

1. After you've read Act 1 and Act 2, can you explain: **How is Nora like a Christmas tree?** There should be more than one part to your answer.
2. By the time Krogstad speaks with Nora, she confesses that she has considered taking her own life, to end up "under the ice...down into the cold, coal-black water." (45) **Identify at least 3 of her lines in the play** (from pages 29-44) **that are possible evidence that she is thinking about this drastic course of action.**
3. What lines on pp. 49-50 show that **she seems to have decided, yes, to kill herself** to escape her problems.
4. "Consumption of the spine" does not really exist. There is something called Pott Disease, which is a kind of tuberculosis that affects the spine, but it does not result from "excesses," and it is not inherited. "Consumption of the spine" was **a euphemism in Victorian times for venereal diseases, in particular syphilis.** What clue is there on page 31 that Nora is referring to some kind of sexually transmitted disease?
5. Find a line in this act which supports the notion that **Torvald is...**
[Remember, don't just look for lines spoken by Torvald; look also for lines where others are talking about him.]
 - a) condescending
 - b) concerned about appearances
 - c) sexist toward his wife
 - d) jealous
 - e) picky/fussy
6. **Agree / Disagree. Find at least one line or stage direction which supports your view, when possible:**
 - a) Nora flirts with Dr. Rank.
 - b) Dr. Rank flirts with Nora.
 - c) Nora is a married woman; she shouldn't be flirting with Dr. Rank.
 - d) Dr. Rank shouldn't have told a married woman that he was in love with her.
7. What is **something new** we learn in this act about...
 - a) Torvald
 - b) Nora
 - c) Krogstad
 - d) Christine
8. How does the letter / the mailbox create **tension and irony** in this act?
9. What might be the **metaphorical or symbolic use of the tarantella** dance? How is Nora "dancing as if [her] life depended on it"? (Think *beyond* the fact that she is trying to distract her husband from the mailbox.)



Betty Hennings dancing Nora's tarantella in the premiere performance of A Doll's House