

## In Act one, Mrs. Linde describes Nora as “a child.” Is this assessment of Nora’s state of development valid?

One can argue that Nora is in a state of arrested development. Nora shows many characteristics of “a child.” throughout the play, perhaps one of the most obvious examples would be Noras act of being cute and innocent. Almost every time that Nora talks to Torvald she talks to him in a condescending manner, in a way that a daughter would asking her “daddy” for something. *“(playing with his coat buttons, and without raising her eyes to his). If you really want to give me something, you might--you might--”*

This idea is demonstrated in the movie as every time that Nora asks Torvald for money you see Nora looking down at him almost as though she is in control of him. Noras state of arrested development can be analysed from a Freudian perspective as a problem with her childhood, her father might have always given her money and whatever she wanted. We can assume that Torvald believes this to be true because the play doesn’t mention his reaction when Nora told him that Her father paid for a £250 holiday for them and their family. Freud believed everything linked with your childhood and if you interlink Freuds theory and Erik Eriksons theory then you will be able to realise that Nora could have been abandoned by her mother during infancy, in the play Nora’s mother isn’t mentioned once and the thought of Nora as a mother fades throughout the first act and by the end of the Act she is more of a wife than a mother. This would revert back to Eriksons theory that during infancy a childs mind learns about “trust vs. mistrust”, the significant relationship for that age is the mother. If the mother is missing from this portion of a childs life then that means that the child could grow up in a state of arrested development or the child could grow up missing one of the stages of development. In Noras case this might have been “autonomy vs. shame & doubt” if Nora grew up without a sense of doubt or shame then she would have an increased sense of autonomy. Nora’s father would have wanted to reconcile his daughter and wouldn’t want to disappoint her again therefore explaining why Nora grew up to expect everything.

Nora’s motives in this play are very debatable, as she seems to only do good deeds out of altruistic tendencies, for example she tells Mrs. Linde, someone who she says she hasn’t seen in years, one of her biggest secrets and expects Mrs. Linde to say well done and to give her a reward for doing something good, but when Mrs. Linde reacts in completely the opposite fashion and says that what she did was wrong because it was illegal Nora gets upset and angry. One could say that this is because Nora hasn’t done anything independently in her life before and even Mrs. Linde later on says that Nora has never had to work in her life, which comes as a shock to Nora and she tries to deny it because she doesn’t want to seem like a child and doesn’t want to seem weak in the eyes of her friends and family. However the fact that she tried to argue and that she fought back against Mrs. Linde is in itself is childish because she can’t accept the truth, perhaps this was a way to emphasise the fact that Nora doesn’t know how to react to adult situations. Take this case where she didn’t think about the later effects of saving her husband and the legal aspects of what she did. **You haven’t used any evidence from the**

text to back up your points here.

Nora, just like a child, hasn't yet realised that she lives in a false dichotomistic culture. Her views of life are very narrow minded for she thinks that she can do anything and furthermore she thinks that money can pay for everything. She has had a rich bourgeoisie lifestyle all her life which has led to an arrested development not only in herself, but she is also affecting her children who are growing up to a mother/ role model who acts like one of them. Ibsen treats the children like puppets, in the way that they are only there for the sake of being there and even more that Nora is using them to stay with Torvald. If you look at the theme of money compared to the childrens appearances in the play then you can see that they are directly proportional and that the children are mentioned before they talk about money, for example when Nora talks about how she bought gifts for the children and after Torvald asks how much it costs. Perhaps Torvald doesn't want them to be too exposed to the rich bourgeoisie lifestyle that he knows that Nora accepts and is proud of. Again, no textual evidence here.

The children spend little time with their mother or father. The time they do spend with Nora consists of Nora playing with them as if she were just another playmate. The children speak no individualized lines; they are "Three Children." Ibsen facilitates their dialogue through Nora's mouth, and they are often cut entirely in performance. If we only hear of the children through Nora then why is it that we only hear of the children when someone else asks or they are in the room? One of the only times that we do hear of her children is when Nora has bought them Christmas presents for them.

The thought of Christmas during this play has been desecrated by the money that the family possesses, the whole point of Christmas is about family and coming together to celebrate and rejoice, yet Ibsen teaches us that money is always an underlying theme in everyday life. Torvald believes that Nora was up all night of last Christmas making the ornaments for the tree, which shows us that Torvald thinks of christmas as a waste of time and that you shouldn't invest too much time in it. However Nora wasn't actually doing anything christmas related instead she was out making money to try and pay off her \$250 debt, showing that she cares more for money than she does for christmas.

Noras underlying ideal of money being able to pay for everything is very characteristic of a child, she is also being portrayed by Ibsen as very inexperienced in problems that an adult would face every day, such as legal problems and money problems therefore leading to the conclusion that Nora is in a state of arrested development.

## Level: 6-

Some excellent writing and ideas here but you need to address some fundamental errors.  
To improve:

1. Sentence structure. Look where the natural rhythm of your sentences. Use full stops and commas more judiciously.

2. Use evidence from the text to back up your points.