

North Central High Summer Reading 2026-2027

Honors English Students:

- Students enrolled in honors English classes are required to read the book listed below and complete the assignment. All assignments will be due the first week of school regardless of which semester you are enrolled in your Honors English class.

	Required Books
Honors English 4	<i>A Doll's House</i> by Henrik Ibsen

Honors Summer Reading Assignment

"You see, there are some people that one loves, and others that perhaps one would rather be with."

—*A Doll's House*

Part 1: Reading Journal for *A Doll's House*: This will be a Test Grade

- Choose TEN quotes that you feel capture key themes, symbols, or character development details.
- Make a chart or divide your paper into two columns. On the left, record the quote along with the page number on which it appears.
- On the right, write a 3-4 sentence response to the quote, explaining its significance (What does it show? Why is it important?) and making clear what theme, symbol, or character trait/detail it illustrates.
- Be sure that at least four of your quotes comment directly on THEME or SYMBOLISM.

Example:

Quote	Response
"First of all," he said, "if you can learn a simple trick, Scout, you'll get along better with all kinds of folks. You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb into his skin and walk around in it" (<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , p. 88).	This quote illustrates the theme of empathy and the idea that we grow as individuals and see past the prejudices that divide us when we are able to truly consider the perspective of someone who lives a different life than we do. Atticus wants Scout to learn not to judge people like Walter Cunningham too quickly; to recognize that he is growing up in a different situation than Scout is, with different values that influence his behavior. This theme of the importance of empathizing

	with people who are different is repeated throughout the novel.
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***** Be prepared to take a quiz on the books you have read once we report back to school.**

*****If you plagiarize, you will receive an automatic zero. Changing the wording from SparkNotes a little bit is still plagiarism. This is about YOUR thinking, so avoid using any outside sources besides the novels themselves.**

Part 2: Guided Reading Questions: Answer on a separate sheet of paper or Google document

Act 1:

1. What does the opening stage directions reveal about the Helmer family? About the time of year?
2. Explain the ways Nora and Torvald behave toward each other.
3. What does Torvald's refusal to consider borrowing and being in debt tell you about him? Where else in the play are these characteristics important?
4. What have the Helmer finances been like in the past? How is their situation about to change?
5. How are Mrs. Linde and Nora alike? Different? Why is it ironic that Nora helps Christine get a job at the bank? How will this change affect Krogstad? Nora?
6. How does Ibsen show that Krogstad is a threat when he first appears?
7. Why should Nora's scene with her children in Act 1 not be cut in production? What does it show about Nora and the household?
8. What is Nora's secret "crime"? What is the explanation and justification for it? At the end of the act, what new problems does she face?

Act 2:

9. What does the stripped Christmas tree symbolize?
10. What is implied about Nora's self perceptions when she calls herself "your little squirrel" and "your skylark"?
11. After sending Krogstad's dismissal, Torvald tells Nora, "You will see I am man enough to take everything upon myself." How does this speech conform to Nora's hopes? How ironic is it?
12. Why does Nora flirt with Dr. Rank? How and why does he distress her?
13. Why does Nora dance the Tarantella so wildly?
14. What is the "wonderful thing" that Nora is waiting for?

Act 3:

15. Explain Christine's past rejection of Krogstad. Why will she accept him now? How will their union differ from the Helmer's marriage?
16. What does Christine decide to do about Krogstad's letter? Why?
17. Explain the reactions of Torvald and Nora to the death of Dr. Rank.
18. Describe Torvald's reaction to Krogstad's first letter. How does Nora respond to Torvald? How do you respond to him? Why?

19. Explain what Nora learns about Torvald, herself, her marriage, and her identity as a woman as a result of Torvald's responses. Why does she decide to leave?

General Questions:

20. Which elements and aspects of **A Doll's House** are most and least realistic? Explain.

21. Consider Ibsen's symbolism:

Dr. Rank	macaroons	Christmas tree
Christmas presents	Locked mailbox	The tarantella
Nora's shawl	Change of clothing (Act III)	Door slam at the end of the play

22. Describe the role playing within the Helmer household and among their acquaintances.
23. A major theme in the play is that weakness and corruption are passed from generation to generation. Examine this theme in connection with Krogstad and his sons, Nora and her children, Nora and her father, and Dr. Rank.