a job lay on the Helmers. She also tells Torvald that he should help Mrs. Linde for her sake. Torvald obliges and promises to get Mrs. Linde a job (p.28-29).

Nora pretends that she has forgotten to dance so that her husband can commit his time to coaching him rather than reading his letters (p.82). Nora therefore delays her husband from reading Krogstad's letter that exposes her fraud.

➤ **She is proud**

When Mrs. Linde claims that Nora was incapable of nothing serious, Nora informs her that she is the one who procured the money for Torvald's trip to Italy that saved his life (p.17-18).

Nora claims that she is attractive and therefore she could have secured the money for Torvald's vacation from a secret admirer (p.18).

Nora was able to save her husband's life and now Torvald has a big job that makes him have power over so many people (p.27). Nora is proud of herself and her husband's present job.

➤ **She is modest**

Nora does not want to reveal to Torvald that she went out of her way to procure money that was used for Torvald's treatment. She does not want Torvald to be guilty that he owed her anything (p.20).

➤ **She is a fantasist**

Nora imagines that a rich old gentleman had fallen in love with her and when he dies he leaves a will transferring all his possessions to Nora (p.22). Nora thought that she would use the money to pay the loan. However, this was only but her imagination.

➤ **She is unwelcoming**

Nora does not greet Krogstad when he gets into the house (p.23). In addition, she addresses him in a strained low voice. She further interrogates him on why he wanted to see her husband. When he visits the house later Nora is still

unwelcoming towards him informing Krogstad that her husband was not in the house and therefore he ought to leave (p.31-32).

Nora does not greet Krogstad but with a stifled cry questions what he wanted in the house. She also tells Krogstad that her husband was not in the house. Nora refers to Krogstad as 'a stranger' in front of the children yet he was not. She also does not give Krogstad time to explain what he wanted to speak to her about. Instead, she jumps into conclusions by reminding Krogstad that it was not yet the first of the month (p.32).

➤ **She is unkind**

Nora's response to Krogstad's question is very harsh. She tells Krogstad that as her husband's subordinate, he had no right to question her. She further tells Krogstad bluntly that she is the one who pleaded for Mrs. Linde's appointment (p.33).

➤ **She is demeaning**

Nora tells Krogstad that he ought not to offend anyone who has influence (p.33-34). This means that Nora felt she was superior to Krogstad since her husband had a more powerful position than Krogstad's. That explains why Nora looks down upon Krogstad.

➤ **She is protective**

When Krogstad talks unkindly about Nora's husband she threatens to turn Krogstad out of the house (p.35). This is because Krogstad does not show respect for Torvald in his words and Nora tries to be protective of her husband.

When Krogstad mocks Torvald's lack of courage, Nora reminds him not to show disrespect to her husband. She also tells Krogstad not to reveal her secret as it would affect their children's lives (p.72-73).

➤ **She is fearless**

Nora tells Krogstad that she no longer fears him. This is because she knows that Torvald will have lots of money at the start of the New Year and she will be able to pay off Krogstad's remaining loan (p.35). Krogstad will therefore no longer disturb her

➤ **She is emotional**

When Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband, Nora begins to sob (p.36). This is because she knows she will be badly exposed.

➤ **She is fraudulent**

Nora forges her father's signature in a bid to procure a loan for their vacation. She does this because her father had died and she was worried of her husband's illness (p.38-39).

➤ **She is concerned**

She feared that her father's ill health would deteriorate if she were to inform him of Torvald's sickness (p.40). She therefore signs the papers without her father's knowledge.

➤ **She is dependent**

Nora urges her husband to assist in her preparation for the fancy dress ball. She urges him to suggest the dress that would suit her for the function (p.45).

➤ **She is fearful**

Nora fears that Krogstad might reveal her secret thereby bringing a conflict between her and her husband. She hopes that Krogstad was not serious with his threat of revealing Nora's secret to her husband. That's why she checks the letterbox to see if there could be such a letter from Krogstad (p.49).

Nora also fears that Krogstad may tarnish the reputation of the Helmers' and destroy the peace in their family if he reveals that she obtained money by fraud (p.58-59).

Nora is counting the hours before Torvald opens the letters to reveal her fraud (p.84). Nora gets removed from Torvald's affection because she is anxious that her secret is finally going to be out and she is worried about Torvald's reaction (p.102). Nora observes Torvald at the window as he turns over the letters. He is worried of what will happen when Torvald finally picks Krogstad's letter (p.100).

➤ **She is selfish.**

Nora suggests that Torvald dismisses some other clerk but not Krogstad (p.58). This shows that she puts her own interests before others. She is more concerned about her secret not being revealed than any other misfortune that can befall others that might stand in her way.

➤ **She is superstitious**

Nora believes that Doctor Rank has been sickly from childhood because his father indulged in things more than was necessary and therefore his sickness is a price he is paying for his father's faults (p.53).

➤ **She is determined**

Nora brings up the matter of Krogstad's dismissal once more and she requests

Torvald to let Krogstad keep his job. She promises to be submissive to Torvald if he lets Krogstad keep his job. When that does not move Torvald she urges him not to dismiss Krogstad for the sake of the peace of their family (p.57-59). This is because she fears that Krogstad might reveal her secret and bring a conflict between her and her husband. Unfortunately, her efforts are unsuccessful.

➤ **She is reasonable**

Nora refuses to ask Doctor Rank for the favour she was meant to ask him after she realises that Doctor Rank was affectionate towards her. She knew that her favour might be misinterpreted by Doctor Rank to mean something else now that Doctor Rank had expressed his affections towards her (p.69). Mr Isaboke 0714497530

➤ **She is naïve**

Nora thinks that Krogstad is only interested in the money (p.74-75). He does not know that Krogstad wants to keep his reputation intact through blackmail of Nora's fraud.

➤ **She is brave/ courageous?**

Nora makes a decision to leave Torvald because of his hypocrisy. Nora has the courage to tell him to sit down so as to explain to him her action. She also tells Torvald not to interrupt her but to listen to what she had to say (p.109). Nora also tells Torvald that he treated her as a doll-wife. And he was not the man to educate her into being a proper wife (p.111-112). She also says Torvald will not be able to prevent her from leaving (p.113). Nora finally walks out of her marriage (p.120).

➤ **She is resolute**

Nora makes a decision that she would leave the house that night and no amount of harsh statements from Torvald can make her change her mind (p.115). She also tells Torvald not to send her any letters or money (p.119).

TORVALD HELMER

Torvald is Nora's husband and father to Ivar, Emmy, and Bob. He is a barrister by profession though he later gets a job as a manager of the Bank. The following are the suggested character traits of Torvald.

➤ **He is domineering/overbearing**

Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora eats the macaroons in secret because her husband has outlawed her from eating them (p.2).

Torvald talks down his wife for talking with Krogstad and also for lying to him (p.43).

Torvald talks to Nora as if he is in total control over her and he insists on talking endearingly towards Nora despite her protests (p.92, 95-96). He also tells Nora to mould the children not to break into things as if the children were Nora's responsibility and not his (p.100).

➤ **He is demeaning**

Torvald uses 'pet' names such as 'lark', 'squirrel', and 'featherhead' to refer to his wife (p.2-3). Through this, he demonstrates that his wife is his subordinate and he has total control over Nora.

Just because Krogstad has a flawed character Torvald claims that even being close to him makes him feel physically ill (p.47). Krogstad flawed character does not make him lose his humanness to an extent that he can cause physical illness to others.

When Nora is unable to dance well, Torvald says it is because of Nora's childish nervousness (p.83).

When Torvald learns that Nora took a fraudulent loan, he insults Nora and accuses her of taking after her father's lack of moral character (p.104).

➤ **He is chauvinistic**

Torvald holds the view that Nora, and women in general are incapable of planning and managing finances (p.3). He believes that women spend money recklessly.

When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's sudden

extravagancies (p.19).

Nora cannot dare tell Torvald that she took a loan because of Torvald's chauvinistic character (p.20). Torvald strongly believes that women should not take loans without the consent of their husbands. That explains why Nora procured the loan without Torvald's consent.

Nora does not want to reveal to Torvald that she went out of her way to procure money that was used for Torvald's treatment. She does not want Torvald to feel guilty out of her manly independence that he owed her anything (p.20). This shows that Torvald had a low opinion of women.

Torvald claims that people who have had a bad character since their young days had deceitful mothers (p.47). This is a stereotypical observation and Torvald chooses on women since he views men as a more superior gender.

Torvald says that Nora's duties were only being a 'wife' and a 'mother' (p.114). Such beliefs give Torvald the power to dominate and control Nora's life the way he wishes.

➤ **He is frugal**

Torvald is portrayed as frugal. He is concerned that Nora is spending too much money on Christmas items yet this is the first Christmas that they have not needed to economise (p.2). Even though Torvald will have a big salary after the New Year, he feels that they needed to economise so that they do not go into debt (p.3).

➤ **He is inquisitive**

Torvald's inquisitive nature reveal that he follows closely Nora's life and he would like to shape it the way he wishes (p.7). This shows Nora's lack of freedom in her own house, and by extension, in her life.

➤ **He is judgemental**

Torvald criticises Nora's reckless spending and argues that her wasteful nature is a trait she has acquired from her father (p.6). Torvald is quick to form opinions and criticise others too quickly.

Torvald claims that Krogstad has been poisoning his children through lies and pretence just because Krogstad has a morally flawed character (p.47). Torvald

merely makes that judgement based on Krogstad's character and not in his interaction with Krogstad's children.

Torvald is quick to criticise Nora's action but he does not reflect on the sacrifice that Nora made to save his life (p.115).

➤ **He is principled**

Nora tells Mrs. Linde that Torvald was reluctant to work as a barrister since he would have had to deal with cases that compromised his morals (p.11). Nora and Torvald are relieved when he gets a job as a manager of the Bank.

Torvald refuses to change his mind over his plan to dismiss Krogstad. It was already known at the Bank that Torvald was to dismiss Krogstad and he refuses to change the decision because of his wife as he says this would make him look ridiculous before his staff (p.59).

➤ **He is hardworking**

When Torvald leaves his office for another job he overworks himself in an attempt to earn more than before. This makes him fall so dreadfully ill that the doctors suggest he goes for a vacation in Italy (p.12).

➤ **He is rigid/ uncompromising**

Much as Nora tries to plead for a trip to Italy for his own sake he is adamant and he does not bow to Nora's wishes (p.19).

Nora tries as much as she can to convince Torvald to let Krogstad keep his job but Torvald can hear none of it. Even Nora's promise to be more submissive or to play the fairy and dance to Torvald, something Torvald is obsessed with, or to do it for the peace of their family does not change his mind (p.57-61).

➤ **He is kind**

When Nora informs Torvald of Mrs. Linde's struggles to get a job, Torvald promises to get Mrs. Linde a job (p.29).

➤ **He is powerful**

As the Bank manager, Torvald now has the powers to undertake necessary changes among the staff and the re-arrangement of the work at the Bank (p.45). Earlier on, he had promised to find Mrs. Linde a job.

➤ **He is conceited**

Torvald states that he does not need to do Nora any favour for her to act

submissively towards him as Nora has always acted that way to please him (p.57).

➤ **He is proud**

Torvald tells Nora that unlike her father whose actions at work were suspicious, he was beyond reproach (p.59). He also claims he cannot keep Krogstad because he is too familiar with him since they were childhood friends. Torvald complains that Krogstad addresses him casually and disrespectfully in front of other people yet he is Krogstad's boss (p.59-60).

➤ **He is temperamental**

When Nora accuses Torvald of being narrow-minded he becomes very angry and immediately orders for Krogstad's dismissal letter to be sent to Krogstad (p.60).

➤ **He is instinctive**

Torvald correctly points out that Nora is nervous and fearful of Krogstad and he also says that Krogstad's letter was lying somewhere (p.82-83). Torvald speaks all these as a mere joke without knowing that everything he said was true.

Torvald says that something ugly had come between him and Nora. He thinks that it is Doctor Rank's death. However that something ugly is Nora's secret that is going to be revealed and cause a conflict between them (p.102).

➤ **He is observant**

Torvald notices that Nora's face looked worn out (p.80). He does not know that Nora is worried that her secret is going to be revealed.

➤ **He is affectionate**

Torvald shows feelings of love towards his wife by talking endearingly to her (p.92, 95-96).

➤ **He is nasty**

Torvald pretends to be at ease with Mrs. Linde's presence in their house but immediately she leaves, Torvald calls Mrs Linde a 'frightening bore (p.94).' He is also irritated when Doctor Rank comes into the house and interferes with his moment with Nora yet Doctor Rank was his close friend (p.97). Torvald also says that it was better for Doctor Rank to die as it would make him and Nora close to each other (p.101).

➤ **He is insulting/ abusive**

When Torvald finally reads about Nora's fraud, he abuses her calling her 'a miserable creature', a 'liar', a 'hypocrite', a 'criminal', and a 'blind foolish woman' among other names (p.103-104, 113).

➤ **He is morally decadent**

Torvald tells Nora that he ignored her father's crimes for her sake and Nora was now paying back by committing crimes that will tarnish Torvald's name (p.104). This shows that Torvald committed a crime. He is only revealing this information now because Nora's fraud has angered him.

➤ **He is selfish**

When Nora's fraudulent loan is revealed, Torvald is more concerned about how his reputation and honour will suffer and not the sacrifice that Nora made in order to save his life (p.104). He plans to appease Krogstad so as not to make the fraud public but he punishes Nora by placing restrictions in her life (p.105). When Krogstad sends back Nora's bond, Torvald is joyous that he had been saved from the matter (p.106). He only thinks of himself and not Nora.

➤ **He is hypocritical**

Torvald condemns and insults Nora when he learns of Nora's fraud but immediately he reads Krogstad's second letter that rests the case of Nora's fraud he changes tact and acts friendly towards Nora telling her that they should go back to their earlier life (p.106).

Torvald had stated that he could sacrifice his life and everything for Nora's sake; however when an opportunity arrives for Torvald to prove her words he fails by not taking Nora's side in the issue of the fraudulent loan (p.102). Instead, he condemns and insults Nora for the fraud.

Torvald pretends to be at ease with Mrs. Linde's presence in their house but immediately she leaves, Torvald calls Mrs Linde a 'frightening bore.' this is surprising as he had earlier been conversing with her about her knitting and even encourages her to shift to embroidery (p.94).

Torvald is also irritated when Doctor Rank comes into the house and interferes with his moment with Nora yet Doctor Rank was his close friend (p.97). Torvald also says that it was better for Doctor Rank to die as it would make him and Nora close to each other (p.101).

➤ **He is regretful**

When Nora finally walks out of their marriage, Torvald buries his face in his hands meaning that he was disappointed that his wonderful wife had left (p.120). Torvald caused this situation.

MRS. LINDE (CHRISTINE)

She is Nora's childhood friend and a former fiancée to Krogstad. She later gets married to

Krogstad. The following are the suggested character traits of Mrs. Linde.

➤ **She is hopeless**

Mrs. Linde's husband dies leaving her hopeless and penniless (p.10). She has to seek help from her childhood friend Nora who helps her get a job at the bank. She tells Nora that her life is unspeakably empty as she has no one to live for anymore (p.15).

➤ **She is judgemental**

Just like Torvald, Mrs. Linde is quick to judge Nora as a spendthrift, a habit she claims Nora had during their schooldays (p.12). Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she is aware that she is regarded as a spendthrift but she knows well that that is not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. He also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet.

Mrs. Linde is quick to call Nora a child since she suspects that Doctor Rank is the rich admirer who might have given Nora money for the vacation. She therefore advises Nora to resolve that issue of the loan with Doctor Rank. Nora however refutes her claims as inaccurate (p.54-55).

➤ **She is selfless**

Mrs. Linde sacrifices her love for her fiancé and gets married to another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers (p.14). Her husband later dies and his business too collapses leaving Mrs. Linde hopeless.

➤ **She is materialistic**

Mrs. Linde abandons her fiancée and marries another man who had more money. This is because she needed someone who could provide for both her bedridden mother and her two young brothers (p.14).

➤ **She betrays her fiancé**

Mrs. Linde abandons her fiancé because he had no money to provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers.

➤ **She is superior**

Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life as she has done. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child (p.16). This is not true as Nora, too, has had to make sacrifices for the sake of Torvald's life.

➤ **She is proud**

Mrs. Linde rejoices from the fact that she was able to take care of her bedridden mother and her younger brothers (p.17).

➤ **She is inquisitive**

Mrs. Linde asks Nora a lot of questions concerning the loan that she procured (p.21-22). This is because Nora seeks Mrs. Linde's thoughts on the decision that she took to procure the loan without getting consent from her husband.

