

A Doll's House Literary Device

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Figures of Speech

- **Irony:** Irony is the contrast between expectation and reality. Torvald Helmer always says that he is ready to give his life for Nora Helmer. But when Nora's secret loan is exposed, Torvald shows no courage. Instead, he blames Nora and even keeps her away from the children. **Effect:** This irony shows that Torvald's love is only superficial, and his main concern is protecting his own social reputation.
- **Metaphor:** The "Doll's House" is the central metaphor of the entire play. From her father's house to Torvald's house, Nora has always lived as a "doll." She has no place for her own will or opinion. **Effect:** This metaphor highlights the suppression of women, the lack of freedom, and the unequal relationship between husband and wife.
- **Symbolism:**
 - **The Tarantella Dance:** Nora's tarantella dance symbolizes her inner anxiety and fear, as well as her desperate attempt to keep Torvald distracted from Krogstad's letter. Outwardly, it seems joyful, but inside it reflects collapse and despair.
 - **The Christmas Tree:** The decorated Christmas tree at the beginning symbolizes Nora's joy, hope, and family happiness. But later, when the tree becomes disheveled, it symbolizes Nora's fading joy and the decay of her married life.
 - **The Bond:** The promissory note that Nora signs with her forged father's signature becomes her hidden chain. It symbolizes her burden, guilt, and the helplessness of women in a patriarchal society.
 - **The Closing Door:** At the end of the play, Nora's act of slamming the door symbolizes her declaration of independence. It represents her liberation not only from Torvald but also from the whole society, marking the beginning of her journey toward self-identity.

Moral Lessons from A Doll's House

- Women deserve freedom and respect.
- Marriage without trust is like a prison.

- Hiding the truth destroys relationships.
- Self-respect is more important than social honor.

Lx Notes