

Directions: Below are conclusions to the 1998 End-of-Course Common Prompt using A Doll's House as the example. Determine which conclusions are the best and which are the weakest. Using a range of 1 as the weakest and 6 as the strongest, rate the following conclusions. List qualities found in the strongest conclusions

A

The slamming of the door the reader hears at the end of the play is a sound that echoes throughout the world. By abandoning Torvald, Nora teaches other women in her situation that they have other choices and alternatives. She demonstrates to the world that independence is not a gift that one simply receives. In order to gain independence, one must take a stand and earn it. Therefore, through the character of Nora, the reader learns an important truth about life. All human beings including women, should value his or her independence and use it to be successful in life.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5-----6

B

During a time where men rule over women, Nora's decision makes a loud statement. Many readers of A Doll's House find it hard to accept the fact that a woman can do anything a man can do. Her conflict affects the work in that it is abnormal from what usually occurs in the male society of that time in which the novel was written. A Doll's House gives the reader the idea that men and women are equally talented. Neither is superior to the other. We are all human beings struggling to reach the same goal--to discover and be accepted for who we are.

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C

Most people try to stay out of conflict and live happily, but sometimes conflict is good. Nora is faced with one of the toughest decisions of her life and can only see dark ahead, but there is always "a light at the end of the tunnel." With internal conflict morals vs. responsibility comes into play. Nora followed her morals and came out on top, but also on bottom. There is no answer to the question of which to follow, but all have their opinion. What is yours?

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D

Everyday people have to decide between doing what they want to and what they should do. Is Nora right to leave and forget all of her responsibilities? Maybe not, but would it be right to stay and let society continue to hold her back along with all the other women of her time? Sometimes letting go of dreams and desires is the only way to hold the world together, but sometimes it is those same dreams and desires that lead to new ideas, new places, and a newfound happiness.

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E

Is it better to follow your responsibilities or desires? In this case it seems better to go with desires. Nobody deserves to be treated like a doll. It is more beneficial for Nora to go than to stay. She is taking a stand and proving her worth.

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F

With one final slam of the door Nora leaves Torvald, and goes out into the world where she will take responsibility for herself. Hopefully there she can find where her other true responsibilities lie.

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G

Nora's conflict is one that many women face. They make decisions, leaving beautiful houses and wonderful children in order to discover themselves. Women like Nora sacrifice it all to get an education and a new life. Nora's struggles make her a strong person, so that she is able to say no, and so that she has the courage to know when enough is enough. She is a role model to women all over the world because of her struggles, and perhaps her story lets the husbands of these women understand where they cross the line.

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