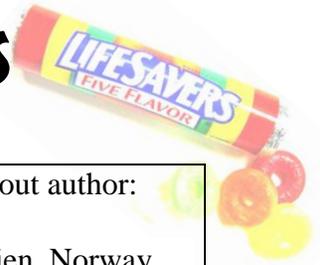


# OPERATION: LIFESAVERS

GOAL: EVERYONE WILL BEAT THE AP LITERATURE EXAM

DATE OF MISSION: MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>



Title: *A Doll's House*

Author: Henrik Ibsen

Date of Publication: 1879

Genre: Drama

Biographical information about author:

- Born in 1828 in Skien, Norway
- He was influenced by realism and social issues, including the oppression of women.
- Some of his work is considered feminist
- He saw the mistreatment and suffering of his mom which led him to write plays such as *A Doll's House*.

Historical information about the period of publication:

- Women's rights convention first started in 1848. Four years later, at the Woman's Rights Convention in Syracuse in 1852, Susan B. Anthony joined the fight, arguing that "the right women needed above every other...was the right of suffrage."
- In 1872, suffragists brought a series of court challenges designed to test whether voting was a privilege of U. S. citizenship. It was taken seriously when Susan B. received criminal prosecution for illegally voting in the 1872 election.
- The first case to make its way to the Supreme Court, however, was *Minor vs Happersett* (1875). In *Minor*, a unanimous Court rejected the argument that either the privileges and immunities clause or the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment extended the vote to women. Following *Minor*, suffragists turned their attention from the courts to the states and to Congress.
- In 1878, a constitutional amendment was proposed that provided "The right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."
- Shortly after the book was published In July 1890, the Territory of Wyoming, which allowed women to vote, was admitted as a state. Wyoming became the first state with women suffrage. By 1900, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho joined Wyoming in allowing women to vote.

Characteristics of the genre:

- prose or verse composition, especially one telling a serious story, that is intended for representation by actors impersonating the characters and performing
- a situation or sequence of events that is highly emotional, tragic, or turbulent





Plot summary:

- When the play opens, it is Christmas Eve, and Torvald (Nora's husband) has just been promoted to manager of the bank, meaning he will be getting paid much more. Nora (The main character) is happy because she thinks that she will finally be able to pay off the loan from Krogstad
- When Krogstad hears that Torvald was in position where he was able to replace him with Mrs. Linde (an old friend of Nora's), he threatens Nora to reveal her secret to her husband if she does not secure him a job.
- Nora tries to convince Torvald to keep Krogstad's job, using all of her feminine tricks (which he encourages), but she is unsuccessful. Torvald tells her that Krogstad's morally corrupt nature is physically repulsive to him and impossible to work with and it was too late to fix what had been done. At this point Nora is nervous.
- The next day, Nora is nervously moving about the house, afraid that Krogstad will appear at any minute. However she gets distracted while preparing for a fancy ball. When Torvald comes home Nora brings the subject up again only to have him angered to the point where he sends the letter to Krogstad saying that he is fired. Then he promises Nora that any downfall that may occur from his decision will be taken care of.
- Nora begins to realize that the situation will either ruin her mirage or make it stronger.
- Meanwhile, she tries to flirt with Dr. Rank (a family friend) in hopes of him helping her financially. She learns that he is dying and that he has feelings for her. Knowing that she stops the flirting and never gets the chance to ask for help because Krogstad arrives.
- Krogstad tells her that he has had a change of heart and that, though he will keep the bond, he will not reveal her to the public. Instead, he wants to give Torvald a note explaining the matter so that Torvald will be pressed to help Krogstad keep his position at the bank. Nora doesn't like the idea but it was all too late once he dropped it into Torvald's letter box which is locked with a key he only had access to.
- Still, she tries to use her charms to prevent Torvald from reading the letter, luring him away from business by begging him to help her with the tarantella for the next night's party. He agrees to put off business until the next day. The letter remains in the letterbox.
- The next night, before Torvald and Nora return from the ball, Mrs. Linde and Krogstad, who are old lovers, reunite in their living room. Mrs. Linde asks to take care of Krogstad and his children and to help him become the better man that he knows he is capable of becoming.
- They return from the ball as Mrs. Linde is leaving (Krogstad has already left), with Torvald nearly dragging Nora into the room. Alone, Torvald tells Nora how much he desires her but is interrupted by Dr. Rank. The doctor has come by to say his final farewells, as he covertly explains to Nora. After he leaves, Nora tells him that Dr. Rank is dying and that was his way of saying it's going to happen today.
- She decides she can no longer deal with the situation and wants to leave as





she is leaving, though, Torvald stops her. He has just read Krogstad's letter and is enraged by its contents. He accuses Nora of ruining his life and ignored the promise he previously made.

- They then receive another letter from Krogstad with a change of heart. Torvald quickly tells Nora that it is all over after all: he has forgiven her. Nora, seeing Torvald's true character for the first time, sits her husband down to tell him that she is leaving him. After he protests, she explains that he does not love her—and, after tonight, she does not love him. She then leaves her husband and family behind and moves away.

Describe the author's style:  
 Develop your own ability to analyze style.

- Is the author descriptive and ornate?
- Formal and academic?
- Informal – even conversational?
- Short and terse?
- Emphasize strong action verbs or use lots of descriptive adjectives?
- Use poetic language (lots of similes, metaphors, imagery, etc.?)
- Use mostly short, simple sentences or long, complex sentences?
- More abstract or concrete?
- Select 3 or more style traits that characterize the work.

