

Name: _____

Honors English 12

Date: ____

Period ____

A Doll's House

Act III Study Guide

CCSELA-LiteracyRI11-121 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.

CCSELA-LiteracyRI11-122 Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to provide a complex analysis; provide an objective summary of the text.

CCSELA-LiteracyRI11-123 Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how specific individuals, ideas, or events interact and develop over the course of the text.

Comprehension:

1. Why did Mrs. Linde break off with Krogstad years before? Would things have been different if she had had no family? Do you think it is realistic that a woman in love would put her family before her "heart"? Is this something you would be more likely to see 100 years ago than today?
2. How do Mrs. Linde and Krogstad get back together? Could he be right when he says at first that Mrs. Linde is just suffering from a "woman's hysteria"? How does she convince him otherwise? Do you find it realistic that they would patch things up so quickly? What do you think they said to each other?
3. Krogstad offers to demand his letter back from Helmer unopened. Why does Mrs. Linde think it is best for Helmer to see the letter? Do you agree? What would happen if Nora revealed all to her husband? Is there ever a time for a husband and wife to keep secrets from each other?
4. Why does Helmer take Nora home from the ball early? Are you surprised that she asks him to leave her alone? How does he react?

5. What does Helmer find in the letter box before he reads Krogstad's letter? Why do you think Ibsen has included this detail here?

6. How does Helmer react to the letter from Krogstad? Had Nora expected as much? Should she have known how he would act?

7. How does Helmer envision the rest of his marriage to Nora? Why wouldn't he allow her to raise the children?

8. Why does Helmer decide to forgive Nora? Why doesn't Nora accept Helmer's apology? Should she?

9. How does Nora tell off Helmer? Do you think she has thought of saying all these things before? Do you find the switch in her attitude believable? Is it credible that she would actually leave?

10. Do you think Nora and Torvald ever get back together?

Literary Analysis: Symbolism and Irony

Symbolism: A symbol is something which is itself but also stands for something else. The setting often has a symbolic meaning that helps underscore what is happening in the story. The physical setting often becomes a metaphor for the social setting.

Why is this play called *A Doll's House*? How does Nora's physical world give her pleasure? Why does she find it so hard to break away from her middle class life and leave this "doll's house"?

Dramatic Irony: When a character's words or actions carry a meaning the character doesn't perceive — but the audience does — we have dramatic irony. The intended meaning contrasts with the significance that is understood by audience members.

Where is the dramatic irony in this act? What does the audience know — that Helmer does not — about Krogstad's intention to reveal Nora's crime?