Mrs. Linde also asks Nora questions about Krogstad's life (p.24). She is interested in him because Krogstad was once her fiancé.

➤ **She is secretive**

Mrs. Linde does not inform Nora that she was once engaged to Krogstad (p.24).

➤ **She is determined**

After trying without success several income generating ventures, Mrs. Linde travels to the Helmers hoping that Nora will help her get a job (p.28). Nora eventually helps her get a job.

➤ **She is appreciative**

Mrs. Linde thanks Torvald for offering to get her a job (p.29).

➤ **She is observant**

Mrs. Linde tells Nora that it seemed something was troubling her mind and Nora was hiding it from her (p.56). This is true as Nora was troubled by Krogstad's threats to expose her fraud.

Mrs. Linde also observes that something was troubling Nora and she asks her what the problem was (p.77). Nora opens up and Mrs. Linde promises to assist her.

➤ **She is supportive**

When Mrs. Linde learns that it is Krogstad who lent Nora the money, she offers to go and talk to Krogstad to recall his letter unread (p.79). She therefore partially

comes to the aid of Nora who was worried on what would happen if her secret was revealed.

➤ **She is skilful**

Mrs. Linde hopes to convince Krogstad to find some pretence and use it to ask for his letter back. She also tells Nora to delay her husband's from opening his letter-box (p.79).

➤ **She is regretful**

Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad that her decision to leave him for another man was not deliberate but she was forced by circumstances (p.86).

➤ **She is broken-hearted**

Mrs. Linde claims that she is living a lonely life since she has no one to take care of or to give her company (p.87).

➤ **She is open-minded**

Mrs. Linde suggests to Krogstad that since they were both living troubled lives they should get married so that they give each other company and a reason to live (p.88).

➤ **She is an understanding woman**

Mrs. Linde understands that Krogstad might have been driven to his bad character because he lacked hope in life therefore she has no worries about getting married to him (p.89).

➤ **She is reasonable**

Mrs. Linde asks Krogstad not to recall his letter so as to let Torvald know about Nora's secret and for the married couple to have a complete understanding between them (p.90).

➤ **She is cautious**

Mrs. Linde does not want the Helmers' to find her talking to Krogstad so she asks Krogstad to hurry up and leave (p.90).

DOCTOR RANK

He is a neighbour, and a friend of the Helmers. He is a doctor by profession. The following are the suggested character traits of Doctor Rank:

➤ **He is determined**

Even though Doctor Rank is sickly he has the will to live as long as possible (p.25).

➤ **He is judgemental.**

He is quick to accuse Krogstad as being morally decadent (p.25) yet he too, has loose morals as seen when he confesses his affection towards Nora, a married woman.

➤ **He is a good listener**

Nora says that her husband was never interested when she mentioned the other people in her life so she naturally spoke of such matters with Doctor Rank who liked hearing them (p.54).

➤ **He is superstitious**

Doctor Rank claims that he is cursed as he is paying the price for his father's youthful exuberance and excesses. He has inherited a dangerous disease from which he expects to die (p.63-64).

➤ **He is secretive**

Doctor Rank does not inform Torvald, his intimate friend that he expects to die soon. He only reveals it to Nora (p.64).

➤ **He is immoral**

Doctor Rank knows that Nora is a married woman yet he goes ahead and declares his affection for her (p.68). Nora's husband is also a close friend of Doctor Rank.

➤ **He is hopeless**

Doctor Rank has resigned to the fact that he is going to die soon. He tells Nora that he will send her a black cross to signify his imminent death (p.63-64).

➤ **He speaks metaphorically**

Doctor Rank says that at the next fancy dress ball he will be invisible (p.99). That was a clever way of saying he would be dead.

➤ **He is hypocritical**

Doctor Rank is quick to accuse Krogstad as being morally decadent (p.25) yet he too, has loose morals as seen when he confesses his affection towards Nora, a married woman (p.68). This is despite the fact that Nora considers him as a close friend of her husband (p.53).

Doctor Rank also refuses to reveal to Torvald that he was going to die choosing only to inform Nora yet Torvald was his close friend (p.64). Doctor Rank is not open to Torvald and only speaks metaphorically to him about his impending death (p.98-99). He claims that Torvald should be spared of such horrible news. For such a serious matter Doctor Rank should at least have informed his close friend.

KROGSTAD

He is a lawyer and works at the bank. He was a former fiancé to Mrs. Linde though they ultimately reunite and get married. He is also a former schoolmate to Torvald. The following are the suggested character traits of Krogstad:

➤ **He is inquisitive**

Krogstad asks Nora several questions in an attempt to seek information about Mrs. Linde (p.33). This is because Krogstad was known to Mrs. Linde some years back and he knew her training. He is worried that she might replace him at the Bank as he has seen her together with Torvald who seems to have an issue with Krogstad's moral character.

Krogstad asks Mrs. Linde several questions after Mrs. Linde says that they should get married (p.89-90). Krogstad wants to assess the seriousness of Mrs. Linde's statement that she wished them to get married. This is because Mrs. Linde once abandoned him for another man.

➤ **He is manipulative**

Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing her (p.36). The secret is that she obtained a loan fraudulently.

Krogstad is no longer interested in getting back Nora's loan. Instead, he wants Nora's fraud to remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank. He therefore plans to hold Torvald hostage by intimidating him with Nora's fraud. Krogstad also wants to use Nora's fraud to get back his reputation (p.75).

➤ **He is unkind**

Krogstad bluntly tells Nora that her husband just like any other husband can be manipulated (p.35). He says this because he wants Nora to influence her husband so that he does not lose his job at the bank.

➤ **He is determined**

Krogstad tells Nora that he was prepared to fight for his post at the bank. This is because he fears that Torvald wants to get rid of him at the Bank.

➤ **He is morally corrupt**

Krogstad tells Nora that he engaged himself in morally unacceptable actions but he was lucky as the matter never came before the court. He therefore says he won't allow her name to be tarnished again (p.35-36).

➤ **He is protective**

Krogstad wants to safeguard his reputation for the sake of his children. He is prepared to ensure that happens by doing everything he can to prevent losing his job at the Bank (p.36). He claims that losing his job will tarnish his image again.

➤ **He is intimidating**

Krogstad reveals detail by detail Nora's fraud (p.37). He does this in-order to intimidate her into talking to her husband against sacking him.

Krogstad tells Nora that if he were to produce the paper with the forged signature in court, the law will not care about her motives and Nora will be judged (p.41). Krogstad tells Nora this for her to realise that she is guilty of fraud no matter her motives. He also tells Nora that if he were to lose his position at the Bank then the Helmers too will lose theirs (p.41).

Krogstad promises to have Torvald in his power and he also reminds Nora that he still has her bond and therefore her reputation (p.76). He says these in order for the Helmers' to fulfil his demands.

➤ **He is cold/heartless**

Krogstad put so many difficulties along Nora's way when she attempts to procure a loan for Torvald's treatment (p.40). He did not sympathise with Nora whose husband was critically ill and Nora needed the money for her husband's treatment.

➤ **He is fraudulent**

Torvald tells Nora that Krogstad forged someone's name and he gets out of the crime by a cunning trick (p.46).

➤ **He is stubborn**

Krogstad refuses to go away from the Helmers' home even though he is told so by the maid. Probably he had received his dismissal letter and he was coming to register his displeasure to Nora (p.71).

➤ **He is sarcastic/ mocking**

Krogstad says that Torvald would be overwhelmed if he learnt Nora's fraud and that is why he is better off in the dark as he would lack the courage to face such revelations (p.72).

➤ **He is vengeful**

Krogstad wants to revenge for his dismissal by Torvald. He is ready to expose Nora's fraud. This will tarnish the image of the Helmers as he claims that Torvald too wants to tarnish his image (p.73).

➤ **He is demeaning**

Krogstad calls Nora a 'fine spoilt lady' (p.75). This shows that he lacked respect for Nora as he addresses Nora in a casual manner.

➤ **He is broken-hearted**

Krogstad says that when he lost Mrs. Linde his life was greatly affected and he was like a ship-wrecked man clinging to a bit of wreckage (p.87).

➤ **He is remorseful**

Krogstad writes Nora a letter saying that he regrets and feels sorry for his attempted blackmail of the Helmers. He also says in his letter that he had found happiness in his life. He also returns Nora's bond (p.106).

ANNE (NURSE)

Anne was Nora's nurse and she is still the nurse for Nora's children. She gives up her daughter in order to be allowed to carry out her job. The following are the suggested character traits of Nora:

➤ **She is selfless**

Anne leaves her daughter behind to work as Nora's nurse, a job she has done well and Nora is confident that she too can take good care of Nora's children (p.50).

➤ **She is trustworthy**

Nora is confident that Anne could have taken good care of Nora's children were Nora not to be there (p.51).

➤ **She is loving and caring/ dedicated**

Nora tells Anne that she acted as a good mother when Nora was growing up (p.51).

THEMES

They broadly refer to issues/concerns that are addressed in the story through various occurrences/events. Various themes are highlighted in *A Doll's House*:

a.) **THE FAMILY AS A UNIT/MARRIAGE**

Nora goes out of her way to ensure there is joy in her family. She buys a Christmas tree and presents for both her children and the maids (p.4). This portrays Nora as loving and caring as she sought to bring joy in the life of their children. She goes out of her way to make sure that hers is a jovial family. After everyone leaves Nora also gets time to play with her children (p.30-31).

There ought to be mutual respect in a family. Torvald has a superior attitude towards his wife. He merely considers Nora as a child that needs to be controlled. Much as Torvald throws affectionate praises towards Nora (p.2-3), he is also quick to bluntly point out her flaws. Torvald therefore lacks respect for Nora and merely considers her as a doll that he can control.

The Helmers have faced a tough financial past when their income was not sufficient enough. When the family had no money during the previous Christmas, Nora tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things (p.8). Nora also engages in needlework, crotchet-work, and embroidery in order to make more money. Torvald also

overworks himself in an attempt to earn more than before. This makes him fall dreadfully ill and the doctors suggest he goes for a vacation in Italy (p.12).

The Helmers are relieved as Torvald has a big enough income and Nora is joyous as the children will enjoy themselves this time round (p.7). This is because in previous Christmas celebrations they had to economise their spending. Nora also tells Mrs. Linde that they will no longer have anxiety in their lives as they were going to have heaps of money (p.11-12).

Death and separation can lead to the crumbling of a family. Mrs. Linde's husband dies leaving her hopeless, childless, and penniless (p.10). Her husband's business collapses and she is forced to survive by venturing into odd jobs that were not successful (p.14). She decides to seek for help from her childhood friend Nora who helps her get a job at the bank.

Nora does everything she can to ensure the wellbeing of her family. Nora is informed that Torvald was dreadfully ill and he was not supposed to know the dangerous condition he was in. Torvald could only be healed by living in the south. Nora skilfully tries to implore her husband to take her for a vacation in the south. She even suggests that Torvald takes a loan for the vacation (p.19). When Torvald becomes hesitant she takes matters into her own hands and secures the money for the vacation. Her action saves Torvald's life (p.17-18).

Mrs. Linde rejoices from the fact that she was able to take care of her bedridden mother and her younger brothers (p.17). She gets a husband who could financially provide for them though the husband later dies and leaves her childless.

Torvald has a low opinion of his wife, and women in general. Nora cannot dare tell Torvald that she took a loan because of Torvald's chauvinistic character (p.20). Torvald, it seems, strongly believes that women should not take loans without the consent of their husbands. That explains why Nora procured the loan without Torvald's consent. Nora also lies to Torvald about Krogstad's visit because she feared Torvald's reaction to her association with a flawed character as Krogstad (p.43).

Nora also does not want Torvald to feel guilty out of her manly independence that he owed her anything (p.20). This is despite the fact the money that she procured was used for the vacation that saved Torvald's life. This shows that Torvald viewed Nora as inferior. It is this attitude that leads Nora to walk out on her family.

Though the loan that Nora procured was used for Torvald's treatment, she goes out of her way and starts paying it in instalments (p.20). She saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money (p.21). She does not burden Torvald over the loan that she procured. In order to be able to pay the instalments, Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and she enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan (p.21). Nora therefore takes the burden of the family.

Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses (p.21). This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment. Nora does not use the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed (p.21). Nora therefore puts the interests of her family before her own.

Krogstad wants to protect his name and image for the sake of his children. He is prepared to ensure that happens by doing everything he can to prevent losing his job at the bank (p.36). He claims that losing his job will tarnish his image again as Torvald wants to get rid of him because of his flawed moral character.

Torvald is portrayed as uncompromising towards his wife. Nora tries as much as she can to convince Torvald to let Krogstad keep his job but Torvald can hear none of it. She even urges him to do it for the peace of the family but Torvald does not change his mind (p.57-61). Had it not been for Mrs. Linde Krogstad would have tarnished the image of the Helmers.

Anne sacrifices her family for the sake of her job. Nora is amazed at how Anne could leave her daughter among strangers. Anne leaves her daughter behind to work as Nora's nurse, a job she has done well and Nora is confident that she too can take good care of Nora's children (p.50).

Doctor Rank's father lives a careless life and this causes Doctor Rank to contract a dangerous disease. Doctor Rank claims that he is cursed as he is paying the price for his father's youthful exuberance and excesses. He has inherited a dangerous disease from which he expects to die (p.63-64).

Mrs. Linde and Krogstad decide to get back together and give each other company from their hopeless lives. Mrs. Linde understands that Krogstad might have been driven to his bad character because he lacked hope in life therefore she has no worries about getting married to him (p.89). The couple therefore decide to settle as a family.

The Helmers family crumbles because of Torvald's selfishness and hypocrisy. Nora tells Torvald that he treated her as a doll-wife (p.111-112). Torvald controls Nora's life and he does not take time to understand Nora's feelings, instead he is focused on himself. When a chance presents itself for him to prove his love for Nora she fails. Nora's eyes are finally opened to Torvald's hypocrisy and she finally walks out of her marriage (p.120).

b.) PATRIARCHY/MALE CHAUVINISM/GENDER DISCRIMINATION

Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora eats the macaroons in secret because her husband has outlawed her from eating them (p.2). He also controls who Nora should associate with. He warns Nora against associating with Krogstad because of his flawed character (p.43). This is outrageous as Nora is a mature woman who is capable of making her own lifestyle decisions.

Women are regarded as being incapable of controlling and managing their finances. Torvald holds the view that Nora, and women in general are incapable of planning and managing finances (p.3). He believes that women spend money recklessly, and that is why he refers to Nora as a spendthrift.

Torvald is portrayed as chauvinistic. When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies (p.19). Torvald also claims that people who have had a bad character since their young days had deceitful mothers (p.47). This is a stereotypical observation and Torvald chooses on women since he views men as a more superior gender.

Women cannot borrow money without their husbands' consent. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora's remark that she might have borrowed the money since her husband was not aware of it (p.18). However, it is true that Nora was forced to procure the money for Torvald's treatment without Torvald's consent. When Torvald learns of this later, it leads to a conflict in which Nora walks out on his family. Nora says that she dared not tell Torvald that she took a loan because of Torvald's chauvinistic character (p.20).

Nora also does not want Torvald to feel guilty out of her manly independence that he owed her anything (p.20). This is despite the fact the money that she procured was used for the vacation that saved Torvald's life. This shows that Torvald viewed Nora as inferior. It is this attitude that leads Nora to walk out on her family.

Torvald says that Nora's duties were only being a 'wife' and a 'mother' (p.114). Such beliefs give Torvald the power to dominate and control Nora's life the way he wishes. This has led to the present conflict where Nora tells Torvald that she was tired of being treated like a doll-wife and she decides to walk out of her marriage.

c.) MONEY AND POWER

Money is the source of tension that exists both in families and between individuals. Torvald gets into an argument with Nora since he holds the view that Nora, and women in general are incapable of planning and managing finances (p.3). He believes that women spend money recklessly, and that is why he refers to Nora as a spendthrift. Nora, on the other hand, spends a lot of money on Christmas items claiming that they have had to economise in all the other preceding Christmas festivities. She also claims that Torvald was going to have a big salary (p.2). More money for Nora therefore equals a better

lifestyle.

The Helmers have faced a tough financial past when their income was not sufficient enough thus they have had to economise their spending. Their last Christmas was one they would like to forget as they had no enough money (p.7-8). Nora tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things (p.8). Nora also engages in needlework, crochet-work, and embroidery in order to make more money. Torvald also overworks himself in an attempt to earn more than before. This makes him fall dreadfully ill and the doctors suggest he goes south for a vacation (p.12).

