Classwork Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Ten possible points Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Period\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the following claims/thesis statements for *A Doll’s House*. In the boxes underneath each statement, indicate each component or “thesis piece” of the claim. As you know, each thesis piece must be addressed in the subsequent essay.

Note: Every student is required to write a five-paragraph essay on A Doll’s House. You may choose to use one of the following thesis statements/claims for your essay:

1. The thesis statement and outline of topic sentences found under the essay assignment on my website.
2. Any of the thesis statements on this handout.
3. A thesis statement you create once I have initialed it with my approval.

1

Nora believes her role as Torvald’s wife is to make him happy and comfortable at all costs. As a result, she uses great energy to hide from him both her fraudulent actions to save his life and her resourceful efforts to repay her illegal loan. Her efforts to keep from Torvald the sacrifices she has made on his behalf, however, only serve to enforce Torvald’s belief that she is an incompetent doll he must control.

THESIS PIECES:

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Nora plays the role of Torvald’s doll-wife to protect him from the knowledge that she has saved his life through illegal means. Yet, despite her willingness to act as Torvald’s inferior, her success at both restoring Torvald’s health and finding ways to repay her loan all by herself awakens her to the phoniness of her marriage and her need to discover her true identity.

THESIS PIECES:

3

Though Torvald is clueless about the complexity and competence of Nora and consistently treats her as an inferior being, Nora, herself, repeatedly contributes to his misunderstanding of who she really is. Even as her loving and unselfish desire to keep Torvald happy drives her sacrificial and degrading behavior, it, likewise, keeps her unaware of the damage she is doing to herself.

THESIS PIECES:

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4

Though Torvald’s Victorian upbringing is a primary reason he consistently treats Nora as an inferior being, Nora, herself, contributes to his patriarchal mistreatment of her and, for years, prevents him from seeing who she really is.

THESIS PIECES:

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THESIS PIECES:

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