

Act I P. 20 – 27

What is the importance of the dialogue? (p.20)

- ✓ This is a realistic dialogue, Ibsen never gives unnecessary information.
- ✓ The writer is giving us a full picture about Nora. She is accused at the beginning to be a spendthrift; but that she has bought cheap things and that she is not a spendthrift as we know.
- ✓ There is confusion between what we hear and what we read; the more we read, the more we learn about Nora.
- ✓ We get to know that she is not a spendthrift, if then where does all the money go?
- ✓ Nora is a sacrificing mother, this gives her more credit and we get to like her more.

Dramatic significance:

- ✓ A question has been brought up to the light where does the money go? We are not shocked at the end because from the first minute we see that Nora is capable of hiding secrets.
- ✓ Although that this is a modern drama, we notice that the general mood is happiness, the occasion is Christmas, it is a happy occasion.
- ✓ There are some references that makes it clear that it is a happy mood:
 - 1- Eating macaroni
 - 2- They are both longing for Christmas Eve to come
 - 3- Moving on tiptoes
 - 4- Nora larks singing
- ✓ The writer used the word "**PARCELS**" to indicate presents and he did not use the word "gifts" and this was clever by the writer to show that these are presents wrapped up in lovely boxes and just waiting for special night so they come to light.
- ✓ The writer is trying to use words that do not bring sadness to the heart but so far we have not seen any tragedy.
- ✓ After continuing reading, we notice that Nora starts to worry about the arrival of Mrs. Linden.
- ✓ Mrs. Linden plays a very important part in Nora's life where she indirectly helps to open her eyes on the true relation between herself and her husband and that it is a fatigue relation.
- ✓ Dr Rank is there to support the tragedical mood in the play.
- ✓ Dr Rank's life ends by his death and serious illness happens gradually at the same time that Nora's life in her marriage gets to an end. The writer has cleverly connected the two events together.
- ✓ In the end of the play, when Nora's secret has come from the shadow to the light; her husband does not want her to commit suicide, not because

he cares for her but he wants her to be a witness to the society that she did get them into troubles and it was she that has planned for all this, because at that time society did not look at women as creatures capable of thinking but only means of pleasure. That is why he wanted her to be a witness and that it would do him no good at all if she was dead.

- ✓ In this short play, Dr Rank is seriously ill so he had to be a physician in order to know about his disease and when his time will come. Thus, the writer made him a doctor from the beginning.
- ✓ Dr Rank's presence with his death is a tragedy that is important to add for the gloomy atmosphere and to act as an eye opener for Nora.
- ✓ The line of action would have been the same without him.
- ✓ In this play, the writer is using "DRAMATIC IRONY". They are all very anxious for Christmas Eve not knowing what misery it will bring upon them.
- ✓ A natural habit is that whenever there is a happy occasion, there is Champaign. That is why Helmer has ordered "capital wine".
- ✓ In act III, Helmer on Christmas Eve is drinking Champaign; he gets drunk and wants to make love with Nora.
- ✓ The writer tells us that last Christmas Nora locked herself up in the study room for 3 whole weeks before Christmas to make certain flower shapes for Christmas Eve, from here we can conclude that she is a sacrificing mother, but the writer continues and tells us that the flowers never came to light because the cat went and tore them apart when Nora left the door open.
- ✓ The writer raises our attention by the question "was Nora really telling the truth or lying?" and if she was lying what has she been doing all that time?
- ✓ The point that she stayed up late for 21 days shows that she is not a child as her husband thinks but a mature person.
- ✓ We notice that last Christmas, Helmer was actually not concerned about Nora being tired or that his work has come to vain but he is more concerned with her physical appearance and the fact that he was so bored for 21 days for being alone. For him Nora is only an object of pleasure.
- ✓ What Nora actually did was to lock herself up and used to copy to pay her debts.
- ✓ Helmer referred to 21 days being over last year as hard times. This shows us that the writer is a realistic one and that the couple had financial problems.
- ✓ The writer is again using "DRAMATIC IRONY"; Helmer does not know that the hard times are just about to start this Christmas.
- ✓ There is a door bell that rings. Both of the couple are disturbed because usually visitors come to Helmer for business so Nora is upset because she

lies to be with her husband, and he is not in the mood to work. So, he tells Anna, the maid, to say that he is not in person. He is also capable of lying. But the visitor is for Nora, it is Mrs. Linden.