Presently, the Helmers are relieved as Torvald has a big enough income and Nora is joyous as the children will enjoy themselves this time round (p.7). Nora tells Mrs. Linde that they will no longer have anxiety in their lives as they were going to have heaps of money (p.11-12). This is because in previous Christmas celebrations they had to economise their spending.

Mrs. Linde's husband dies leaving her hopeless and penniless (p.10). Her husband's business collapses and she is unsuccessful in all her other income generating ventures (p.14). She decides to seek for help from her childhood friend Nora who helps her get a job at the Bank.

Mrs. Linde abandons her former fiancée, Krogstad, because she needed a man who could provide money to take care of her sick mother and her younger siblings. She sacrifices the love of her life for a wealthy man who could take care of her sick mother, and her younger siblings, something that she is later proud of having done (p.17).

Nora obtains a loan without involving her husband (p.18). She does this because her husband was dreadfully ill and needed treatment (p.12-13). When this secret is revealed a conflict ensues between her and Torvald and it ultimately leads to Nora walking out on her family.

Nora saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money (p.21) so as to pay for the loan that she procured for Torvald's treatment. This is because she feared Torvald's reaction if she were to tell him of the loan that she secured. Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and that enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan (p.21).

Also, Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses (p.21). This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment. Nora does not use the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed (p.21).

Torvald has acquired a powerful job as the manager of the bank. This explains why he offers Mrs. Linde a job at the bank and at the same time dismisses Krogstad because of his moral corruptness. Nora is also proud of Torvald because he now has so much power over many people (p.27).

The close circles of those who hold powerful jobs are demeaning to those with less powerful ones. Nora tells Krogstad that he ought not to offend anyone who has influence (p.33-34). This means that Nora felt she was superior to Krogstad since her husband had a more powerful position than Krogstad's. That explains why Nora is able to get Mrs. Linde a job at the Bank.

Money gives power for some people to be manipulative. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing her (p.36). Krogstad has the courage to tell Nora this since he is aware of Nora's fraudulent loan. Nora's attempts to fulfil Krogstad's demand throw her into conflict with her husband. When Torvald later sends him a dismissal later he makes even bigger demands (p.75).

d.) SACRIFICE/SELFLESSNESS

Nora puts her family's interests before her own. When Nora has money, her priority is spending it on her children. She buys them Christmas presents but does not buy herself any (p.6). This portrays her as selfless as she puts her children's needs before her own.

Mrs. Linde abandons her fiancé because she needed a man who could provide money to take care of her sick mother and her younger siblings. She sacrifices her love life for the sake of her family. Unfortunately, her husband dies leaving her childless and penniless and she has to request her childhood friend, Nora, to help her get a job to sustain her (p.14-15).

Nora also does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She accompanies Torvald for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. She also goes out of her way to get the money for the vacation (p.17). Though the vacation costs her a tremendous lot of money, she is able to save Torvald's life. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. This is despite the fact that she was very fond of her father (p.12-13).

Nora saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money so as to pay for the loan that she procured for Torvald's treatment (p.21). This is because she feared Torvald's reaction if she were to tell him of the loan that she secured. Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and that enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan (p.21).

Also, Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses (p.21). This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment. Nora does not use the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed (p.21). Nora therefore puts the interests of her family before her own.

Anne sacrifices her closeness to her family for the sake of her job as Nora's nurse. Nora is amazed at how Anne could leave her daughter among strangers. Anne has done her job well and Nora is confident that she too can take good care of Nora's children (p.50).

Nora tells Mrs. Linde that if anything was to happen to her over the fraudulent loan she would take all the responsibility (p.78). This is surprising since she took the loan for Torvald's sake but she does not involve him in the case.

e.) PERSEVERANCE/ENDURANCE

Mrs. Linde's husband dies leaving her childless and penniless. Her husband's business also collapses forcing her to engage in incoming generating ventures that are not successful either (p.14). She has to work extra hard to make ends meet. When things become tough she approaches Nora who convinces her husband to help her get a job at the Bank.

In the past, the Helmers have had to put up with dull Christmas celebrations since they had no money. In the previous Christmas, Nora tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things (p.8) for her family. She goes out of her way to bring some happiness into the family. Nora claims that they have had to work hard to make ends meet (p.12). Torvald's new job as a manager of a bank means that the family will now have lot of money and they would be able to live quite differently (p.11-12).

There ought to be mutual respect in a family. Torvald has a superior attitude towards his wife. He merely considers Nora as a wife that needs to be controlled like a child. When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies (p.19). Nora takes all these in her stride thinking that, in spite of everything, Torvald loves her and the family. It is after Torvald denounces her that her eyes open to Torvald's hypocrisy and she decides to walk out of her marriage.

Nora is aware of the superior attitude that other people have towards her. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she was just like the other people who thought her incapable of anything serious (p.16). She ignores all this till Torvald denies her after all her sacrifices for him.

She thereafter decides to walk out on her family.

Torvald has a low opinion of his wife, and women in general. Nora cannot dare tell Torvald that she took a loan because of Torvald's chauvinistic character (p.20). Nora also does not want Torvald to feel guilty out of her manly independence that he owed her anything (p.20). This is despite the fact the money that she procured was used for the vacation that saved Torvald's life. Nora has to put up with her husband's superiority complex.

Doctor Rank's father lives a careless life making Doctor Rank to contract a dangerous disease. Doctor Rank claims that he is cursed as he is paying the price for his father's youthful exuberance and excesses. He has inherited a dangerous disease which he has lived with since childhood and from which he expects to die (p.63-64).

Krogstad says that when he lost Mrs. Linde his life was greatly affected and he was like a ship-wrecked man clinging to a bit of wreckage (p.87). He lives a hopeless life until later when Mrs. Linde and him decide to get married that he starts to see hope in her life.

f.) BETRAYAL

Mrs. Linde betrays her fiancé Krogstad by abandoning her and getting married to another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her younger brothers (p.86).

Nora betrays her father by not visiting him when he was sick. This is despite the fact that Nora says she was fond of him (p.13). She later forges his signature in order to procure a loan for Torvald's vacation.

Krogstad threatens to betray Nora to her husband that she took a fraudulent loan (p.41). Krogstad wants to use this secret so as to manipulate Nora to influence her husband not to dismiss him from his job at the Bank. True to his threat he sends Torvald a letter detailing Nora's fraud (p.76).

Doctor Rank betrays his close friendship with Torvald by openly expressing his affection towards Torvald's wife. Nora tells Doctor Rank that it was horrid and clumsy of him to declare his affection towards her (p.68-69).

g.) MORAL DECADENCE/MORAL CORRUPTION

Doctor Rank accuses Krogstad of being morally decadent (p.25). This is because of Krogstad's many suspicious business deals one of which involves Nora.

Krogstad tells Nora that he engaged himself in morally unacceptable actions but he was lucky as the matter never came before the court. He therefore says he won't allow her name to be tarnished again (p.35-36).

Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald

from firing her (p.36). This portrays Krogstad as manipulative as he takes advantage of the fraud that Nora engaged in for his own selfish benefits.

Nora forges her father's signature in a bid to procure a loan for their vacation. She does this because her father had died and she was worried of her husband's illness (p.38-39). Even though her motives were noble, her actions portray her as morally decadent.

Doctor Rank is portrayed as immoral. He openly expresses his affection towards Nora yet he knew that Nora was a married woman. Nora tells Doctor Rank that it was horrid and clumsy of him to declare his affection towards her (p.68-69).

Krogstad is morally corrupt. He is no longer interested in getting back Nora's loan. Instead, he says that Nora's fraud will remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank. He therefore plans to hold Torvald hostage by intimidating him with Nora's fraud. Krogstad also wants to use Nora's fraud to get back his reputation (p.75). This portrays him as a character with no morals.

h.) BLACKMAIL

Krogstad attempts to blackmail Nora over the loan that he helped her procure. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing him (p.36). Krogstad has the courage to tell Nora this since he helped Nora procure a loan which she has not yet finished paying.

Krogstad no longer becomes interested in getting back Nora's loan. Instead, he now states that Nora's fraud will remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank. He therefore plans to hold Torvald hostage by intimidating him with Nora's fraud (p.75).

Krogstad also wants to use Nora's fraud to get back his reputation (p.75). By getting back his job it will prove to everyone that his reputation is beyond reproach.

i.) HYPOCRISY

Doctor Rank is quick to accuse Krogstad as being morally decadent (p.25) yet he too, has loose morals as seen when he confesses his affection towards Nora, a married woman (p.68). This is despite the fact that Nora considers him as a close friend of her husband (p.53).

Doctor Rank also refuses to reveal to Torvald that he was going to die choosing only to inform Nora yet Torvald was his close friend (p.64). Doctor Rank is not open to Torvald and only speaks metaphorically to him about his impending death (p.98-99). He claims that Torvald should be spared of such horrible news. For such a serious matter Doctor

Rank should at least have informed his close friend.

Torvald condemns and insults Nora when he learns of Nora's fraud but immediately he reads Krogstad's second letter that rests the case of Nora's fraud he changes tact and acts friendly towards Nora telling her that their relationship should go back to normalcy (p.106).

Torvald had stated that he could sacrifice his life and everything for Nora's sake; however when an opportunity arrives for Torvald to prove her words he fails by not taking Nora's side in the issue of the fraudulent loan (p.102). Instead, he condemns and insults Nora for the fraud.

Torvald pretends to be at ease with Mrs. Linde's presence in their house but immediately she leaves, Torvald calls Mrs Linde a 'frightening bore.' this is surprising as he had earlier been conversing with her about her knitting and even encourages her to shift to embroidery (p.94).

He is also irritated when Doctor Rank comes into the house and interferes with his moment with Nora yet Doctor Rank was his close friend (p.97). Torvald also says that it was better for Doctor Rank to die as it would make him and Nora close to each other (p.101). He says this despite the fact that Doctor Rank was his close friend.

STYLISTIC TECHNIQUES/ASPECTS OF STYLE

This generally refers to how the author uses language to tell the story. The author creatively uses language to emphasize on certain themes, build character, and make the reader visualize both the settings and the events. Various stylistic techniques are used in Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*:

a.) SYMBOLISM

It involves objects representing abstract ideas, for instance, a dove symbolizes peace. Nora eats the macaroons in secret because her husband has outlawed her from eating them (p.2). Macaroons therefore symbolize Nora's defiance to the orders of her husband. It demonstrates Nora's attempts to retain her independence.

Macaroons also symbolize Nora's desire for things that make her happy in life. Nora does not think that the macaroons will spoil her teeth (p.27). She does not want to be dictated to on what is good or bad for her life. Instead, she desires to be left to engage in leisure that make her happy.

Doctor Rank tells Nora that when he is about to die, he will send her his card with a black cross on it (p.64). The black cross symbolizes Doctor Rank's imminent death. He later sends the cards with a black cross on them (p.101).

b.) IMAGERY

It is the use of language that leaves a picture in the mind. Imagery is brought out by the use of: similes, metaphors, personification, and vivid description.

➤ Use of Metaphors

Torvald affectionately uses 'pet' names to refer to his wife. He calls her: my 'little skylark', 'little squirrel', and 'little featherhead' (p.2-3). This shows that Torvald considers Nora as something that he could control and treat the way he feels like. Later, Nora points to this domineering nature of Torvald as a reason why she decides to walk out on her marriage (p.117).

After discovering that Nora had lied that Krogstad had not been in the house, Torvald uses pet names as she warns his wife not to lie again. He calls her 'my little songbird' (p.44). This shows that Torvald viewed Nora as a child who had to abide by Torvald's wishes and commands. be controlled and guided on what is good or bad.

Torvald claims that Krogstad's flawed moral character is not a good example to the children. He says in such an atmosphere, 'lies infects and poisons the whole life of a home.', and the 'children's breath is full of the germs of evil.' This shows that Torvald thinks Krogstad's children are being poorly raised up because they have to look up to their father who has a morally flawed character.

Nora refers to herself as Torvald's 'little squirrel', and 'skylark' in order to plead with her husband to let Krogstad keep his position at the Bank (p.57). For that favour, Nora is accepting to be submissive to Torvald and let him control her the way he wishes. This proves that Torvald used the pet names to show his manliness over Nora. Torvald however turns down Nora's advances saying that Nora, his 'skylark', has always been submissive. This proves that Torvald viewed Nora as a child that he could control whenever he wished.

Krogstad refers to himself as a 'shipwrecked man' clinging on to life after being abandoned by Mrs. Linde (p.87). This shows that Krogstad was hopeless and his life was headed into destruction after Mrs. Linde walked away from him.

Nora accuses her husband of treating her as a doll-wife (p.112). This means that Torvald controlled Nora's wife and treated her the way he wished. This eventually leads to Nora walking out of her marriage.

➤ Use of similes

Mrs. Linde just like Krogstad says she is like a 'shipwrecked woman' clinging on to life because she felt her life was empty with no one to keep her company (p.87). She eventually finds company when she and Krogstad decide to get married.

c.) IRONY

Mrs. Linde abandons her fiancé for another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her younger brothers. Surprisingly, her supposed well-off husband dies leaving her penniless and childless. Her husband's business also collapses and she has to engage in incoming generating ventures that are not successful either (p.14). It is ironic that despite of getting married to a financially stable man she ends up impoverished and she has to start looking for money to sustain her life.

Mrs. Linde thinks that it was unwise for Nora to procure money for her husband's treatment without Nora's husband knowledge yet this saved Torvald's life just like Mrs. Linde got married to a man because the man could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers (p.17-19). Mrs. Linde took a similar step as Nora yet she claims that Nora procuring the money without her husband's knowledge was unwise.

Nora claims that she does not know anything about Krogstad's many kinds of business (p.24) yet she procured the loan used for the Helmers vacation from him. This is because she feels guilty that the loan was not procured in the right way and she involved herself with a man with a flawed character.

Nora, before the children, refers to Krogstad as a stranger (p.32). This is strange since Nora and Krogstad are well known to each other. She calls Krogstad a stranger because of his flawed character and because she secretly procured a loan from him and she does not want it to be revealed.

Nora claims that she used her influence to get Mrs. Linde a job at the bank. However, when Krogstad asks her to use that influence to ensure that he does not lose his job, Nora suddenly says she did not have any influence over her husband (p.33-34). She makes this quick turn because she knows such a move will create suspicion as Torvald was a man with no moral character.

Nora is demeaning towards Krogstad and calls him a subordinate (p.33). This is surprising since it is Krogstad who helped her secure a loan. Similarly, though Krogstad is a subordinate, the letter he writes to Torvald about Nora's fraud throws her into a conflict with her husband leading to Nora walking out on her family. It is surprising that a man considered as a subordinate could achieve that.

Torvald thinks that Krogstad was begging Nora to intercede on his behalf so that he does not lose his job at the bank (p.43). However, that is not accurate since Krogstad was threatening to expose Nora's fraud if she did not influence her husband not to sack him.

It is ironical that Doctor Rank keeps it a secret from Torvald that he was going to die yet Torvald was his close friend (p.64)

When Krogstad says that most people involved in damaging cases think of running away from home Nora thinks that Krogstad understands the plight she is in (p.74). Krogstad

however goes ahead and puts fresh demands on Nora's husband and to make matters worse he drops the letter revealing Nora's fraud to Torvald's letter-box.

Initially, Mrs. Linde promises to help Nora so that her secret is not revealed to Torvald. However, when that appears achievable after coming into good terms with Krogstad she retracts and says that Torvald should know her wife's secret so that the couple can have a complete understanding between them (p.90).

Torvald tells Nora that he wished she were threatened by some great danger so that Torvald sacrifices his life for Nora's sake (p.102). However, When Nora's fraud is revealed Torvald does not stand by Nora but condemns and insults him.

Torvald tells Nora that because of her fraud, he would not allow her to bring up the children. However, when Krogstad sends another letter to bring closure to the issue, Torvald changes his earlier stand and tells Nora that she should remain with him in order to take care of the children (p.112).

Torvald is rigid that he would never bow to the pressures of Krogstad to let him keep his job at the Bank. Surprisingly, when Krogstad threatens to blackmail the Helmers over Nora's fraud Torvald claims that he would do all he could to appease Krogstad (p.105).

d.) DRAMATIC IRONY

Doctor Rank while talking of Krogstad as a person who suffers from a diseased moral character tells Nora and Mrs. Linde that they do not know Krogstad (p.25). However the audience is aware that Krogstad is known to Mrs. Linde as her former fiancé and Nora because he helped her procure a loan.

Nora, before the children, refers to Krogstad as a stranger (p.32). This is inaccurate since Nora and Krogstad are well known to each other. She calls Krogstad a stranger because of his flawed character and because she secretly procured a loan from him and she does not want it to be revealed.

