“A Doll’s House” Reading Check Questions Act I

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

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

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

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1. What does Nora’s flirtatious behavior suggest about her relationship with Helmer?

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

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

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1. Mrs. Linde says to Nora, “. . . you know so little of the burdens and troubles of life.” What literary devices are used here?

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1. At this point in the play, where is the power allocated among Helmer, Nora, and Mrs. Linde?

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1. What are the main themes of the play, as established in Act I?

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“A Doll’s House” Act II Reading Questions

1. What does his conversation with Nora reveal about Krogstad’s character? Why is this bit of exposition important now?

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1. During her conversation with Krogstad, what last resort does Nora reveal that she’s considered in order to end her ordeal? Why, ultimately, does she decide that this isn’t the best course of action?

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1. During her conversation with Mrs. Linde, Nora implies that she is waiting for a “great miracle” to take place. Though it is a bit unclear at this point, what miracle do you think she’s referring to?

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1. Some histories of the tarantella dance explain that it is used to fight off the venomous effects of a spider bite. Other interpretations suggest that it represents a woman’s frustration in oppression. Which of these explanations best fits Nora’s violent practice at the end of Act II? Might both apply? Explain your reasoning.

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1. How does Mrs. Linde offer to help Nora?

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1. Make a prediction regarding Act III.

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**“A Doll’s House”**

**Act III Questions**

1. Why does Mrs. Linde say she left Krogstad earlier in their lives? How does Krogstad respond? Does this fit his character? Why or why not?

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1. What does Mrs. Linde suggest to Krogstad? How does he respond? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why do you think that Mrs. Linde thinks “this unhappy secret must be disclosed”? Is it for Nora’s sake or her own? Why?

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1. How does Torvald treat Nora after the party? Cite three (3) sentences he says to support your answer.

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1. Why does Nora say, “You mustn’t say things like that to me tonight”? To what is she responding and why?

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1. How does Torvald react to the letter?

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1. How does Nora react to Torvald’s response to Krogstad’s letter? Why?

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1. What is Nora’s demeanor as Torvald raves about his (their) good fortune? Why do you think she acts this way?

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1. Torvald says, “But for the future it shall be different,” but then he tells Nora she thinks and talks “like a heedless child.” Why do you think he goes back and forth between being concerned or apologetic, and being angry? Which is the real Torvald?

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