

A Doll House, Act III, by Henrik Ibsen**Literary Analysis: Foreshadowing**

In fiction and drama, writers often include details that give hints or clues to what will happen later in the work. This technique is called **foreshadowing**. Foreshadowing is intended to build suspense and keep the reader guessing about events to come.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions about Ibsen's use of foreshadowing in *A Doll House*.

1. After Helmer has forced Nora to leave the party, she says, "No, no, no. . . . I don't want to leave so soon." Helmer thinks she merely doesn't want to leave the party, but what event do her words actually foreshadow?

2. When Rank says goodbye to the Helmers after the party, he says, "At the next masquerade I'm going to be invisible." What event do his words foreshadow?

3. After Krogstad takes back his threats, Helmer says, "It's over now, it's over!" How do his words unwittingly foreshadow Nora's final decision?

4. After Nora changes her clothes, she says to Helmer, "Sit down, Torvald; we have a lot to talk over. . . . No, don't interrupt. You can just listen to what I say." How does Nora's new way of talking to Helmer foreshadow some of the points she is about to make?

5. Overall, how effective did you find Ibsen's use of foreshadowing in *A Doll House*? As you were reading the play, did his hints of coming events keep you guessing and involved? Did you find the hints too obscure or too obvious? Did you think that such hints in the dialogue were unrealistic? Give reasons and specific examples to support your answers.