Torvald thinks that Krogstad was begging Nora to intercede on his behalf so that he does not lose his job at the Bank (p.43). However, that is not accurate since Krogstad was threatening to expose Nora's fraud if she did not influence her husband not to sack him. The audience is aware of this but Torvald is not.

Torvald unknowingly points out correctly that Nora is nervous and fearful of Krogstad and he also says that Krogstad's letter was lying somewhere (p.82-83). Torvald speaks all these without knowing that everything he said was true but both the audience and Nora are aware that Krogstad has placed a letter detailing Nora's fraud in Torvald's letter-box.

When Nora tells Doctor Rank that he was held up by scientific investigation Torvald takes it literally that Torvald was carrying out scientific research (p.98). He does not know that Doctor Rank had promised Nora to carry out a last health check to confirm if his death

was imminent.

When Torvald asks Doctor Rank where he will be in the next fancy dress ball, he says that he will be 'invisible (p.99).' Torvald thinks that is a joke but both the audience and Nora know that it means Doctor Rank would have died as his health had worsened. The audience, and Nora know what Doctor Rank is talking about but Torvald does not know.

e.) PREMONITION/FORESHADOW

Nora buys her daughter, Emmy, a doll and a dolly's bedstead (p.4). These Christmas gifts show the stereotypical gender roles that society has assigned women. Emmy is expected to possibly take care of the children and be subordinate to her husband. Nora however says that Emmy would soon break the dolls into pieces. This is a premonition of how Nora would defy the cultural norms that subjugated women by walking out on her family.

Nora tells Mrs. Linde and Doctor Rank that she has something she wished to reveal to Torvald but she could not since it was shocking. When they press Nora to reveal the secret she only says that she was damned (p.27). This was a premonition of the conflict that would ensue when Torvald finally gets to learn of Nora's fraudulent loan. A conflict arises over Nora's fraudulent loan and leads to a separation between Nora and her husband.

Nora observes how her husband accuses Krogstad of poisoning his own children and home. Nora puts herself in Krogstad's shoes since she, too, has committed the same crime of forgery and she is troubled since her husband might have the same views about her (p.48). This comes to pass when Torvald discovers Nora's fraud. He prohibits her from coming close to their children as he claims Nora's fraud meant that she could not be trusted to impact the right values to the children.

Nora informs the nurse that she will not be with the children as much as she was with them before. She also thanks the nurse for being a good mother to her since childhood and tells her that she trusted her that she could take good care of the children if she were not around (p.50-51). This is a premonition of what happens later when Nora walks out of her marriage and the children are left under the care of the nurse.

Torvald says that something ugly had come between him and Nora. He thinks that it is Doctor Rank's death (p.102). That something ugly however was a premonition of the ugly conflict that would come between them when Torvald discovers Nora's fraud. This eventually leads Nora to walk out on their marriage.

f.) RHETORICAL QUESTIONS

There is use of rhetorical questions. Mrs. Linde is shocked that it is Nora who procured the huge amount of money for Torvald's treatment. She asks, 'You?', 'All that money?' (p. 18).

Nora shows that she could do anything for the sake of saving Torvald's life including borrowing money without her husband's consent. She says, 'Couldn't I?', 'Why not?' (p. 18).

Nora is surprised that she is being accused of fraud yet she forged the signature for the sake of Torvald's life and to save her sick father from anxiety (p.41). She thinks that the law is unreasonable for her motives behind the action were honourable. Other instances of use of rhetorical questions are found on page 43, 44, and 97.

g.) FLASHBACK

Nora tells Krogstad how some people with no moral character attempted to tarnish her father's name by writing damaging information about him in the papers. It was Torvald that inquired and cleared her father's name (p.58). Nora remembers this to caution Torvald that Krogstad was also capable of tarnishing their image if he will not let Krogstad keep his post.

Nora remembers her father who like Torvald treated her like a doll (p.112). Both control and treat her the way they liked and finally Nora gets tired and walks out on Torvald.

h.) PERSONIFICATION

Doctor Rank claims that his internal economy is bankrupt (p.63). This simply means that his health had deteriorated and he could not sustain his life therefore he was going to die. Doctor Rank's health is given the human attribute of bankruptcy.

i.) SARCASM

Krogstad says that Torvald would be overwhelmed if he learnt Nora's fraud and that is why he is better off in the dark as he would lack the courage to face such revelations (p.72).

j.) SOLILOQUY

Nora talks to herself immediately Krogstad leaves (p.41). Nora cannot come to terms that Krogstad wants to reveal her secret. This is because Nora fears it might cause a

conflict with her husband. She however convinces herself that she obtained the loan fraudulently for the sake of her husband's life (p.42).

Nora also dismisses Krogstad's threat and is convinced that theirs will be a happy family. She is also ready to act submissively to Torvald, believing that Torvald will be on her side (p.43).

Nora is worried that Torvald's judgement against Krogstad's lack of moral character may apply to her. Just like Torvald accuses Krogstad of poisoning his home because of his crimes, Nora equally thinks that she might be poisoning her children because of her fraud (p.48).

Nora is worried that Krogstad may reveal her secret and break her family. She however comforts herself that such a terrible occurrence was impossible as it would spell doom for her life and that of her young family (p.49). Nora shows similar worries about her secret being revealed to Krogstad at other various times (p.62, 71, 76, 77, 84, 100, 102).

Mrs. Linde is worried whether Krogstad will show up on time (p.85). She needed him to arrive early so that she convinces him to recall unopened, the letter that he has sent to Torvald. This would help Nora's secret not to be revealed to her husband.

When Krogstad accepts to get back together with Mrs. Linde, she is very happy as her life has been empty (p.91). Mrs. Linde will now have people to take care of and give her company.

EXCERPTS, QUESTIONS, AND ANSWERS.

1. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Mrs. Linde: (*smiling*) Nora, Nora, haven't you learned sense yet? In our schooldays you were a great spendthrift.

Nora: (*laughing*) Yes, that is what Torvald says now.
(*Wags her finger at her.*) But "Nora, Nora" is not so silly as you think. We have not been in a position for me to waste money. We have both had to work.

Mrs. Linde: You too?

Nora: Yes; odds and ends, needlework, crochet-work, embroidery, and that kind of thing. (*dropping her voice*) And other things as well. You know Torvald left his office when we were married? There was no prospect of promotion there, and he had to try and earn more than before. But during the first year he over-worked himself dreadfully. You see, he had to make money every way he could, and he worked early and late; but he couldn't stand it, and fell dreadfully ill, and the doctors said it was necessary for him to go south.

Mrs. Linde: You spent a whole year in Italy, didn't you?

Nora: Yes. It was no easy matter to get away, I can tell you. It was just after Ivar was born; but naturally we had to go. It was a wonderfully beautiful journey, and it saved Torvald's life. But it cost a tremendous lot of money, Christine.

Mrs. Linde: So I should think.

Nora: It cost about two hundred and fifty pounds.
That's a lot, isn't it?

Mrs. Linde: Yes, and in emergencies like that it is lucky to have the money.

Nora: I ought to tell you that we had it from papa.

Mrs. Linde: Oh, I see. It was just about that time that he died, wasn't it?

Nora: Yes; and, just think of it, I couldn't go and nurse him. I was expecting little Ivar's birth every day and I had my poor sick Torvald to look after. My dear, kind father – I never saw him again, Christine. That was the saddest time I have known since our marriage.

Mrs. Linde: I know how fond you were of him. And then you went off to Italy?

Nora: Yes; you see we had money then, and the doctors insisted on our going, so we started a month later.

Mrs. Linde: And your husband came back quite well?

Nora: As sound as a bell!

a.) Briefly explain what happens before the events in this excerpt. (3 marks)

Mrs. Linde, Nora's childhood friend gets into the house. Nora observes that Mrs. Linde looked paler and thinner. Nora also points out that she saw in the papers that Mrs.

Linde's husband had died. She also informs her of the Helmers joy that Torvald had been made manager of the Bank and with such a good paying job they would live a good life.

b.) What evidence does Nora put forward to show that she is not a spendthrift? (3 marks)

Nora informs Mrs. Linde that the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. She also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet. Nora engages in needlework, crochet work, and embroidery in order to make more money for the family.

c.) What does the dialogue reveal about the character of both Torvald and Mrs. Linde? (4 marks)

Torvald is hard working. When Torvald leaves his office for another job he overworks himself in an attempt to earn more money than before. This makes him fall dreadfully ill.

Mrs. Linde is judgemental. Mrs. Linde is quick to judge Nora as a spendthrift, a habit she claims Nora had during their schooldays but Nora informs Mrs. Linde that that was not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money.

d.) Why does Nora tell Mrs. Linde that she got the money from papa? (3 marks)

Nora does not want Mrs. Linde to know that she got a loan without Torvald's approval. She also got the money fraudulently from Krogstad and she is paying it in instalments.

e.) Describe the irony in this excerpt in light of Nora's sacrifices and related events that happen elsewhere in this text. (5 marks)

When Torvald falls dreadfully ill Nora accompanies him for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. She also goes out of his way to get the money. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. On the other hand, when Torvald learns of Nora's fraudulent loan he accuses Nora for being morally decadent. She criticise her for shaming his name and tells her that she will not be allowed anywhere close to the children.

f.) Rewrite the following in indirect speech. (1 mark)

"I know how fond you were of him." Mrs. Linde said.

Mrs. Linde said that she knew how fond Nora was of him.

g.) State and illustrate an instance of imagery in this excerpt. (2 marks)

Use of a simile – As sound as a bell

h.) Which emergency involving money did Mrs. Linde have and how did she resolve it? (4 marks)

Mrs. Linde's mother was sickly and she had two young brothers to take care of. Since

neither she nor her fiancé at the time, Krogstad, had money she breaks off the engagement and gets married to a man who was quite well off then.

2. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Nora: Papa didn't give us a shilling. It was I who procured the money.

Mrs. Linde: You? All that large sum?

Nora: Two hundred and fifty pounds. What do you think of that?

Mrs. Linde: But Nora, how could you possibly do it? Did you win a prize in the Lottery?

Nora: (*contemptuously*) In the Lottery? There would have been no credit in that.

Mrs. Linde: But where did you get it from, then? Nora: (*humming and smiling with an air of mystery*) Hm, hm! Aha!

Mrs. Linde: Because you couldn't have borrowed it.

Nora: Couldn't I? Why not?

Mrs. Linde: No, a wife cannot borrow without her husband's consent.

Nora: (*tossing her head*) Oh, if it is a wife who has any head for business – a wife who has the wit to be a little bit clever –

Mrs. Linde: I don't understand it at all, Nora.

Nora: There is no need you should. I never said I had borrowed the money. I may have got it some other way. (*lies back on the sofa*) Perhaps I got it from some other admirer. When anyone is as attractive as I am –

Mrs. Linde: You are a mad creature.

Nora: Now, you know you're full of curiosity, Christine.

Mrs. Linde: Listen to me, Nora dear. Haven't you been a little bit imprudent?

Nora: (*sits up straight*) Is it imprudent to save husband's life?

Mrs. Linde: It seems to me imprudent without his knowledge, to –

Nora: But it was absolutely necessary that he should not know! My goodness, can't you understand that? It was necessary he should have no idea what a dangerous condition he was in. It was to me that the doctors came and said that his life was in danger, and that the only thing to save him was to live in the south. Do you suppose I didn't try, first of all, to get what I wanted as if it were for myself? I told him how much I should love to travel abroad like other young wives; I tried tears and entreaties with him; I told him that he ought to remember the condition I was in, and that he ought to be kind and indulgent to me; I even hinted that he might raise a loan. That nearly made him angry, Christine. He said I was thoughtless, and that it was his duty as my husband not to indulge me in my whims and caprices – as I believe he called them. Very well, I thought, you must be saved – and that was how I came to devise a way out of the difficulty –

a.) What has led to the present discussion between Nora and Mrs. Linde? (4 marks)

Mrs. Linde belittles Nora's life troubles claiming that Nora concerns herself only with house care. Nora accuses Mrs. Linde of being like the other people in her life who think

that she is incapable of anything. She then reveals that she is the one who saved Torvald's life. She further says that Doctors revealed only to her that Torvald's life was in danger. When Nora becomes unsuccessfully in cunningly pleading with Torvald to take her for a vacation in the south she procures the money that they use in the vacation.

b.) What leads to Nora ultimately procuring the money behind her husband's back? (4 marks)

Nora could not inform her husband the purpose of procuring the money as she had been warned by doctors not to reveal to Torvald that he was dreadfully ill. She also disguises that she needed to go for a vacation in the south since this would have helped treat Torvald's sickness but Torvald could hear none of it. Torvald also rejects Nora's proposal that he takes a loan to take Nora to a vacation. When it becomes impossible for Nora to convince Torvald to go to the south, Nora is then forced to procure money to save Torvald's life.

c.) What does this excerpt reveal about Torvald's character? (4 marks)

Torvald is chauvinistic. When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies.

Torvald is rigid. Much as Nora tries to plead for a trip to Italy for his own sake he is adamant and he does not give in to Nora's requests. This forces Nora to procure money secretly.

d.) Based on this excerpt, what shows that this society discriminates against women? (4 marks)

Women cannot borrow money without their husbands' consent. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora's remark that she might have borrowed the money since her husband was not aware of it. Nora is forced to retract her earlier remark that she borrowed money without her husband's consent since she feared being judged by Mrs. Linde. Nora then comes up with another reason on how she might have procured the money.

e.) Discuss an instance of irony in this conversation. (3 marks)

Mrs. Linde thinks that it was unwise for Nora to procure money for her husband's treatment without Nora's husband knowledge yet this saved Torvald's life. Mrs. Linde forgets that she also betrayed her fiancé and got married to a man because the man could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers.

When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his

duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies. It is therefore ironic that the money which was used for Torvald's treatment was procured in the form of a loan and it is Nora, a woman, who procures it without her husband's consent.

f.) Identify and illustrate one feature of style used in this conversation (2 marks)

There is use of rhetorical questions. Mrs. Linde is shocked that it is Nora who procured the huge amount of money for Torvald's treatment. She asks, 'You?', 'All that money?'

Nora shows that she could do anything for the sake of saving Torvald's life including borrowing money without her husband's consent. She says, 'Couldn't I?', 'Why not?'

g.) Add a question tag to the following statement. (1 mark).

A wife cannot borrow without her husband's consent.

A wife cannot borrow without her husband's consent, can she?

h.) Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (3 marks)

- i.) lottery – lucky draw where winners receive prizes
- ii.) imprudent – unwise/ not sensible
- iii.) whims and caprices – sudden extravagant wishes

3. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Krogstad: (*changing his tone*) Mrs. Helmer, you will be so good as to use your influence on my behalf.

Nora: What? What do you mean?

Krogstad: You will be so kind as to see that I am allowed to keep my subordinate position in the Bank.

Nora: What do you mean by that? Who proposes to take your post away from you?

- Krogstad: Oh, there is no necessity to keep up the pretence of ignorance. I can quite understand that your friend is not very anxious to expose herself to the chance of rubbing shoulders with me; and I quite understand, too, whom I have to thank for being turned off.
- Nora: But I assure you —
- Krogstad: Very likely; but, to come to the point, the time has come when I should advise you to use your influence to prevent that.
- Nora: But, Mr. Krogstad, I have no influence.
- Krogstad: Haven't you? I thought you said yourself just now —
- Nora: Naturally I did not mean you to put that construction on it. ! What should make you think I have any influence of that kind with my husband?
- Krogstad: Oh, I have known your husband from our student days. I don't suppose he is any more unassailable than other husbands.
- Nora: If you speak slightly of my husband, I shall turn you out of the house.
- Krogstad: You are bold, Mrs. Helmer.
- Nora: I am not afraid of you any longer. As soon as the New Year comes, I shall in a very short time be free of the whole thing.
- Krogstad: (*controlling himself*) Listen to me, Mrs. Helmer. If necessary, I am prepared to fight for my small post in the Bank as if I were fighting for my life.
- Nora: So it seems.
- Krogstad: It is not only for the sake of the money; indeed, that weighs least with me in the matter. There is another reason — well, I may as well tell you. My position is this. I daresay you know, like everybody else, that once, many years ago, I was guilty of an indiscretion.

a.) Which influence is Krogstad alluding to? (2 marks)

Nora claims that she has a tiny little bit of influence. She uses it on her husband and her husband accepts to find Mrs. Linde a job.

b.) What did Nora specifically say to Torvald that makes him promise to get Mrs. Linde a job? (4 marks)

Nora says that Mrs. Linde was clever at book-keeping; she was anxious to work under a clever man so as to perfect herself; she had taken a long journey to see Torvald when she

hears that Torvald had been appointed manager of the Bank; and she hoped Torvald would do something for Mrs. Linde for Nora's sake.

c.) What evidence does Krogstad give to show that his bank job is under threat? (3 marks)

Krogstad tells Nora not to feign ignorance that he was going to lose his job. He informs Nora that he hoped Mrs. Linde did not want to clash with him by taking away his job. He also accuses Nora of being responsible for him being turned off when he came to visit Torvald.

d.) What does this conversation reveal about the character of Nora? (4 marks)

Nora is protective. When Krogstad talks unkindly about Nora's husband she threatens to turn Krogstad out of the house. This is because Krogstad in his utterance does not show respect for Torvald and Nora tries to be protective of her husband.