- ✓ The bell ring is very changing in cause. The lady asks “how do you do, Nora?” It shows that she knows her but the lady is somehow embarrassed because she was not invited. It was not suitable time for coming and Nora does not seem to recognize her. So, she is aware of the wrong she is doing. She is a mature person.
- ✓ The happiness and easy life that Nora was living had not changed her looks that much. That is why the lady knew her at once, but on the other hand the lady has suffered a lot and age has ached for face. That is why she was unrecognized by Nora.

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- ✓ Mrs. Linden is now introduced to us. Her character is important in the play for a number of reasons.
- ✓ She speaks of her sacrifices towards her mother and two brothers. Nora in turn is tempted to talk about her so long.
- ✓ Linden's presence is very important as without her Nora would not have ever talked about her big secret. Nora's eyes would never have been opened on the unhealthy relation between her and her husband. The supposedly grand secret of Nora will soon turn to be great destruction.
- ✓ We are dealing with a tragedy. That is why there will be a change in the life of characters.
- ✓ Nora starts to talk about prosperous future that she and her family will live in, but after the knock on the door, things start to change.
- ✓ Ibsen's characters in general are complex. They are lifelike so there is no confusion.
- ✓ Mrs. Linden and Nora are two females of the same age but have led different lives completely.
- ✓ Nora has led a sheltered life. She looks young and happy. On the other hand, Mrs. Linden has led a serious and bitter life. She is a mature wife. She says that she is sorry that she has to be bitter in her tone. We get to feel that she is older than her age but she actually is not.
- ✓ It seems that women in the early centuries and especially in the early 20th century were the sacrificing sort.
- ✓ Linden's marriage was a business one. She had to marry her husband because he was wealthy and she needed the money to support her sick mother and her two younger brothers. Her economical life style was poor. Her husband left her nothing (no money, no memories).
- ✓ We know that she is mature from the way she looks at things; we gather much from what she says.
- ✓ Ibsen's characters are individuals.
- ✓ Nora is being accused as a spendthrift for the second time (once by her husband and another by her friend).
- ✓ She has actually never had to be a spendthrift yet. We will discover later that she has always been saving.
- ✓ "Quietly smiling" Nora is now acting with more maturity. She is very different when talking with her husband.
- ✓ Through flashbacks we get to learn about the characters.
- ✓ Nora is imitating her husband. She is using her finger when talking to Mrs. Linden.
- ✓ The play is very effective because of the style.
- ✓ When Nora is talking to Mrs. Linden, she is defending herself and saying that she is not as silly as everybody thinks her to be.

- ✓ She is very aware of how her husband sees her and what he expects from her.
- ✓ "Oh!" is used to express feelings at a certain moment.
- ✓ Nora's pride was hurt when Mrs. Linden kept bragging of her sacrifices and that Nora was a silly childish spendthrift.
- ✓ Nora's secret that she has kept for eight years is now challenged to appear on the surface. It was a slip of a tongue. She never meant to come out with the truth.
- ✓ Dramatic significant: it is a sentence, but always important. A good writer does not shock his readers, but makes them hint the events automatically from the play.
- ✓ Women were not expected to work at that time except for light, fancy work, for example crochet and embroidery.
- ✓ When Nora is talking about herself and her capability of work, she explains her point of view by speaking equally on herself and her husband and that they both have praise and personality.
- ✓ Linden was in kind of surprise to hear that Nora, the child Nora who led a fancy life, would say things like that.
- ✓ As readers, we were prepared in some way for that fact, from the beginning of the play, when Nora ordered her maid to hide the Christmas tree.
- ✓ The kind of work that Nora has been doing is copying, but this is not very clear at this age.
- ✓ Henrik Ibsen is a realistic writer, but he uses many symbols that have a lot of meanings.
- ✓ At this stage, Nora had no intention of revealing her secret.
- ✓ We had to know about the circumstances that she was in, so we could be introduced to the secret properly.
- ✓ Ibsen is a realistic writer, so he is giving motives and reasons why Nora had to do all this behind her husband's back.
- ✓ Torvald has just been married and needed to earn more money to support his family. His government payment was not sufficient, so Helmer over worked himself.
- ✓ Mrs. Linden was interested in knowing Nora's news, as she is a close intimate friend of hers. That is how she got them to know that they spent a whole year in Italy.
- ✓ We notice that Nora always talks about money, her life was not easy but we have never heard her complaint because it would have been an unpleasant character.
- ✓ Nora is a mature woman. She is a sacrificing person. She can bare and keep things for herself.
- ✓ She had much on her hands, as her husband's illness come shortly after Ivar's birth.

