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The extract is taken from "A Doll's House", a modern tragedy written by the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen. Throughout this play, Ibsen successfully attempts to discuss some important themes such as; the emancipation of woman's character, hereditary doom, the husband-wife relationship and appearance versus reality. The play narrates the story of a young pretty wife who sacrifices her life for the sake of her husband and children.

In the extract, a conversation takes place between Torvald Helmer, the main male character in the play, and his wife Nora, the heroine of the play, in their house. Nora is asking Torvald about the letter he is sending. She is afraid because she thinks that letter is Krogstad's dismissal. She recognizes that her fears are right. Krogstad threatens her that if she does not talk with Torvald to replace Krogstad to his work again, Krogstad will reveal her secret to her husband Torvald and destroy her life. She begs Torvald to call the messenger back and to take the dismissal for her and her children's own sake. He tells her that it is too late for doing this. He does not understand her fears. She warns him in an indirect way that there are big problems that will happen as a result of Krogstad's dismissal. He thinks that she is afraid of Krogstad himself and considers her fears as a sign of her great love to him and he asks her to be calm. He cannot feel what is inside her. She knows the truth and knows that what Krogstad will do will get a lot of problems that may lead to the end of their life together.

Torvald, the protagonist of the play, is a shallow selfish man. Nora sacrifices a lot for his sake but he does not appreciate these sacrifices. He appears all the time as a responsible man and that he has morals and principles, but at the end he appears with his real shallow and selfish face. He treats Nora as a child and accuses her of being spendthrift and tells her that she can do nothing with that as she inherited it from her father.

Nora, the heroine of the play, is a young beautiful wife who sacrifices her life for her family. She is always accused of being a child. Her husband always tells her that her deeds are almost childish. She is in reality a mature lady and suffers a lot for her family. She is always afraid of passing her bad qualities to her children.

In the extract, the idea of the gap between the husband and the wife is very clear. Nora begs Torvald to call the messenger back and take Krogstad's dismissal from him. He then thinks that she is afraid of Krogstad himself and promises her to keep her and her children safe. They cannot understand each other. In addition, the idea of appearance versus reality is evident in Torvald's character. He seems to be a man who is the one who can depend on, but in the end he

appears as a selfish man who does not care much about all the sacrifices Nora has made for his sake.

Moreover, Ibsen uses very simple language. He is distinguished by his style. He uses very short and brief sentences but highly emotional. Furthermore, his stage directions are very important as they reveal a lot about the insights of the characters. Ibsen is the first to write in prose, earlier plays are written in verse.

To conclude, Ibsen is very successful in conveying his themes to the reader. He seems to be controlling his devices. His play starts where every other play ends.