Nora is fearless. Nora tells Krogstad that she no longer fears him. This is because she knows that Torvald will have lots of money at the start of the New Year and she will be able to pay off Krogstad's remaining loan.

e.) Discuss an instance of irony from this excerpt. (3 marks)

Nora earlier claimed that she has influence over her husband but when Krogstad asks Nora to use the same influence to prevent Krogstad from losing his job, Nora changes and claims she had no influence.

f.) Which job does Krogstad do at the bank and why does he want to be sacked? (2 marks)

Krogstad works as a clerk at the bank and he wants to be sacked because of his flawed moral character. He is accused of the crime of forgery.

g.) What happens after this excerpt? (4 marks)

Krogstad says he will do everything he can for the sake of his children to make sure his

name is not tarnished anymore; he also tells Nora that he will compel her to ensure he does not lose his job or he exposes Nora's fraud to her husband; he also makes Nora aware that she committed a fraud by forging her father's signature.

h.) Give the meaning of the following expressions as used in the excerpt. (3 marks)

- i.) subordinate – less powerful
- ii.) rubbing shoulders – meet and clash
- iii.) unassailable – cannot be manipulated/convinced

4. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Nora: But you must believe me, Mr. Krogstad; it is not in my power to help you at all.

Krogstad: Then it is because you haven't the will; but I have means to compel you.

Nora: You don't mean that you will tell my husband that I owe you money?

Krogstad: Hm! – suppose I were to tell him?

Nora: It would be perfectly infamous of you. (*sobbing*) To think of his learning my secret, which has been my joy and pride, in such an ugly, clumsy way – that he should learn it from you! And it would put me in a horribly disagreeable position –

Krogstad: Only disagreeable?

Nora: (*impetuously*) Well do it, then! – and it will be the worse for you. My husband will see for himself what a blackguard you are, and certainly won't keep your post then.

Krogstad: I asked you if it was only a disagreeable scene at home that you were afraid of?

Nora: If my husband does get to know of it, of course he will at once pay you what is still owing, and we shall have nothing more to do with you.

Krogstad: (*coming a step nearer*) Listen to me, Mrs. Helmer. Either you have a very bad memory or you know very little of business. I shall be obliged to remind you of a few details.

Nora: What do you mean?

Krogstad: When your husband was ill, you came to me to borrow two hundred and fifty pounds.

Nora: I didn't know anyone else to go to.

Krogstad: I promised to get you that amount –

Nora: Yes, and you did so.

Krogstad: I promised to get you that amount, on certain conditions. Your mind was so taken up with your husband's illness, and you were so anxious to get the money for your journey that you seem to have paid no attention to the conditions of our bargain. Therefore, it will not be amiss if I remind you of them. Now, I promised to get the money on the security of a bond which I drew up.

Nora: Yes, and which I signed.

a.) Briefly describe what happens before the events in this excerpt. (3 marks)

Krogstad's tells Nora that he was guilty of an indiscretion but the matter never went to the courts. Krogstad's vows to protect his image for the sake of his children and therefore vows to fight to keep his position at the Bank. Nora informs Krogstad that she would have cleared off her debt by the beginning of the New Year. Nora threatens to chase Krogstad out of the house if he continuous to speak disrespectfully of Torvald.

b.) According to Nora, how will her husband react if Krogstad were to reveal her secret? Write your answer in note form. (4 marks)

- i.) it would lead to an unpleasant relationship between Nora and her husband.
- ii.) Torvald would realise how dishonest Krogstad is.
- iii.) Torvald would fire him from his job at the Bank.
- iv.) Torvald will pay Krogstad what Nora still owed him.

c.) Which kind of help does Krogstad want from Nora? (2 marks)

Krogstad wants Nora to influence her husband so that he does not fire him from his job at the Bank.

d.) What does this conversation show about Nora's character? (4 marks)

Nora is emotional - When Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband, Nora begins to sob. This is because she knows she will be badly exposed.

Nora is superior – Nora feels bad that a morally flawed person like Krogstad is the one who could reveal the secret that she procured a loan in-order to save the life of Torvald.

Nora is a loving and caring woman - Nora was so worried of her husband's illness that she procures a loan without paying attention to the terms and conditions. She was anxious to see her husband get well.

e.) How does Torvald react when he learns of Nora's secret? (5 marks)

Torvald becomes angry and hurls insults at Nora calling her a miserable creature. He demands an explanation from Nora. He accuses her of having taken after her father's lack of moral character. He accuses her of having ruined her future as he would be in the power of an unscrupulous man. He fears that Krogstad might spread the news about Nora's fraud and he can be suspected of being party to Nora's criminal action. He promises to find some way of appeasing Krogstad. He says that he can no longer trust Nora to bring up the children though he allows her to stay in the house.

f.) From this conversation, what do we learn about Krogstad's character? (4 marks)

He is manipulative. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing her. The secret is that she obtained a loan fraudulently.

Krogstad is intimidating. He reveals detail by detail Nora's fraud. This is meant to make Nora realise that she has committed a fraud and therefore submit to Krogstad's demands or she becomes exposed.

g.) Rewrite the following sentence as instructed. (1 mark)

When your husband was ill, you came to me to borrow two hundred and fifty pounds.
(Rewrite beginning with: Had...)

Had your husband not been ill, you would not have come to me to borrow two hundred and fifty pounds.

h.) What happens after the events in this excerpt? (2 marks)

Krogstad informs Nora that she forged her father's signature and the date was not written in her father's handwriting. Nora confesses that she forged her father's signature in order to secure a loan for Torvald's treatment. Torvald by then was dreadfully ill.

5.) Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Krogstad: Are you aware that is a dangerous confession?

Nora: In what way? You shall have your money soon.

Krogstad: Let me ask you a question; why did you not send the paper to your father?

Nora: It was impossible; papa was so ill. If I had asked him for his signature, I should have had to tell him what the money was to be used for; and when he was so ill himself, I couldn't tell him that my husband's life was in danger — it was impossible.

Krogstad: It would have been better for you if you had given up your trip abroad.

Nora: No, that was impossible. That trip was to save my husband's life; I couldn't give that up.

Krogstad: But did it never occur to you that you were committing a fraud on me?

- Nora: I couldn't take that into account; I didn't trouble myself about you at all. I couldn't bear you, because you put so many heartless difficulties in my way, although you knew what a dangerous condition my husband was in.
- Krogstad: Mrs. Helmer, you evidently do not realise clearly what it is that you have been guilty of. But I can assure you that my one false step, which lost me all my reputation, was nothing more or nothing worse than what you have done.
- Nora: You? Do you ask me to believe that you were brave enough to run a risk to save your wife's life?
- Krogstad: The law cares nothing about motives.
- Nora: Then it must be a very foolish law.
- Krogstad: Foolish or not it is the law by which you will be judged, if I produce this paper in court.
- Nora: I don't believe it. Is a daughter not to be allowed to spare her dying father anxiety and care? Is a wife not to be allowed to save her husband's life? I don't know much about law; but I am certain that there must be laws permitting such things as that. Have you no knowledge of such laws – you who are a lawyer? You must be a very poor lawyer, Mr. Krogstad.

a.) What are the details of Nora's confession? (4 marks)

The date indicated on the paper was inaccurate since Nora's father had died three days earlier. Nora is the one who dated her father's signature. Nora signed on the paper instead of her father meaning that Nora used fraud to procure the money from Krogstad.

b.) Why is Nora certain that Krogstad will have his money soon? (3 marks)

Nora's husband has got a job as the manager of the Bank meaning that he is going to earn lots of money soon. Nora is hopeful that she will use part of the money that she will be given to pay off the loan.

c.) What made Nora forge her father's signature? (2 marks)

Her father was ill and if he had asked for his signature she would have had to tell him that Torvald was dreadfully ill. This could have made her father's illness to get worse.

d.) What does this conversation reveal about Krogstad's character? (4 marks)

Krogstad is cold/ unsympathetic. He puts so many difficulties along Nora's way when she attempts to procure a loan for Torvald's treatment. He did not sympathise with Nora whose husband was critically ill and Nora needed the money for her husband's treatment.

Krogstad is intimidating. He tells Nora that if he were to produce the paper with the forged signature in court, the law will not care about her motives and Nora will be judged. He also tells Nora that if he were to lose his position at the Bank then the Helmers too will lose theirs.

e.) How does the conflict present in this excerpt proceed and end? (6 marks)

Nora urges her husband not to dismiss Krogstad but her husband refuses. Torvald sends the dismissal letter to Krogstad. Krogstad visits Nora and leaves a letter detailing Nora's fraud in Torvald's letterbox. Nora reveals to Mrs. Linde about her secret and Mrs. Linde offers to help. Mrs. Krogstad writes a retracting letter over Nora's fraud. Torvald reads Krogstad's first letter and criticises Nora for her actions. Torvald gets the second letter from Krogstad and tells Nora to forget all that had happened between them. Nora is however adamant and she walks out of her marriage.

f.) State, illustrate and give the effectiveness of the use of rhetorical questions in this excerpt. (3 marks)

Nora uses rhetorical questions while addressing Krogstad. She says, 'Is a daughter not to be allowed to spare her dying father anxiety and care?', and 'Is a wife not to be allowed to save her husband's life?' Nora is portrayed as caring and selfless. The motives behind her forgery were noble.

g.) Change the following statement into indirect speech. (1 mark)

"Are you aware that is a dangerous confession?" Krogstad asked.

Krogstad asked if she was aware that that was a dangerous confession.

h.) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the extract. (2 marks)

i.) heartless – without feelings of pity

ii.) reputation – people's opinion about a person's character

6.) Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Nora: That is nice of you. (*goes to the Christmas Tree; a short pause*) How pretty the red flowers look — . But, tell me, was it really something very bad that this Krogstad was guilty of?

Helmer: He forged someone's name. Have you any idea what that means?

Nora: Isn't it possible that he was driven to do it by necessity?

Helmer: Yes; or, as in so many cases, by imprudence. I am not so heartless as to condemn a man altogether because of a single false step of that kind.

Nora: No, you wouldn't would you, Torvald?

Helmer: Many a man has been able to retrieve his character, if he has openly confessed his fault and taken his punishment.

Nora: Punishment —?

Helmer: But Krogstad did nothing of that sort; he got himself out of it by a cunning trick, and that

is why he has gone under altogether.

Nora: But do you think it would –?

Helmer: Just think how a guilty man like that has to lie and play the hypocrite with everyone; how

he has to wear a mask in the presence of those near and dear to him, even before his own wife and children. And about the children - that is the most terrible part of it all, Nora.

Nora: How?

Helmer: Because such an atmosphere of lies infects and *poisons the* whole life of a home- Each breath the children take in such a house is full of the germs of evil.

Nora: (*coming nearer him*) Are you sure of that? My dear, I have often seen it in the course of my life as a lawyer. Almost everyone who has gone to the bad early in life has had a deceitful mother.

Nora: Why do you only say – mother?

a.) What happens before the events presented in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Nora asks Torvald to help her prepare for the fancy-dress ball party that was to happen at the Stenborgs'. Nora lies to Torvald that no one had been at the house. Torvald tells Nora that he saw Krogstad going out of the gate and warns her not to lie again. Torvald tells Nora that he knows Krogstad has been begging her to say a good word for him so that he does not lose his job. Torvald is surprised that Nora would talk to a person of no moral character as Krogstad.

b.) What argument does Helmer put forward to show that he was not so heartless to want to sack Krogstad? (2 marks)

He claims that many men have been able to retrieve their character by openly confessing their fault and taking their punishment. Krogstad never confessed to his crime. Instead, Krogstad has got out of his crime by a cunning trick.

c.) How is Helmer's judgement of Krogstad a reflection of his judgement on Nora? (3 marks)

Nora just like Torvald commits a crime of forgery. Nora also tries to conceal her fraud from her family. Nora wants to get out by silently paying the remaining loan without Torvald's knowledge. When Torvald gets to know of Nora's fraud he forbids her from coming closer to them as she would be a bad influence.

d.) What does this conversation reveal about Krogstad's character? (4 marks)

Krogstad is fraudulent – Torvald tells Nora that he forged someone's name.

He is unrepentant – Krogstad does not confess of his crime. Instead, he gets himself out of it by a cunning trick.

He is unconcerned – Torvald is worried that Krogstad's lack of moral character will

poison the life of his family. To Torvald, Krogstad seems not worried about his flawed character.

e.) Elsewhere in the text what shows that Krogstad is concerned about his public image? (3 marks)

Krogstad says that he will fight for his post at the bank as losing it will harm his public image. He states that a few years ago he was guilty of an indiscretion and he will not allow to be exposed again since he was not among the worst. He also claims he will fight tooth and nail to protect his image for the sake of his sons who are growing up.

f.) "Almost everyone who has gone to the bad early in life has had a deceitful mother."

i.) What does this statement reveal about Torvald's character? (2 marks)

Torvald is chauvinistic. Torvald's claims are stereotypical and he chooses on women since he views men as a more superior gender.

ii.) Elsewhere in the text, how is Torvald's behaviour in (i) demonstrated? (2 marks)

Torvald holds the view that women in general are incapable of planning and managing finances. He believes that women spend money recklessly.

g.) Comment on the use of imagery in this excerpt. (3 marks)

Use of metaphors - Torvald claims that Krogstad's family lives in an atmosphere where, 'lies infects and poisons the whole life of a home.', and the 'children's breath is full of the germs of evil.' This shows that Torvald thinks Krogstad's children are being poorly raised up because they have to look up to their father who has no moral character.

h.) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the excerpt. (3 marks)

i.) necessity – need for something

ii.) imprudence – an unwise decision

iii.) retrieve – get back

7.) Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Helmer: Have you really the courage to open up that question again?

Nora: Yes, dear, you must do as I ask; you must let Krogstad keep his post In the bank.

Helmer: My dear Nora, it is his post that I have arranged Mrs. Linde shall have.

Nora: Yes, you have been awfully kind about that; but you could just as well dismiss some other clerk instead of Krogstad.