- ✓ Although the trip to Italy was not easy, and she is still working to pay the debt because of this trip. She enjoyed it because it saved her husband's life.
- ✓ Mrs. Linden was not as lucky as Nora. She had to work her way to earn money. Nora convinced Mrs. Linden that she got the money for the trip from her father; another lie again.
- ✓ Later on we will discover that the time of Nora's father death is extremely important because she signed the debt paper and dated it a time after her father had died.
- ✓ A question is aroused in Mrs. Linden's mind. If Nora's husband is free of his illness, then who is the doctor that the maid announced? (Dr Rank).
- ✓ Nora thinks that all marriages are based upon romance and love between any two couples. So, she is surprised to see Mrs. Linden marry someone she does not love but only for money and business aims.
- ✓ Mrs. Linden's part is important because we learn to feel sorry for her. We will be able to predict Nora's life in the end of the play and that she could earn money by working in a school or a shopping centre.
- ✓ It is late December, it is Christmas time, and Linden's life is empty. She knows what she wants; she has come looking for a job.
- ✓ Nora is happy so she thinks that everybody else must be happy. She thinks if Helmer has recovered, Linden could also recover as she is completely worn out and exhausted.
- ✓ Linden is very frank and open while the other (Nora) is secretive. Linden is mature while Nora is childish.
- ✓ Nora wants to help her friend, Mrs. Linden. In order to do so she has to put her husband in a happy mood to obtain what she wants. We are reminded of the father-daughter relationship.
- ✓ Nora knows when, where and how to ask her husband for a favour. This is an unhealthy relation.

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- ✓ The language is simple, short but effective and meaningful.
- ✓ Women are looked down upon as second rate citizen, but when given chance to think, they use their mind well.
- ✓ The theme of the passage is:
 - a- Liberation of women personality.
 - b- Lack of understanding between husband and wife.
- ✓ Ibsen is a realistic writer. How do we get to know this? How is realism presented through the passage? His characters are ordinary people. They express themselves in simple ordinary English, like any middle class person, they discuss business and financial problems.
- ✓ Helmer is only in love with his wife's physical beauty and she realises that.
- ✓ The arrival of Mrs. Linden helps reveal their past.
- ✓ For the first time we get to hear Nora complain about "HARD TIMES".
- ✓ A good writer hints to the events that will take place in the future.
- ✓ Nora is a mature person. She has been able to keep her secret to herself for eight long years; she is not a child.
- ✓ Although Nora is complaining to Linden about hard times, and has used the words "tired", "tiresome" several times, we have never seen her complaint to her husband, simply because she loved him so much and does not want to hurt his manly feelings.
- ✓ The general mood is gradually changing. It is not the same a few hours ago.
- ✓ Choice of words is important. They are simple, clear, and meaningful.
- ✓ "HARD, TIRED, SCRAPE MONEY" indicated how difficult it was to collect money.
- ✓ Nora said "RICH OLD MAN". She is moral and romantic. She thinks of a man dying and leaving her heaps of money.
- ✓ Linden is very practical and down to earth. She is a serious woman and not very romantic as Nora.
- ✓ Nora thinks that the imaginary old man is now dead and has left her lots of money. That is a result of her husband being promoted on New Year's Eve, which will in turn bring them a lot of money and she can finally take the burden off her shoulders and repay the debt.
- ✓ She is happy and optimistic about the future because she thinks that hard times are over.
- ✓ The arrival of Mrs. Linden has changed the mood. The mood will be changed again by the arrival of Krogstad.
- ✓ Ibsen presents the characters with their feelings from the inside along with their actions from the outside.

