A Doll’s House Study Guide

Know main events from the plot:

Christine shows up for a visit and asks Nora for a job

Flashback: Nora tells Christine how she borrowed money to take her husband to Italy for medical treatment

Christine gets Krogstad’s job

Nora’s husband fires Krogstad

Krogstad tries to blackmail Nora (letter in the mailbox)

Dr. Rank is dying; professes love to Nora

Nora considers suicide and running away; guilt is eating her alive

Nora expects a miracle

Know the social and psychological problems explored in the play:

 Nora’s problems: social problems: women are patronized; women have no rights; psychological problems: low self-esteem, liar

 Helmer’s problems: social problems: men should be in charge—Nora’s independence upsets him; psychological problems: he feels like he needs to be the most important/boss. He also believes his needs come first.

 Rank’s problems- dying; feels alone; socially—he is too friendly with Nora-inappropriate for the time

 Krogstad’s problems-committed a crime and has to reintegrate into society; he feels powerful when he threatens others; he does have sympathy for Nora

 Christine’s problems-social: her husband is dead, so she has to support herself. Psychologically, she’s strong, but may be jealous.

 Anne-Marie’s problems-social: she had to work, so she had to leave her own family to take care of Nora’s family.

Know themes: Women need control over their lives.

Honesty is important or key in a marriage.

You need respect in a marriage.

Understand that this was a revolutionary play for its time because the playwright, Henrik Ibsen, strove to capture realistic emotions and actions.

Be ready to write critically and creatively!