- Helmer: This is simply incredible obstinacy! Because you chose to give him a thoughtless promise that you would speak for him, I am expected to —
- Nora: That isn't the reason, Torvald. It is for your own sake. This fellow writes in the most scurrilous newspapers; you have told me so yourself. He can do you an unspeakable amount of harm. I am frightened to death of him —
- Helmer: Ah, I understand; it is recollections of the past that scare you.
- Nora: What do you mean?
- Helmer: Naturally you are thinking of your father.
- Nora: Yes — yes, of course. Just recall to your mind what these malicious creatures wrote in the papers about papa, and how horribly they slandered him. I believe they would have procured his dismissal if the Department had not sent you over to inquire into it, and if you had not been so kindly disposed and helpful to him.
- Helmer: My little Nora, there is an important difference between your father and me. Your father's reputation as a public official was not above suspicion. Mine is, and I hope it will continue to be so, as long as I hold my office.
- Nora: You never can tell what mischief these men may contrive. We ought to be so well off, so snug and happy here in our peaceful home, and have no cares — you and I and the children, Torvald! That is why I beg you so earnestly —
- Helmer: And it is just by interceding for him that you make it impossible for me to keep him. It is already known at the Bank that I mean to dismiss Krogstad. Is it to get about now that the new manager has changed his mind at his wife's bidding —
- Nora: And what if it did?
- Helmer: Of course! — if only this obstinate little person can get her way! Do you suppose I am *going* to make myself ridiculous before my whole staff, to let people think that I am a man to be swayed by all sorts of outside influence? I should very soon feel the consequences of it, I can tell you! And besides, there *is* one thing that makes it quite impossible for me to have Krogstad in the Bank as long as I am manager.

a.) What happens before the events presented in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Nora acts submissively before Torvald hoping that he will agree to her request of letting Krogstad keep his job. Torvald states that he has just come from the Bank. Mrs. Linde helps Nora make her dress ready for the fancy ball dress. Mrs. Linde tells Nora that she felt Nora was concealing something from her.

b.) What reasons does Torvald give as to why he cannot let Krogstad keep his job? Give your answer in point form. (4 marks)

- i.) Torvald had already arranged Mrs. Linde to take up Krogstad's post.
- ii.) Torvald's reputation is above suspicion so he doesn't have to fear Krogstad tarnishing

his name.

iii.) It was already known at the Bank that Torvald was to dismiss Krogstad.

iv.) By interceding for Krogstad, Nora has made it impossible for Torvald to keep him as Torvald doesn't want to be viewed as a man who can be swayed by outside influence.

c.) What stark contrast emerges between the Helmers in this excerpt? (4 marks)

Nora is portrayed as open-minded while Torvald is portrayed as uncompromising. Nora suggests ways of getting out of the conflict involving Krogstad while Torvald is rigid and insists that he will dismiss Krogstad no matter what. (Mr Isaboke Micah 0714497530)

Nora is portrayed as conscious while Torvald is portrayed as dismissive. Nora is worried that Krogstad may break the peace that has existed within their family while Torvald is unmoved since he claims his reputation is above suspicion.

d.) Discuss any one similarity between the Helmers as revealed in this excerpt. (3 marks)

The Helmers are both selfish. Nora suggests that Torvald can dismiss any other clerk but not Krogstad. She does not care whether the clerk to be dismissed is innocent or not. Torvald on the other hand cares only about his reputation and ignores his wife's concerns that dismissing Krogstad will affect the peace that has existed in the family.

e.) State, and illustrate any stylistic device used in this excerpt. (2 marks)

There is use of flashback. Nora tells Krogstad how some people with no moral character attempted to tarnish her father's name by writing damaging information about him in the papers. It was Torvald that inquired and cleared her father's name.

f.) What is Torvald's attitude towards Nora's father? (3 marks)

Torvald is doubtful as to whether Nora's father was a reputable man. This is because of the allegations that were placed on him with regards to his professional conduct. Torvald thinks that he has a better reputation than Nora's father.

g.) What happens after the events presented in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Torvald says that he and Krogstad were childhood friends. He also says that another reason he will dismiss Krogstad is because of his lack of respect as he addresses him casually and disrespectfully before other people. Nora accuses Torvald of being narrow minded. This makes Torvald angry and he immediately orders Krogstad dismissal letter to be sent to Krogstad.

h.) Give the meaning of the following words as used in this excerpt. (3 marks)

- i.) obstinacy – stubbornness
- ii.) scurrilous – reputation damaging
- iii.) slandered – spoke falsely

8.) Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

- Nora: *(advancing towards him)* Speak low – my husband is at home.
- Krogstad: No matter about that.
- Hora: What do you want of me?
- Krogstad: An explanation of something.
- Nora: Make haste then. What is it?
- Krogstad: You know, I suppose, that I have got my dismissal.
- Nora: I couldn't prevent it, Mr. Krogstad. I fought as hard as I could on your side, but it was no good.
- Krogstad: Does your husband love you so little, then? He knows what I can expose you to, and yet he ventures –
- Nora: How can you suppose that he has any knowledge of the sort?
- Krogstad: I didn't suppose so at all. It would not be the least like our dear Torvald Helmer to show so much courage –
- Nora: Mr. Krogstad, a little respect for my husband, please.
- Krogstad: Certainly – all the respect he deserves. But since you have kept the matter so carefully to yourself, I make bold to suppose that you have a little clearer idea, than you had yesterday, of what it actually is that you have done?
- Nora: More than you could ever teach me.
- Krogstad: Yes, such a bad lawyer as I am. What is it you want of me?
- Krogstad: Only to see how you were, Mrs. Helmer I have been thinking about you all day long. A mere cashier, a quill driver, a – well, a man like me - even he has a little of what is called feeling, you know.
- Nora: Show it, then; think of my little children.
- Krogstad: Have you and your husband thought of mine? But never mind about that. I only wanted to tell you that you need not take this matter too seriously. In the first place there will be no accusation made on my part.
- Nora: No, of course not; I was sure of that.
- Krogstad: The whole thing can be arranged amicable-there is no reason why anyone should know anything about it. It will remain a secret between us three.
- Nora: My husband must never get to know anything about it.

a.) What has happened before the events presented in this extract? (4 marks)

The maid reports to Nora that she tried to turn Krogstad away. Krogstad however refuses

to leave and says he must talk to Nora first. Nora tells Doctor Rank not to tell Krogstad that she had ordered for a new dress. Nora tells Doctor Rank that her father liked to control her just like Torvald. Nora asks Doctor Rank if he did not feel ashamed of declaring his affections towards her. Nora refuses to tell Doctor Rank the favour she wanted from him.

b.) Describe the sarcastic remark that Krogstad makes and how it comes to pass? (4 marks)

Krogstad mocks Torvald's lack of courage. He says that Torvald would be overwhelmed if he learnt Nora's fraud and that is why he is better off in the dark as he would lack the courage to face such revelations. The remarks turn out to be true because when Torvald learns about Nora's fraudulent loan he lacks the courage to stand with her wife, instead he condemns her action and says that he will find a way of working things out with Krogstad.

c.) What does this dialogue reveal about the character of Nora? (4 marks)

Nora is secretive - Nora does not want her husband to know that she is speaking to Krogstad. This is because of Krogstad's bad reputation as a man with no moral character. She also fears her husband might know about her fraudulent loan.

Nora is protective – Nora warns Krogstad not to mock her husband's courage as he was showing disrespect to Torvald. Nora also pleads with Krogstad not to expose her fraud as it will affect her little children.

d.) Describe the events that lead to Krogstad getting his dismissal letter. (5 marks)

Torvald gets appointed as the new manager of the Bank. He plans to dismiss Krogstad because he had no moral character. Torvald is given powers to make changes in the staff of the Bank. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's fraud if she does not prevent his dismissal. Nora unsuccessfully pleads with her husband not to dismiss Krogstad. When Nora's husband remains adamant, she calls him narrow-minded. Torvald gets angry and immediately orders that Krogstad's dismissal letter be sent to Krogstad.

e.) Apart from being sarcastic, identify and illustrate any other character trait of Krogstad as shown in this extract. (2 marks)

Krogstad is vengeful. He tells Nora that her husband did not know what he could expose Nora to. This is because Nora's husband had dismissed him yet he had information about Nora's fraudulent loan.

f.) Explain an instance of cross-purpose in this extract. (3 marks)

Krogstad tells Nora that there will be no accusations in the whole matter of Nora's fraudulent loan. Nora responds that she knew that was how Krogstad would handle the issue. Nora however does not know that Krogstad's statement stands only if his

demands are met. If they are not met Krogstad will expose Nora's fraud.

g.) What happens immediately after the events in this extract? (3 marks)

Krogstad tells Nora that even if she stood with so much money in her hand he will never part with her bond. Nora admits that she planned to run away from her home but she did not have the courage. Krogstad says that he has the letter revealing Nora's fraud in his pocket and he planned to give it to Nora's husband. Nora tells Krogstad to tear up the letter.

9. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Nora: I am not speaking of what I owe you. Tell me what sum you are asking my husband for, and I will get the money.

Krogstad: I am not asking your husband for a penny.

Nora: What do you want then?

Krogstad: I will tell you. I want to rehabilitate myself, Mrs. Helmer; I want to get on; and in that your husband must help me. For the last year and a half I have not had a hand in anything dishonourable, amid all that time I have been struggling in most restricted circumstances. I was content to work my way up step by step. Now I am turned out, and I am not going to be satisfied with merely being taken into favour again. I want to get on, I tell you. I want to get into the Bank again, in a higher position. Your husband must make a place for me –

Nora: That he will never do!

Krogstad: He will; I know him; he dare not protest. And as soon as I am in there again with him, then you will see! Within a year I shall be the manager's right hand. It will be Nils Krogstad and not Torvald Helmer who manages the Bank.

Nora: That's a thing you will never see.¹

Krogstad: Do you mean that you will – ?

Nora: I have courage enough for it now.

Krogstad: Oh, you can't frighten me. A fine, spoilt lady like you –

Nora: You will see, you will see.

Krogstad: Under the ice, perhaps? Down into the cold coal-black water? And then, in the spring to float up to the surface, all horrible and unrecognisable, with your hair fallen out - .

Nora: You can't frighten me.

Krogstad: Nor you me. People don't do such things, Mrs. Helmer. Besides, what use would it be? I should have him completely in my power all the same.

Nora: Afterwards? When I am no longer –

Krogstad: Have you forgotten that it is I who have the keeping of your reputation? (*NORA stands speechlessly looking at him.*) Well, now, I have warned you. Do not do anything foolish. When Helmer has had my letter, I shall expect a message from

him. And be sure you remember that it is your husband himself who has forced me into such ways as this again. I will never forgive him for that. Goodbye, Mrs. Helmer. (*exit through the hall*)

a.) What happens before the events presented in this excerpt? (4 marks)

Krogstad says that he has the letter revealing Nora's fraud in his pocket and he planned to give it to Nora's husband. Nora tells Krogstad to tear up the letter. Krogstad tells Nora that even if she stood with so much money in her hand he will never part with her bond. Nora admits that she planned to run away from her home but she did not have the courage. Krogstad tells Nora that the whole matter of her fraudulent loan could be arranged amicably between the three of them.

b.) Explain the irony present in this excerpt. (3 marks)

Krogstad does not want the money that Nora owes him. Instead, he is demanding to be taken back into the Bank. After being taken back, he does not plan to work faithfully but to use blackmail until he becomes Torvald's right hand man and influence the operations of the Bank.

c.) What does this extract reveal about Krogstad's character? (4 marks)

Krogstad is manipulative. He is no longer interested in getting back Nora's loan. Instead, he wants Nora's fraud to remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank.

Krogstad is demeaning. Krogstad calls Nora a 'fine spoilt lady'. This shows that he lacked respect for Nora as he addresses her in a casual manner.

Krogstad is intimidating. Krogstad promises to have Torvald in his power and he also reminds Nora that he still has her bond and therefore her reputation. He says these in order for the Helmers' to fulfil his demands.

d.) How does Torvald react when he finds out Nora's secret? Give your answer in note form. (5 marks)

- i.) Torvald insults Nora calling her a hypocrite, a liar, and a criminal.
- ii.) He accuses Nora of inheriting her father's lack of moral character.
- iii.) Torvald accuses Nora of destroying his happiness and ruining his future.
- iv.) He is worried that he may be suspected of being party to Nora's criminal action.
- v.) He tells Nora to remain in the house but she will not be allowed to bring up the children.

e.) What is Krogstad's attitude towards Nora? (3 marks)

Krogstad is demeaning towards Nora. He calls her a 'fine spoilt lady' and tells Nora that if

he were to reveal her fraudulent loan her life would be horrible.

f.) Describe how the conflict presented in this extract ends. (3 marks)

Mrs. Linde offers to talk to Krogstad to ask for his letter back. Krogstad accepts but Mrs. Linde says they should give the Helmers time to solve their issues so that they do not have to live in secrecy anymore. Torvald scolds Nora for her crime. When Krogstad's retraction letter is read Nora realises the hypocrisy of Torvald and walks away from her marriage.

g.) What happens immediately after the events in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Nora observes as Krogstad drops the letter into the box. Mrs. Linde observes that Nora looked anxious and nervous. Nora shows Mrs. Linde the letter that Krogstad has dropped in the box. She tells Mrs. Linde that it was Krogstad who lent her the money. She also confesses that she forged a name. She tells Mrs. Linde that she bears responsibility for the fraudulent loan that she took.

10. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Krogstad: I will ask for my letter back.

Mrs. Linde: No, no.

Krogstad: Yes, of course I will. I will wait here until Helmer comes; I will tell him he must give me my letter back – that it only concerns my dismissal – that he is not to read it –

Mrs. Linde: No, Nils, you must not recall your letter.

Krogstad: But tell me, wasn't it for that very purpose that you asked me to meet you here?

Mrs. Linde: In my first moment of fright, it was. But twenty-four hours have elapsed since then, and in that time I have witnessed incredible things in this house. Helmer must know all about it. This unhappy secret must be ~~disclosed~~; they must have a complete understanding between them, which is impossible with all this concealment and falsehood going on.

Krogstad: Very well, if you will take the responsibility. But there is one thing I can do in any case, and I shall do it at once.

Mrs. Linde: *(listening)* You must be quick and go! The dance is over; we are not safe a moment; longer.

Krogstad: I will wait for you below.

Mrs. Linde: Yes do. You must see me back to my door-

Krogstad: I have never had such an amazing piece of good fortune in my life! *(goes out through-the outer door; the door between the room and the hall remains open)*

Mrs. Linde: *(tidying up the room and laying her hat and cloak ready)*

What a difference! What a difference! Someone to work for and live for – a home to bring comfort into. That I will do, indeed. I wish they would be quick and come – *(listens)* Ah, there they are now. I must put on my things, *(she takes up her hat and cloak)*.

HELMER'S and NORA'S voices are heard outside; a key is turned, and HELMER brings NORA almost by force into the hall. She is in an Italian costume with a large black shawl around her; he is in evening dress, and a black domino which is flying open.)

a.) What happens before the events presented in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Mrs. Linde informs Krogstad that Nora's husband had not yet opened the letter that he sent. Mrs. Linde informs Krogstad to leave since she was expecting the Helmers to arrive soon. Krogstad is relieved that he would be able to get his reputation back after accepting Nora's idea that they should get married. Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad that her life was empty and asks her that they get married to keep each other company.

b.) From this extract, explain the different views that both Mrs. Linde and Krogstad have over the fate of Krogstad's letter. (4 marks)

Krogstad wants his letter back. He plans to ask Torvald to give him back his letter without reading it. This would prevent his earlier planned blackmail against the Helmers and he will have proved to Mrs. Linde that he is a reformed man. Nora on the other hand does not want Krogstad to recall his letter. On a second thought, she thinks that it would be better if Torvald gets to know about Nora's secret so that the couple get to a complete understanding between themselves.

c.) **How do Krogstad's feelings towards Mrs. Linde change in the duration of this excerpt?** (3 marks)

Initially, Krogstad is doubtful of Mrs. Linde's seriousness that they should get together. This is because Mrs. Linde once left him for another man who had more money. Nora however convinces her that that would never happen. Krogstad's at the end of this excerpt is joyous now that he and Mrs. Linde are going to be married.

d.) **What does this extract reveal about the character of Mrs. Linde** (4 marks)

Mrs. Linde is reasonable. She asks Krogstad not to recall his letter so as to let Torvald know about Nora's fraudulent loan and for the married couple to reach a complete understanding between them.

She is cautious. Mrs. Linde does not want the Helmers' to find her talking to Krogstad so she asks Krogstad to hurry up and leave.

e.) **"But there is one thing I can do in any case, and I shall do it at once." What is it that Krogstad does and how does it affect other characters?** (5 marks)

Krogstad writes Nora a letter saying that he regrets and feels sorry for his actions. He also says in his letter that he had found happiness in his life. He also returns Nora's bond. While Torvald is relieved that he had been saved from blackmail and humiliation Nora is

angry since Torvald had turned against her before the arrival of Krogstad's letter. She decides to walk out of her marriage.

f.) Explain the feature of style in Mrs. Linde's last utterance. (3 marks)

There is use of soliloquy. When Krogstad and Mrs. Linde accept to be married, she is very happy as her life has been empty. Mrs. Linde will now have people to take care of and give her company.

g.) Rewrite the following sentences as instructed. (2 marks)

i.) I have never had such an amazing piece of good fortune in my life. (Rewrite this sentence beginning with: It...)

It is the most amazing piece of good fortune that I have ever had in my life.

ii.) A woman who has once sold herself for another's sake doesn't do it for a second time. (Rewrite adding a question tag)

A woman who has once sold herself for another's sake doesn't do it for a second time, does she?

11. Read the following excerpt and then answer the questions that follow. (25 marks)

Nora: It gives me great pain, Torvald, for you have always been so kind to me, but I cannot help it. I do not love you any more.

Helmer: *(regaining his composure)* Is that a clear certain conviction too?

Nora: Yes absolutely clear and certain. That is why I will not stay here any longer.

Helmer: And can you tell me what I have done to forfeit your love?

Nora: Yes indeed I can. It was tonight, when the wonderful thing did not happen; then I saw you were not the man I had thought you were.

Helmer: Explain yourself better. I don't understand you.

Nora: I have waited so patiently for eight years; for goodness knows, I knew very well that wonderful things don't happen every day. Then this horrible misfortune came upon me; and then I felt quite certain that the wonderful thing was going to happen at last. When Krogstad's letter was lying out there, never for a moment did I imagine that you would consent to accept this man's conditions. I was so absolutely certain that you would say to him; publish the thing to the whole world. And when that was done — Helmer: Yes what then? — when I had exposed my wife to shame and disgrace?