- ✓ The words pretty and tasteful accompanied with the choice of the spring and the colour blue show the happy feelings of Nora.
- ✓ The colour BLUE is referred to now because later on the colour BLACK will be present but to show tragedical feelings.
- ✓ As Mrs. Linden heard Krogstad on the door way presenting himself, she was taken by surprise and quickly stood up and went towards the window. This may be from our conclusion that she knows the man from before and does not want to meet him.
- ✓ We notice that Krogstad already knows Nora and addresses her by Mrs. Helmer.
- ✓ We notice that the pleasant character of Nora has changed when dealing with Krogstad.
- ✓ **"You, what is it? What do you want with my husband?"** These two questions show that he is not welcomed.
- ✓ Nora is looking at the fire in the fireplace (the fire represents destruction).
- ✓ Things for Nora are getting more complicated and she is getting more worried.
- ✓ At the same time Linden is looking out of the window which symbolizes that things are getting better.
- ✓ Nora has no respect what so ever to Krogstad.
- ✓ "A LOT OF CHILDREN" is a slip of a tongue from Nora. She might have had to explain how she knows so much about him.
- ✓ Krogstad's business is not so good, not of the most creditable.
- ✓ Linden is sympathetic at the moment with Krogstad. We do not know the reason.
- ✓ We get to feel that Nora is hiding something and she is trying to escape talking about it by changing the subject.
- ✓ Helmer does not talk much with his wife. That is why he does not recall the name "Mrs. Linden". On the other hand, Dr Rank is familiar with name.
- ✓ Dr Rank is describing Krogstad as morally incurable.
- ✓ Linden and Krogstad both want to live.
- ✓ The words used are changing: sick, tiresome, tired, morally incurable.
- ✓ Rank is straight forward. He says directly that Krogstad is bad and corrupt.
- ✓ How come Nora called Krogstad with his first name? If he is corrupt what have brought them together?

Act I P. 45 – the end of the act

- ✓ Krogstad's second visit is very important. It helps in developing the action of the play. We do not see Nora in the same mood after the visit.
- ✓ Krogstad's visit is very significant. It helps in showing Nora the true dimensions of the serious crime, she has committed FORGERY.
- ✓ Nora starts to worry, and at the end of act I we get to see her as a completely different person.
- ✓ The play is focused all around the forgery secret. Krogstad helps in opening Nora's eyes very gradually. He is an eye opener at this point.
- ✓ Our main and central character is Nora. We get to see how all the other characters are related to her, and how to some of them are eye openers for her.
- ✓ The dialogue between Nora and Krogstad sheds light on past, present and future through flash backs and flash forward.
- ✓ Krogstad managed through a number of questions to corner Nora and make her confess the truth, that's because he is a lawyer and he knows how to reach the truth.
- ✓ Nora mentioned that she has spoken on behalf of Mrs. Linden, so Krogstad asks her to stand on behalf of him.
- ✓ When speaking about influence, we get to see that women have no influence whatsoever on men. They are only objects of pleasure.
- ✓ The play took place in a three day time. We get to know a lot about the characters through flash backs and flash forward.
- ✓ Krogstad's past is very important because it sheds light on the present events.
- ✓ He starts talking about his past forgery and being outcast because his case was never taken to court. He managed to evade the law and keep on the run and was never punished.
- ✓ We get to respect him for being honest and frank.
- ✓ Krogstad says that he paid indirectly for his mistakes by being an outcast, but now he wants to change for the sake of his children. That is why he is fighting so hard for his small job in the bank.
- ✓ Helmer refuses to give him another chance and insists on kicking him out of the bank. He will throw him back to the mire again.
- ✓ The past of Krogstad in itself is not important to the play. It was not relevant.
"NEVER FORGET THAT YOU ARE DEALING WITH A MODERN REALISTIC TRAGEDY"
- ✓ After getting acquainted with Krogstad's past, we are introduced to Nora's past. We are not very surprised to see her commit forgery due to the circumstances that she was in.

- ✓ Krogstad was expected to commit a crime because he was corrupt, but we never expected the pleasant Nora to do so.
- ✓ She will be looked down upon by society as an outcast.
- ✓ A new light will be shed on her act instead of seeing it as a good deed, it will be marked as a bad one.
- ✓ She is still living the legend that her husband will be the hero who will come and save her.
- ✓ At this point Nora and Krogstad are parallel to each other. They are both morally diseased. Rank is physically diseased, and Linden is parallel with Krogstad as they are both trying to live.
- ✓ A change gradually takes place in the central character.
- ✓ Nora after seeing her act as a crime, she starts to avoid her husband and children. She is very worried.
- ✓ We get to find that Krogstad is not such a bad person. He has only threatened Nora when his own life was at risk. He has never tried doing so in the last 8 years which shows us that he is just an ordinary man that wants to live. Once he is safe, he lets the whole matter go.