

Worksheet 5 – Criminality and Inheritance

Review: Lecture 4

In the last lecture, Dr Duncan discussed the representation of masculinity in *A Doll's House*.

- ✓ In what ways did Torvald attempt to present himself as an idealised version of masculinity in the play? How does he ultimately fail?

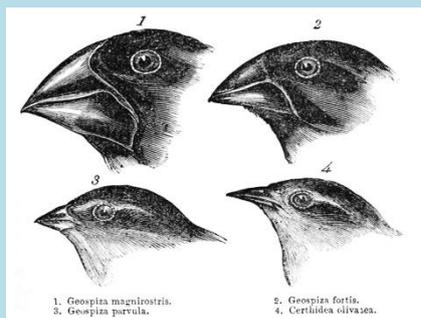
Recall: Lecture 5

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. Why did Ibsen have a specific interest in illness?
 - a) He trained as a medical student.
 - b) He suffered from a long term illness.
 - c) His father worked as an apothecary (e.g. pharmacist).
2. Which theme does Dr Duncan say connects *A Doll's House* and Ibsen's next play, *Ghosts*?
 - a) The rights of women.
 - b) Hereditary illness.
 - c) Fragile masculinity.
3. Who is Toril Moi?
 - a) A nineteenth-century scientist.
 - b) A character in an Ibsen play.
 - c) A literary critic specialising in Ibsen.

Analysis

4. Dr Duncan mentions that Charles Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution' had a major influence on naturalist plays.
 - a) Research Darwin's Theory of Evolution and note down five facts about it.
 - b) What evidence can we find in *A Doll's House* of the influence of Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution'? Write your response as a paragraph.



5. Ibsen didn't include Dr Rank's illness in his first draft of the play. What difference would it have made to the play if it had never been added?
6. Re-watch the end of Dr Duncan's lecture, 5:26 – 6:49, where she discusses Ibsen's interest in the theme of law.
 - a) Make bullet point notes to record the key concepts in Dr Duncan's argument.
 - b) In your own words, explain what you think Ibsen meant when he wrote that '*there are two kinds of moral laws... one for men and one, quite different, for women*'.

Evaluation

7. Produce an essay plan for the following question:

'The plot of *A Doll's House* is dominated by a connection between immorality and illness.'
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Success criteria:

- Your plan should include notes for an introduction and conclusion that make your overarching argument clear to the reader.
- Focus on 4 – 6 main ideas, each of which would be explored in its own paragraph.
- Think about what order you would put your points in to make your argument flow.
- Include quotations from the play as evidence for your ideas.
- Include reference to historical context (e.g. fragile masculinity, or Darwin's 'Theory of Evolution')

Extension: At the end of the lecture, Dr Duncan mentions three other themes students could explore in their work on *A Doll's House*, which are class, money, and the divide between public and private life. Choose one of these themes and create a mind map of its importance in the play, including key quotations.

Glossary

- **Scientific methodologies** – ways of working and thinking based on scientific theories
- **Apothecary** – someone who prepared and sold drugs for medicinal purposes; a pharmacist.
- **Evolution** – the process by which something develops, grows, or changes.
- **Heredity** – the property of living organisms of transmitting their characteristics to their offspring (and hence to subsequent descendants); the tendency of offspring to resemble their parents; the principle of the inheritance of biological characteristics.
- **Lazar-house** – (*in the nineteenth-century*) a hospital for people with the illness leprosy.
- **Immorality** – wickedness; used especially to describe perceived sexual impurity.