An example that demonstrates the style:  
 For each style trait you listed, give two examples.

- Quote the text and identify how this style is exhibited in the text. Include page numbers.

Memorable Quotes	
Quote	Significance





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|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• “One day I might, yes. Many years from now, when I’ve lost my looks a little. Don’t laugh. I mean, of course, a time will come when Torvald is not as devoted to me, not quite so happy when I dance for him, and dress for him, and play with him.”</li><li>• “Free. To be free, absolutely free. To spend time playing with the children. To have a clean, beautiful house, the way Torvald likes it.”</li><li>• “From now on, forget happiness. Now it’s just about saving the remains, the wreckage, and the appearance.”</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She recognizes that Torvald’s affection is based largely on her appearance, and she knows that when her looks fade, it is likely that Torvald’s interest in her will fade as well. Her suggestion that in the future she may need something to hold over Torvald in order to retain his faithfulness and devotion to her reveals that Nora is not as naïve as she pretends to be</li><li>• While describing her anticipated freedom, Nora highlights the very factors that constrain her.</li><li>• This quote shows that all Torvald really cares for is the outside appearance. The feelings between him and his wife come second to appearance.</li></ul> |
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “I have been performing tricks for you, Torvald. That’s how I’ve survived. You wanted it like that. You and Papa have done me a great wrong. It’s because of you I’ve made nothing of my life.”</li> <li>• “That I don't believe any more. I believe that first and foremost I am an individual, just as you are.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This quote sums up what Nora has been doing all her life to please Torvald and all around him, it’s the conflict she faces.</li> <li>• This quote is significant because this was the point where Nora came to the realization that she is an individual like any other person and she deserves to be treated that way</li> </ul>
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Characters

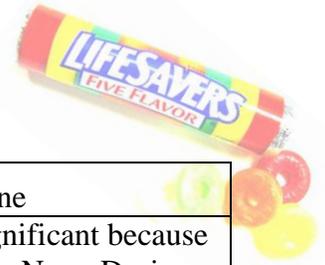
Name	Role in the story	Significance	Adjectives
Here, include about 5 characters, unless you think there need to be more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Role in the story includes simple character descriptions.</li> <li>King Claudius was Hamlet’s step-father and uncle who killed Hamlet’s father to gain the throne and the marriage of Queen Gertrude.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ His significance is that he was a central character who secretly struggled with hidden guilt and sin and that he served as a foil for <u>Hamlet</u> since he acted on his desires instead of simply just thinking about them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▫ Adjectives to describe him might include: conniving, guilty, shameless, evil.</li> </ul>





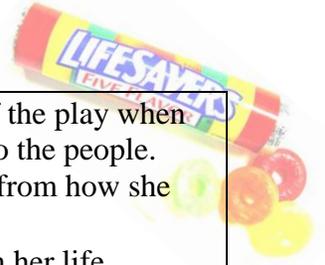
Nora	Nora is the main character in the play. She is married to Torvald Helmer and throughout the play experiences difficulties in her marriage and life from the lack of independence she has.	Her significance was that she was a character who has always been dependent on a man in her life from her father to her husband.	Dependent, deceiving
Torvald	He is the husband of Nora, who treats Nora like a child. He also worries to much about what outsiders think of him	He is the character aside from Nora's father who is keeping her from living her life and speaking her mind.	controlling, naïve, conceded
Dr. Rank	He is a family friend and also someone who fell in love with Nora and saw her as someone capable of being dependent and making her own decisions.	He saw more potential in her than her own husband.	caring, loving, understanding
Mrs. Linde	A friend of Nora from the past.	She was able to do what Nora was never able to. She was the one who took care of the family and got a job something Nora was never allowed to do. Independent, strong, willing	Independent, strong, willing
Krogstad	Krogstad is a man from whom Nora borrows money to pay for trip to Italy	The situation he brought forth was the eye opener for Nora.	desperate, lonely





<p><b>Setting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norway</li> <li>• Around Christmas time</li> <li>• 1879</li> <li>• In the Helmer household</li> </ul>	<p><b>Significance of the opening scene</b></p> <p>The opening scene was very significant because it was when we first got to know Nora. During the beginning, Nora was eating macaroons and hiding them like a child would. She was also being treated like a child with her husband and the way he treated her. The beginning was showing how childish this old woman was.</p>
<p><b>Symbols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Macaroons</u>- These cookies show her childish tendencies, such as sneaking unhealthy food. It also shows the side of her that she hides from her husband, or her concealed self.</li> <li>• <u>Christmas tree</u>- Nora wants to hide the Christmas tree from her children, showing secrecy. She also does not want them to see it before it has been decorated, symbolizing the contrast between realistic and idealistic.</li> <li>• <u>The letter</u>- The letter symbolizes Nora's vulnerability and is a cause of panic toward the end of the play. Once it is discovered it will expose Nora's deceit to her husband and put their family in jeopardy.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Significance of ending/closing scene</b></p> <p>The closing scene was significant because it was completely different from the opening scene. We see Nora acting like a child and doing whatever her husband would please, to finally being an independent women and leaving.</p> <p><b>Old AP Questions</b></p>
<p align="center"><b>Possible Themes</b></p>	





- Identity vs. Appearance: This was a theme especially throughout the end of the play when Helmer was caught between who his wife truly is and what she looks like to the people. Appearance and identity were separate who Nora really was, was different from how she acted around everyone.
- Dependency: Nora has always been dependent on someone at some point in her life whether it was her father or her husband. She has never been independent in her life.