Nora: When that was done, I was so absolutely certain, you would come forward and take everything upon yourself, and say: I am the guilty one.

Helmer: Nora — !

Nora: You mean that I would never have accepted such a sacrifice on your part? No, of

course not. But what would my assurances have been worth against yours? That was the wonderful thing which I hoped for and feared; and it was to prevent that that I wanted to kill myself.

Helmer: I would gladly work night and day for you, Nora – bear sorrow and want for your sake. But no man would sacrifice his honour for the one he loves.

Nora: It is a thing hundreds of thousands of women have done.

a.) What happens before the events presented in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Nora complains that he is vilified by the law for sparing her old dying father and saving her husband's life. Torvald tells Nora that she cannot leave her family since she was a wife and a mother. Nora says that she will leave her home and Torvald cannot forbid her. Nora asks Torvald how she was fit to bring up the children when he had said a few moments ago that he could not trust Nora to bring up the children. Nora accuses Torvald for treating her like a doll-wife just like her father treated her like a doll-child?

b.) What line of action did Nora expect from Torvald after Krogstad's first letter and what is Torvald's actual response? (4 marks)

Nora expected that Torvald would reject Krogstad's condition and tell him to make Nora's fraud public but Torvald tells Nora that he will find a way of appeasing Krogstad no matter the cost. Nora expected Torvald to admit responsibility for Nora's fraud as Nora committed the fraud to save Torvald's life but Torvald turns against Nora accusing her of creating a mess.

c.) Why doesn't Nora love Torvald anymore? (3 marks)

Torvald's true character as a selfish man had been revealed. Even though Nora sacrificed for Torvald by procuring a loan that was used for Torvald's treatment thus saving his life; Torvald cannot do the same for Torvald. Instead, he insults and condemns Nora's actions that saved his life. This revealed Torvald's lack of true love towards Nora.

d.) What does this excerpt reveal about the character of Nora? (4 marks)

She is courageous. Nora faces Torvald and informs him that she did not love him anymore because he was selfish. While Nora has made sacrifices for Torvald, the same cannot be said of Torvald.

She is selfless. Nora has made sacrifices for Torvald's sake and she says it is something hundreds of thousands of women have done. This is contrasted to Torvald who refuses to stand with his wife over the fraudulent bond that Nora took for Torvald's sake.

e.) Elsewhere, what other wrongs does Nora claim Torvald has done against her? (5 marks)

Torvald has never taken time to understand Nora. He has never loved Nora – he has only

been in love with her. Nora has been Torvald's wife just to please him and live the way Torvald lived. It was Torvald's fault that Nora has led an empty life for she has never been happy. Torvald has made her his doll-wife. She accuses Torvald of hypocrisy as he had indicated that he could not trust her with the children only for him to turn back.

f.) Describe an instance of irony in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Torvald claims that men would never sacrifice their honour for the sake of those they love yet Nora claims that hundreds of thousands of women have sacrificed their honour for those they love. It is surprising that while most women can put their honour on the line just for their men, the men cannot sacrifice their honour for the women.

g.) What happens immediately after the events in this excerpt? (3 marks)

Nora claims that she had not until now known Torvald's selfish character. Nora says that she cannot spend the night in the house. She tells Torvald that he was legally freed from all his obligations towards her. Nora tells Torvald not to write her letters or send her money. Nora leaves the house.

SAMPLE ESSAY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. "It is Torvald's treatment of Nora as a 'doll' that ultimately leads Nora to walk out on him and the children." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora disobeys and secretly eats the macaroons. Nora was surely in a cage and it was a matter of time before she bolted out. Torvald's orders were outrageous as Nora was a mature woman capable of making her own lifestyle decisions.

Torvald affectionately uses 'pet' names to refer to his wife. He calls her: my 'little skylark', 'little squirrel', and 'little featherhead'. This shows that Torvald thinks that he 'owns' Nora and can control her as he wishes. This portrays Torvald as demeaning towards Nora. It is such treatment that ultimately leads Nora to walk away from her marriage.

When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's sudden extravagancies. That portrays Torvald as chauvinistic as he regarded Nora as a woman that had to be controlled. Nora realises this later and walks out on her family.

Torvald has a low opinion of his wife, and women in general. Nora cannot dare tell Torvald that she took a loan because of Torvald's chauvinistic character. Torvald, it seems, strongly believes that women should not take loans without the consent of their husbands. That explains why Nora procured the loan without Torvald's consent. It is this male chauvinism that Nora grows tired of and walks out on Torvald, and her family.

After discovering Nora's secret Torvald humiliates and insults Nora. Torvald becomes angry and hurls insults at Nora calling her all kinds of names. These actions help to reveal Torvald as a selfish and domineering husband. It becomes too late when Torvald receives the second letter from Krogstad as the damage had already been done. Nora walks out on Torvald and the children. (Mr Isaboke 0714497530)

2. "Every cloud has a silver lining." Write an essay to support this statement showing how Krogstad's revelation of Nora's secret helped rather than harmed the Helmers' family. Use illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald's hypocrisy was proved. Though Torvald acted as if he loved Nora, this belief is proven wrong. Immediately the secret comes out, Torvald denounces Nora accusing her of tarnishing his reputation.

Nora is also finally able to see Torvald's true character. Nora thought that with Torvald they would make a happy family and she does everything she can to make this a reality. However, during her difficult time when her fraud is revealed she is able to witness Torvald turning against her. This opened her eyes to the true character of Torvald.

Torvald thought that Nora was a submissive wife whom he could control and manipulate the way he feels like. However when he turns against Nora and denounces her actions Nora rebels and walks out. Torvald finally got a glimpse of the true character of his wife.

She was not as submissive and as easily manipulated as Torvald thought.

Torvald finally comes to a realisation that his treatment of his wife was wrong. He tries unsuccessfully to prevent Nora from leaving but in vain. He learns his lesson the hard way that his chauvinism and superior attitude towards Nora had cost his marriage.

3. "Torvald's male chauvinism ultimately leads to the breakdown of his family." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald affectionately uses 'pet' names to refer to his wife. He calls Nora as his 'little skylark', 'little squirrel', and 'little featherhead'. This shows that Torvald controlled her wife and expected her to do as he wished. Torvald does this since he considered Nora as a woman whose life revolved around her husband. Nora gets tired of this treatment and later decides to walk out on her husband.

Torvald is portrayed as chauvinistic as he regarded Nora as a woman that had to be controlled. When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's sudden extravagancies. Nora is then forced to procure a loan for Torvald's treatment without his consent. Later, when Nora's action is revealed, Torvald denounces Nora's action. This reveals Torvald's selfishness and hypocrisy and Nora decides to walk out of her marriage.

Nora also does not want Torvald to feel guilty out of her manly independence that he owed her anything. This is despite the fact the money that she procured was used for the vacation that saved Torvald's life. This shows that Torvald viewed Nora as inferior. It is this attitude that leads Nora to walk out on Torvald, and her family.

After discovering Nora's secret Torvald humiliates and insults Nora. He does not for once reflect that Nora's fraud was a sacrifice for the sake of his life. Torvald does all these because he considered his wife as inferior and one who needed to be controlled. It becomes too late when Torvald receives the second letter from Krogstad as Torvald's hypocrisy and selfishness had been revealed. Nora walks out on Torvald and the children.

4. "Krogstad is the epitome of the moral decay in society." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Krogstad is morally decadent and this gets him into conflicts with other characters. Doctor Rank accuses Krogstad of being morally decadent. This is because of Krogstad's many suspicious business deals. Krogstad has a tarnished name and a flawed character thus no one would like to associate with him.

Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald

from firing her. This portrays Krogstad as manipulative as he takes advantage of the fraud that Nora engaged in for his own personal benefits.

Krogstad is accused of forgery. Instead of openly confessing his fault and taking his punishment, Krogstad gets himself out by a cunning trick. This shows his lack of moral character and explains why Torvald decides to sack him.

Krogstad comes up with more demands and threatens to blackmail the Helmers if his demands are not met. He states that Nora's fraud will remain secret only if he is allowed to get into the Bank again and given a higher position. This was blackmail on the Helmers'. After getting the higher position, he plans to be Torvald's right hand man so that he can influence the operations of the Bank. He therefore plans to hold Torvald hostage by blackmailing him with Nora's fraud. Krogstad also wants to use Nora's fraud to get back his reputation. These actions portray him as morally decadent.

5. "Behind Nora's secretive nature is a desire to protect and show love to his family." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Nora's acceptance of the 'pet' names portrays her as submissive. She tolerates these names as she thinks that they are a portrayal of Torvald's love towards her. Nora is comfortable with all these as she thought it portrayed theirs as a happy family. When she later proves that Torvald used the names not because of his love but his own selfish interests she decides to walk away from her marriage.

Nora ignores the judgemental nature of Torvald. Torvald criticises Nora's reckless spending and argues that her wasteful nature is a trait she has acquired from her father. This is beside the point that her priority is spending on the children and bringing some joy into the family. Nora ignores all these for she still ultimately believes in the love that Torvald has towards her and the family.

Nora does not initially reveal that she procured a loan to cater for Torvald's vacation. She knew that this could possibly start a conflict with her husband. She therefore goes out of her way to obtain money for Torvald's treatment and is in the process of finishing repaying it. To Nora, what was important was the life of Torvald and not the cultural norms that tied women's abilities.

Nora saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money so as to pay for the loan that she procured for Torvald's treatment. This is because she feared Torvald's reaction if she were to tell him of the loan that she secured. Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and that enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan. Nora also only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses. This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Instead of burdening the family with debt, she takes her own initiatives to repay the loan that she procured for Torvald's

vacation.

Nora hides from Torvald her business dealing with Krogstad for the sake of her family. When Krogstad threatens to expose her fraud, Nora attempts to shield her family by begging Torvald not to sack Krogstad. However, Torvald ignores her and this almost leads to the Helmers name being tarnished. A conflict that leads Nora to walk out of her marriage also arises. This is what Nora tried so hard to prevent by trying to hide her secret.

6. “Nora and Torvald were as different as day and night and it was inevitable that they would clash.” Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*.

While Nora is portrayed as secretive, Torvald openly shows her demeaning nature. Nora tries to solve conflicts that will expose her and her family in secret. She secretly procures a loan and tries to prevent Krogstad from exposing her. Torvald on the other hand openly shows her disapproval of Nora’s actions. He is insensitive to Nora as a human being. He criticises her for engaging in a fraud and even lays punishment for Nora’s action. Torvald does not take his time to understand his wife.

Nora is submissive while Torvald is portrayed as chauvinistic. Nora’s acceptance of the ‘pet’ names portrays her as submissive. She thinks that they were a symbol of her husband’s affection towards her. Nora also observes Torvald’s chauvinism but she chooses to ignore question him because she feared to upset him. Torvald on the other hand is portrayed as chauvinistic. Torvald has a low opinion regarding women and he controls his wife the way he wishes. This later leads to a conflict.

Nora is selfless while Torvald is rigid. Nora goes out of her way to secure a loan that saves the life of Torvald. She also goes out of her way to make sure she repays the loan without involving her family. Torvald, on the other hand is rigid, as he refuses Nora’s pleas that they go for a vacation. This forces Nora to procure a loan in order to save his life. He also refuses to listen to Nora not to sack Krogstad and this could have led to the Helmers’ image being tarnished.

Nora is caring while Torvald is selfish. Nora ensures that her husband gets well after he falls sick. She also ensures her children are living a comfortable life by not diverting the housekeep money to clearing her loan. Torvald on the other hand does what he wishes to do. He shows Nora affection in a way that shows he is superior. When Nora’s secret is

revealed he is worried only about his reputation and he does not remember the sacrifices that Nora has made for him and the family.

Nora is portrayed as patient while Torvald is portrayed as rash. Nora waits for an appropriate time when she would reveal her secret to Torvald. Torvald on the other hand makes rash decisions based on his emotions. When Nora says that he is narrow-minded he becomes angry and immediately orders Krogstad's dismissal letter to be sent to Krogstad.

7. "Nora is not entirely a spendthrift. She also shows her selflessness and generosity.' Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Nora is portrayed as a generous character. She pays the porter who carries her Christmas tree and her basket, and still leaves him with the change.

Nora has had to economise on her spending and she only spends when the conditions are right. Nora tells Torvald that the reason she has spent a lot of money on Christmas items is that they have had to economise in all the other preceding Christmas festivities. She also claims that Torvald was going to have a big salary. More money for Nora therefore equals a better lifestyle.

Even though Nora has the money, her priority is on her children. She buys them Christmas presents but does not buy herself any. This portrays her as selfless as she puts her children's needs before her own.

The Helmers have faced a tough financial past when their income was not sufficient enough. When the family had no money during the previous Christmas, Nora tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things. This portrays Nora as reasonable as she could adapt to any financial situation.

Nora also does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She goes out of his way to get the money for Torvald's treatment. Though the vacation costs her a tremendous lot of money, she is able to save Torvald's life. This shows that Nora was not entirely a spendthrift as she went out of her way to obtain money and used it for a noble purpose.

Nora saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money so as to pay for the loan that she procured for Torvald's treatment. Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and that enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan. Nora also only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses. This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Instead of burdening the family with debt, she takes her own initiatives to repay the loan that she procured for Torvald's vacation. Nora

therefore was not entirely a spendthrift.

8. "Never judge a book by its cover." Write an essay to support this statement showing how various characters dispositions are revealed. Use illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Nora appears as a powerless woman who is subordinate to her husband and is only good at carrying duties of a house wife. Beyond that however Nora is a selfless and conscious woman. She saves Torvald's life by procuring a loan that caters for Torvald's vacation. When Nora comes to terms with Torvald's hypocritical and chauvinistic nature she has the courage to walk out of her marriage. This is unlike the housewife or the doll that Torvald knows Nora to be.

Doctor Rank is portrayed as a reasonable character and one who attracts respect because of his profession. However, it is surprising that he confesses his affections for Nora whom he clearly knows is a married woman. The Doctor is thus portrayed as morally decadent.

Torvald treats Nora affectionately and one could easily judge that he loves Nora. This is however tested when Nora engages in fraud in order to save Torvald's life. When Torvald discovers the fraud that Nora engages in, he turns against Nora insulting her and restricting Nora's role in the family. His actions that showed he loved Nora were all but hypocritical.

Mrs. Linde appears as a poor woman who is struggling to make a living. She goes to the Helmers so that they help her get a job at the Bank. Surprisingly, she is the one who spares the Helmers the shame when she convinces Krogstad to back down from his plans to expose the Helmers.

9. "There were always tale tell signs that Nora was capable of defying cultural norms that subjugated over her rights." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora however disobeys and secretly eats the macaroons. Torvald's orders were outrageous as Nora was a mature woman capable of making her own lifestyle decisions. Nora's defiance showed

that she could defy anything that threatened her independence.

Nora was keen and she observed that Torvald's portrayal of her character was inaccurate. She informs Mrs. Linde that she was aware that she was regarded as a spendthrift but she knew well that that was not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers had not been in a position to waste money. She also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet. She becomes patient to this misjudgement of her character until when her husband's hypocritical nature is revealed.

When Torvald becomes dreadfully ill, Nora goes out of her way to get money for treatment. She ignores the cultural norms that would have required her to get the approval of her husband before seeking the loan. Nora was more interested in saving the life of her husband than adhering to cultural norms that discriminated against women.

Nora is aware of the superior attitude that Torvald and other people have towards her. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she was just like the other people who thought her incapable of anything serious. This shows that Nora was aware that she was looked down upon and it was only a matter of time before she fought back.

Nora is aware of Torvald's chauvinistic nature. She does not inform him that she procured a loan because Torvald holds strong opinions in favour of a patriarchal society. Torvald also has a superior attitude towards his wife. Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life. This shows that Nora was aware of Torvald's chauvinistic tendencies and when they become too much Nora walks out on him.

Nora does not understand why she is accused of fraud yet her motives were noble. She claims that she forged her father's signature for her father's and Torvald's best interests. She questions the society's judgement and regards it as flawed. This shows that Nora was capable of fighting back against practices that were inhumane.

Nora begins to show signs of open rebellion against her husband. Initially, Nora is aware that her husband expects her to behave submissively before him. When she prepares to ask for a favour from Torvald, Nora uses the pet names her husband uses on her. This showed that he was aware that her husband liked to control her like a child. When Torvald rejects her request to let Krogstad keep his job, Nora refers to her husband as narrow-minded. This showed Nora's braveness as such a statement was unexpected from her. This gets Torvald angry and he immediately orders the sending of Krogstad's dismissal letter to Krogstad.

