CLASSICS LIBRARY · STORY MAP

A Doll's House and Other Plays

Henrik Ibsen · *1879–1892 · William Archer, Eleanor Marx-Aveling, and Edmund Gosse (Heinemann collected edition, 1906)*

Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen, says Nora, as A Doll's House opens: the children must not see it before this evening, when it's lighted up. The hosted file is a Heinemann collection, and it holds six plays, not only the title play. For grades 11–12. Quote the plays, not the publisher's volume list. Tact.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

How should a school read a file named for A Doll's House when the hosted text actually contains six plays, two of which the coverage note forgets, and how should Nora's first hiding of a tree be taught without flattening the play into a slogan?

"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."

A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

Nora comes in with a tree and a basket, and hides the tree from the children. The play is A Doll's House, in the Heinemann English revised by William Archer. This hosted file's own coverage note names four plays; the file itself also contains The Wild Duck and The Master Builder. The six are A Doll's House and Ghosts (vol. 7), An Enemy of the People and The Wild Duck (vol. 8), and Hedda Gabler and The Master Builder (vol. 10). Say what is actually here. Teach each play as itself, for grades 11–12, with tact. Nora is not a later slogan. Ghosts and the later closes need gravity, not spectacle. These last three also stand in the other Ibsen file; quote the file you are in.

KEY CHARACTERS

Nora Helmer
Who opens the file, hiding a Christmas-tree from her children; teach the whole play, not a slogan

Torvald Helmer, and the household
The husband, the children, and the friends who live in that first joy and what follows

Mrs. Alving, and Dr. Stockmann
The centers of Ghosts and of An Enemy of the People; teach each play as itself

Hedda, Solness, and the Ekdals
Also in this file, and also in the other Ibsen collection; quote the file you are in

A TREE HIDDEN FROM THE CHILDREN

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

Grades 11–12

Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01

Six Plays, Not a Title Only

THE FILE AS A WHOLE

The sources are PG #70566, #70577, and #74237, the Heinemann collected Ibsen. The coverage note lists A Doll's House, Ghosts, An Enemy of the People, and Hedda Gabler, and omits The Wild Duck and The Master Builder, which are in the file. Correct the note by the file.

- Translators named in the source: William Archer, Eleanor Marx-Aveling, Edmund Gosse (1906).
- For grades 11–12. Tact; no prurience.
- The other Ibsen slug in this library also holds Hedda, The Master Builder, and The Wild Duck.
- Do not pretend one map has taught all six in full.

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

02

A Tree, Hidden

A DOLL'S HOUSE, ACT I

Nora asks Ellen to hide the Christmas-tree. She pays the porter fifty öre, and tells him to keep the change. The first scene is already about a house, children, and a joy that has to be managed.

- The first lines are exact, including "Christmas-tree," "it's lighted up," and "öre."
- Quote this Heinemann English, not a later version or a film.
- Teach the whole play, including the last door, with gravity, not as a slogan.
- 11–12.

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

03

Ghosts, and An Enemy of the People

TWO MORE OF THE FOUR NAMED

Ghosts is a family drama of what a house has hidden. An Enemy of the People is a fight over a town's baths and over truth told in public. Teach each as itself. Gravity in Ghosts; tact; no spectacle.

- Do not flatten Stockmann into a later political mascot, or Mrs. Alving into a slogan.
- These are still the Heinemann / Archer English.
- Name the play you are reading.
- 11–12, Adult/Advanced in Ghosts.

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

04

The Two the Note Forgot

THE WILD DUCK, AND THE MASTER BUILDER

Both are in this file, after An Enemy of the People and after Hedda Gabler. They are also hosted in Hedda Gabler, The Master Builder and The Wild Duck. Label the overlap, and quote this file if this is the file you are in.

- The coverage note is incomplete; the file is the authority.
- Hedvig's close, and Solness's, need gravity.
- Do not mix this file's wording silently with the other slug.
- Name the play.

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

05

This Collected English

THE EDITION

A publisher's list of all eleven Heinemann volumes stands in the front matter. That list is not a contents list for this file. Only the six plays named above are here.

- Nora's first line is the right first quotation of this file.
- Not a later film.
- Tact throughout.
- Complete plays, as printed.

> *"Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up."*
>
> A Doll's House, Act I, Nora

A House, and a Hidden Tree | Six Plays | Truth Told in Public | What a House Has Hidden | Gravity, Not a Slogan

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 11–12

1. A Doll's House opens: "Hide the Christmas-tree carefully, Ellen; the children must on no account see it before this evening, when it's lighted up." Keep "Christmas-tree," "it's," and later "öre." Quote this Heinemann English, not a film. For grades 11–12.
2. This file holds six plays: A Doll's House, Ghosts, An Enemy of the People, The Wild Duck, Hedda Gabler, and The Master Builder (PG #70566, #70577, #74237). The coverage note names only four and omits The Wild Duck and The Master Builder. Say what is actually here.
3. Teach Nora as Ibsen wrote her, not as a later slogan. Ghosts, Hedvig, Hedda, and Solness need gravity; no spectacle and no prurience on the map.
4. Hedda, The Master Builder, and The Wild Duck also stand in the other Ibsen file. Quote the file you are in.
5. The front-matter list of eleven Heinemann volumes is not this file's contents.

Quotations are verbatim from the William Archer, Eleanor Marx-Aveling, and Edmund Gosse (Heinemann collected edition, 1906), Project Gutenberg #70566/#70577/#74237, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/a-dolls-house-and-other-plays/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.