It therefore does not come as surprise when Nora walks out on Torvald and her children. When Torvald's selfishness and hypocrisy are revealed Nora can no longer persevere, she ignores her traditional role as a housewife and goes out to the world to discover herself and her place in the world.

10. "Mrs. Linde is the embodiment of reason." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Mrs. Linde abandons her fiancé because she needed a man who could provide money to take care of her sick mother and her younger siblings. She sacrifices her love life for the sake of her family. Unfortunately, her husband dies leaving her childless and penniless and she has to request her childhood friend, Nora, to help her get a job to sustain her.

Mrs. Linde is aware of the cultural norms that discriminate against women. She informs Nora that it was imprudent for her to procure a huge loan without the consent of her husband. Even though Nora is justified in procuring the loan she puts herself up against the forces of a patriarchal society that demean women. The conflict that ensues between Nora and Torvald based on these cultural norms lead to the breaking up of the Helmers family. Unlike Mrs. Linde, Nora underestimated the powerful forces of patriarchy.

Mrs. Linde is open-minded as she encourages Nora to face her husband and tell him the truth about the loan that she took for their vacation. She wonders when Nora will be able to let the secret out to her husband.

While Nora is overwhelmed by emotions that her husband will discover her fraud, Mrs. Linde thinks of a solution to the problem. When Mrs. Linde learns that it is Krogstad who lent Nora the money, she offers to go and talk to Krogstad to recall his letter unread. She therefore partially eases Nora's worries that her fraudulent loan will be revealed to Torvald.

Even though Mrs. Linde would have convinced Krogstad to recall his letter unread, she advises Krogstad to wait and let the Helmer's solve their issues instead of them living in secrecy. This helps the Helmers as their real character is revealed even though Nora walks out of her marriage.

11. "Money is the source of all evil." Write an essay to support this statement showing how money causes individuals to clash and the consequences that follow. Use illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Money is the source of tension that exists both in families and between individuals. Torvald gets into an argument with Nora since he holds the view that Nora, and women in general are incapable of planning and managing finances. Torvald also uses money as a means to appease, and control Nora and get her to do what he likes.

The judgemental nature of Torvald arises because of money. Torvald criticises Nora's reckless spending and argues that her wasteful nature is a trait she has acquired from her father. Initially, Nora ignores all these for she still ultimately believes in the love that

Torvald has towards her and the family but later when she learns of Torvald's judgemental nature she walks away from her marriage.

Mrs. Linde abandons her former fiancée, Krogstad, because she needed a man who could provide money to take care of her sick mother and her younger siblings. She sacrifices the love of her life for a wealthy man who could take care of her sick mother, and her younger siblings. Surprisingly, her well off husband dies leaving her childless and penniless. Though they later remarry Krogstad points Mrs. Linde out for her betrayal.

Nora procures a loan without involving her husband. She does this because her husband was dreadfully ill and needed to go for a vacation in the south. When this secret is revealed a conflict ensues between her and Torvald and it ultimately leads to Nora walking out on her family. This was all because of the loan that Nora procures for their vacation in the south.

The close circles of those who hold powerful jobs are demeaning to those with less powerful ones. Nora tells Krogstad that he ought not to offend anyone who has influence. This means that Nora felt she was superior to Krogstad since her husband had a more powerful position than Krogstad's. That explains why Nora is able to convince her husband to get Mrs. Linde a job at the bank.

Money gives power for some people to be manipulative. Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing her. Krogstad has the courage to tell Nora this since he helped Nora procure a loan which she has not yet finished paying.

12. "Nora loses her patience with Torvald's demeaning and domineering nature and seeks to find her own freedom." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald is portrayed as domineering towards Nora. Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora eats the macaroons in secret because her husband has outlawed her from eating them. He also dictates the kind of people Nora should and should not relate with something that Nora defies as she meets Krogstad again after her husband's warning. This shows that she did not approve of Torvald's domineering nature.

Torvald is demeaning. He uses 'pet' names such as 'lark', 'squirrel', and 'featherhead' to refer to his wife. Though this was supposed to be a demonstration of Torvald's love towards Nora, she ultimately discovers that Torvald used the names to show his control over her life. This leads Nora to walk away from her marriage and family.

When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his

duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies. This shows that Torvald was chauvinistic and he considered Nora as a woman who had to be controlled. When Nora finally gets to learn this, she walks out on Torvald and the children.

Nora is aware of Torvald's chauvinistic nature. She does not inform him that she procured a loan because Torvald holds strong opinions in favour of a patriarchal society. Torvald also has a superior attitude towards his wife. Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life. This shows that Nora was aware of Torvald's chauvinistic tendencies and when they become too much Nora walks out on him.

After discovering Nora's secret Torvald humiliates and insults Nora. Nora expected Torvald to stand up for her the way she sacrificed to save his life but it becomes apparent that Torvald only thought about himself. It becomes too late when Torvald receives the second letter from Krogstad as the damage had already been done. Nora walks out of her marriage.

13. "If Torvald would not have been too judgemental from the start, he would have prevented Nora from walking away from her family." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald criticises Nora's reckless spending and argues that her wasteful nature is a trait she has acquired from her father. Nora was keen and she observed to Mrs. Linde that Torvald's portrayal of her character was inaccurate as the Helmers had not been in a position to waste money. She also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet. She becomes patient to this misjudgement of her character until when her husband's hypocritical nature is revealed.

When Nora hints that Torvald takes a loan for a trip to Italy for the sake of his treatment Torvald rejects her suggestion and points out that Nora was thoughtless and it was his duty as her husband not to indulge in Nora's extravagancies. This shows that Torvald was chauvinistic and he considered Nora as a woman who had to be controlled. When Nora finally gets to learn this, she walks out on Torvald and the children. If Torvald could have been more understanding of his wife, over her request for a vacation, the conflict that leads to Nora walking out would not have occurred.

Torvald holds strong opinions in favour of a patriarchal society. That explains Nora's decision to procure a loan without his consent. Torvald would possibly have prevented Nora from procuring the loan because she is a woman. Torvald also has a superior attitude towards his wife. Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life. This shows that Torvald thinks lowly of women. Nora, later, becomes tired of this gender discrimination and walks out of her marriage.

After discovering Nora's secret Torvald gets angry and humiliates Nora. He calls her all sorts of names and he does not for once reflect on Nora's sacrifice that saved his life. It becomes too late when Torvald receives the second letter from Krogstad as his selfishness and hypocrisy had already been revealed. Nora then decides to walk out of her marriage.

14. "Nora did not deserve condemnation as she had made numerous sacrifices on behalf of her family." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Nora did everything she could to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She goes out of her way to procure a loan to cater for Torvald's treatment. Her action saved Torvald's life. She also takes responsibility and starts paying the loan in instalments.

Nora also accompanies Torvald for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. This is despite the fact that she was very fond of her father. She describes it as the saddest time in their marriage as she was not able to see her father again. This showed how Nora put the life of her husband above anything else.

Nora saves a little money here and there and she even finds other ways of earning money so as to pay for the loan that she procured for Torvald's treatment. This is because she feared Torvald's reaction if she were to tell him of the loan that she secured. Nora finds other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and that enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead of burdening the family with debt, she takes her own initiatives to repay the loan that she procured for Torvald's vacation.

Also, Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses. This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment. Nora does not use the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed. Nora therefore puts the interests of her family before her own.

15. "Women sacrifice so many things in their lives for the sake of their families." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from

Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Mrs. Linde sacrifices her love for her fiancé and gets married to another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers. Her husband later dies and his business too collapses leaving Mrs. Linde hopeless. She is forced to engage in income generating ventures that are not successful either. She decides to seek the help of Nora who helps her get a job at the bank.

Even though Nora has the money, her priority is on her children. She buys them Christmas presents but does not buy herself any. This portrays her as selfless as she puts her children's needs before her own. When the family had no money during the previous Christmas, she tries to cheer things up by making ornaments and other fine things.

Nora did everything she could to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. When Torvald rejects her requests for a vacation she goes out of her way to procure a loan to cater for Torvald's treatment. Her action saves Torvald's life. She also takes responsibility and starts paying the loan in instalments.

Nora also does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She accompanies Torvald for the vacation even though Ivar had just been born. She also goes out of his way to get the money. Nora is also unable to nurse her sick father as she was taking care of Torvald. This is despite the fact that she was very fond of her father.

Nora has to sacrifice her desire for elegant dresses so as to be able to save and pay for the loan that she procured. Nora only spends half the money that Torvald gives her for buying dresses. This is because she needed to save the other so as to pay off the instalments of the loan. Nora claims this was hard on her as she had to buy the simple and cheap clothes. She has to make this sacrifice yet the loan that she procured was used for Torvald's treatment.

Anne sacrifices her love for her daughter in-order to work as Nora's nurse. Nora thanks her for being motherly to her and she is confident that Anne too can take good care of Nora's children.

16. "Betrayal is a vice that hurts and leads to disintegration of relationships." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Mrs. Linde betrays her fiancé. She abandons Krogstad because he had no money to provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers. Instead, Mrs. Linde gets married to another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers. Even though Mrs. Linde later gets remarried to Krogstad, Krogstad accuses her of betrayal. He also says his life turned upside down when she left.

Nora betrays her father by not visiting him when he was sick. This is despite the fact that Nora says she was fond of him. She later forges his signature in order to procure a loan for Torvald's vacation. Nora even states that that was the saddest time she had ever known since her marriage.

Krogstad threatens to betray Nora to her husband that she took a loan. This is despite the fact that Nora is repaying the loan. Krogstad threatens to reveal this secret so that Nora influences her husband not to dismiss him from his job at the bank.

Doctor Rank betrays his close friendship with Torvald by openly expressing his affection towards Torvald's wife. Nora tells Doctor Rank that it was horrid and clumsy of him to declare his affection towards her. Doctor Rank's action leads to loss of trust between him and Nora.

17. "Cultural norms that discriminate against women destroy families instead of building them." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Torvald watches over and attempts to control every aspect of Nora's life. He even decides the kind of food that Nora should and should not eat. Nora disobeys and secretly eats the macaroons. Torvald's orders were outrageous as Nora was a mature woman capable of making her own lifestyle decisions.

When Torvald becomes dreadfully ill, Nora goes out of her way to get money for treatment. She ignores the cultural norms that would have required her to get the approval of her husband before seeking the loan. Nora was more interested in saving the life of her husband than adhering to cultural norms that discriminated against women. When Torvald discovers about it, it leads to a conflict in which Nora walks out of her marriage.

Nora is aware of the superior attitude that Torvald and other people have towards her. Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life. She claims Nora engages only in small household cares and calls Nora a child. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she was just like the other people who thought her incapable of anything serious. Nora gets tired of the same superior attitude shown by Torvald and she decides to walk out of her marriage.

Nora observes that Torvald has a manly independence and it would not sit well with him that he owes Nora, a woman, anything after Nora procures a loan that saves his life. This shows that Nora was aware of Torvald's chauvinistic tendencies and when they become too much Nora walks out on him.

18. "A society that is morally decadent immerses itself into vicious conflicts." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Krogstad is morally decadent and this gets him into conflicts with other characters. Doctor Rank accuses Krogstad of being morally corrupt. This is because of Krogstad's many suspicious business deals. Krogstad has a tarnished name and a flawed character thus no one would like to associate with him.

Krogstad threatens to reveal Nora's secret to her husband if she does not prevent Torvald from firing her. This portrays Krogstad as manipulative as he takes advantage of the fraud that Nora engaged in for his own personal benefits.

Nora forges her father's signature in a bid to procure a loan for their vacation. She does this because her father had died and she was worried of her husband's illness. Even though her motives were noble, her actions portray her as morally decadent.

Doctor Rank is portrayed as immoral. He openly expressing his affection towards Nora yet he knew that Nora was a married woman. Nora tells Doctor Rank that it was horrid and clumsy of him to declare his affection towards her. It is surprising that such behaviour can come from a person of Doctor Rank's stature. Doctor Rank's action leads to lose of trust between him and Nora.

19. "It is through Mrs. Linde that Nora's true character is revealed." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is portrayed as keen. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she is aware that she is regarded as a spendthrift but she knows well that that is not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. She also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is portrayed as selfless. When Mrs. Linde dismisses Nora as not having experienced the real troubles and burdens of life, Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she was just like the other people who thought her incapable of anything serious. She reveals that she is the one who saved Torvald's life by procuring a loan that was used for their vacation.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is portrayed as hardworking. In order to be able to pay the instalments, Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she had to find other ways of earning money. She gets copying work and she enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is portrayed as loving and caring. Nora tells Mrs. Linde that she never used the housekeeping money to pay the instalments of the loan. Instead, she spends the money on her children as she could not let them be shabbily dressed. This shows that Nora put the interests of her family before her own.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is also portrayed as fearful. Nora seeks Mrs. Linde's thoughts on the decision that she took to procure the loan without getting consent from her husband. Nora is worried about whether what she did was right or wrong, and whether she should inform her husband that she procured the loan.

Through Mrs. Linde Nora is portrayed as secretive. Nora claims that there is a secret that she is hiding from Torvald. She is however reluctant to reveal it even to Doctor Rank and Mrs. Linde. The secret concerns the loan that she procured to cater for the Helmers vacation. Nora is fearful that if this secret is revealed it would bring conflict into the family. She is therefore portrayed as protective of her family.

20. "There are both similarities and differences in the characters of Nora and Mrs. Linde in light of the challenges that they face in their lives." Write an essay to support this statement using illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Both Nora and Mrs. Linde are selfless. Nora does everything she can to save Torvald who was dreadfully ill. She goes out of his way to procure a loan for the vacation that saves Torvald's life. Mrs. Linde on the other hand sacrifices her love for her fiancé and gets married to another man who could provide for her bedridden mother and her two young brothers. Both women are proud of the sacrifices they make for the sake of their loved ones.

Both Nora and Mrs. Linde are hard-working when faced with challenging situations. Nora gets copying work and this enables her to raise the money that she uses to pay the instalments of the loan she procured for their vacation. She does this because she did not want the payment of the loan to be a burden to her family. Mrs. Linde does everything she can to generate income after her husband's death. She tries to open a school, run a shop and when all these fail she still approach the Helmers for a job.

Both of them have also led empty lives. Mrs. Linde tells Krogstad that she was like a shipwrecked woman because there was no one to live for. It is for this reason that she suggests to Krogstad that they be married. Nora also tells Torvald that she was never given a chance to know herself as her life have always revolved around her father and her husband. This is why she has decided to walk out on her family so that she can discover

the world by her own.

While Nora is conscious Mrs. Linde is portrayed as judgemental. Mrs. Linde is quick to judge Nora as a spendthrift, a habit she claims Nora had during their schooldays. Nora informs Mrs. Linde that she is aware that she is regarded as a spendthrift but she knows well that that is not an accurate representation of her as the Helmers have not been in a position to waste money. He also claims they have had to work hard to make ends meet.

Nora is secretive while Mrs. Linde is open-minded. Nora fears revealing to Torvald that she procured a loan for their vacation as this would break their family. Mrs. Linde on the other hand is open-minded as she encourages Nora to face her husband and tell her the truth. Even though she had convinced Krogstad to recall his letter unread, she retracts tells Krogstad to wait and let the Helmer's solve their issues instead of living in secrecy.

21. "Doctor Rank is not a noble character after all." Write an essay to support this statement showing the various flaws in Doctor Rank's actions. Use illustrations from Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*.

Doctor Rank is judgemental. He is quick to accuse Krogstad as being morally decadent yet he too, has loose morals as seen when he confesses his affection towards Nora, a married woman. This is surprising as Doctor Rank is a man of some learning and we do not expect him to be morally decadent.

Despite his learning Doctor Rank lacks confidentiality. He is quick to reveal the nature of Krogstad's visit to Nora and Mrs. Linde. We expected him not to give such information as Krogstad's visit was official and he therefore disregarded common etiquette.

Despite being a man of high learning Doctor Rank is portrayed as superstitious. Doctor Rank claims that he is cursed as he is paying the price for his father's youthful exuberance and excesses. He has inherited a dangerous disease from which he expects to die. It is least expected that a man of Doctor Rank's learning should have such beliefs.

Doctor Rank also refuses to reveal to Torvald that he was going to die choosing only to inform Nora yet Torvald was his close friend. Doctor Rank is not open to Torvald and only speaks metaphorically to him about his impending death. He claims that Torvald should be spared of such horrible news. For such a serious matter Doctor Rank should at least have informed his close friend.

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***0705525657* (Mr Isaboke)**

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