

A Doll House Quotes

Page	Speaker/Context	Quote	Responses
1118-19	Helmer	Nora, Nora, you <i>are</i> a woman! No, really! You know how I feel about that. No debts! A home in debt isn't a free home, and if it isn't free it isn't beautiful.	
1120	Helmer	You've no idea how expensive it is for a man to keep a wastrel.	
1121	Helmer	Remember last Christmas? For three whole weeks you shut yourself up every evening till long after midnight, making ornaments for the Christmas tree and I don't know what else.	
1126	Nora	Daddy didn't give us a penny. <i>I</i> raised that money.	
1128	Nora	There <i>was</i> no old gentleman. He was just somebody I made up when I couldn't think of any way to raise the money. But never mind him. The old bore can be anyone he likes to for all I care. I have no use for him or his last will, for now I don't have a single worry in the world. (<i>Jumps up.</i>) Dear God, what a lovely thought this is! To be able to play and have fun with the children, to have everything nice and pretty in the house, just the way Torvald likes it! Not a care!	
1129	Rank	The roots of his character are decayed. But even he began by saying something about having <i>to live</i> ---- as if it were a matter of the highest importance.	
1134	Krogstad	It isn't just the money; that's really the smallest part of it.	

		There is something else ----	
1136	Nora	<i>I wrote daddy's name.</i>	
1138	Helmer	Talk to a man like that and make him promises! And lying to me about it afterward ---- !	
1138	Nora	Lying ---- ?	
1138	Helmer	Didn't you say nobody had been here? (<i>Shakes his finger at her.</i>) My little songbird must never do that again. Songbirds are supposed to have clean beaks to chirp with ---- no false notes.	
1139	Helmer	Can't you imagine how a guilty person like that has to lie and fake and dissemble wherever he goes ---- putting on a mask before everybody he's close to, even his own wife and children. It's the thing with the children that's the worst part of it, Nora.	
1139	Nora	Why is that?	
1139	Helmer	Because when a man lives inside such a circle of stinking lies he brings infection into his own home and contaminates his whole family. With every breath of air his children inhale the germs of something ugly.	
1141	Nora	Do you think they'd forget their mamma if I were gone altogether?	
1142	Nora	You see, Torvald loves me so very much that he wants me all to himself. That's what he says. When we were first married he got almost jealous when I as much as	

		mentioned anybody from back home that I was fond of. So of course I soon stopped doing that. But with Dr. Rank I often talk about home. You see, he likes to listen to me.	
1143	Nora	I must get out of ---- this other thing. That's also behind his back. I <i>must</i> get out of it.	
1143	Mrs. Linde	That's what I told you yesterday. But ----	
1143	Nora	(<i>walking up and down</i>). A man manages these things so much better than a woman ----	
1144	Nora	You've just got to do as I say. You <i>must</i> let Krogstad keep his job.	
1145	Helmer	You just don't give up do you? Because you make some foolish promise; <i>I</i> am supposed to ---- !	
1145	Nora	That's not the reason, Torvald. It's for your own sake.	
1145	Helmer	My dear little Nora, there is a world of difference between your father and me. Your father's official conduct was not above reproach. Mine is, and I intend for it to remain that way as long as I hold my position.	
1146	Nora	Call it back, torvald! There's still time! Oh Torvald, please ---- call it back! For my sake, for your own sake, for the sake of the children! Listen to me, Torvald! Do it! You don't know what you're doing to all of us!	
1148	Rank	With death on my hands? Paying for someone else's sins? Is there justice in that? And yet there isn't a single family that isn't ruled by some law of ruthless retribution, in one way	

		or another.	
1150	Rank	That I have loved you as much as anybody ---- was that not nice?	
1150	Nora	No; not that. But that you have told me. There was no need for that.	
1150	Rank	What do you mean? Have you known ---- ?	
1150	Rank	You are a riddle to me. It has often seemed to me that you'd just as soon be with me as with Helmer.	
1150	Nora	Well, you see, there are people you love, and then there are other people you'd almost rather be with.	
1151	Nora	Can't you see that with Torvald it is the way it used to be with Daddy?	
1151	Krogstad	Your husband doesn't love you any more than that?	
1153	Krogstad	Aren't you forgetting that your reputation would be in my hands?	
1156	Helmer	My dearest Nora, you're dancing as if it were a matter of life and death!	
1157	Helmer	The child shall have her way. But tomorrow night, when you've done your dance ----	
1157	Nora	Then you'll be free.	
1157	Helmer	There, there ---- I don't like this wild ---- frenzy ---- Be my own sweet little lark again, the way you always are.	

1159	Mrs. Linde	Krogstad, how would it be if we two shipwrecked people got together?	
1160	Krogstad	You really could do this? Listen ---- do you know about my past? All of it?	
1160	Mrs. Linde	Yes I do.	
1161	Mrs. Linde	At first it was, because I was so frightened. But that was yesterday. Since then I have seen the most incredible things going on in this house. Helmer must learn the whole truth. This miserable secret must come out in the open; those two must come to a full understanding. They simply can't continue with all this concealment and evasion.	
1161	Mrs. Linde	What a change! Oh yes! ---- what a change! People to work for ---- to live for ---- home to bring happiness to. I can't wait to get to work ---- !	
1163	Nora	Everything you do is right.	
1163	Helmer	<i>(kissing her forehead)</i> . Now my little lark is talking like a human being.	
1166	Helmer	A black cross above the name. What a macabre idea. Like announcing his own death.	
1168	Helmer	And as far as you and I are concerned, nothing must seem to have changed. I'm talking about appearances, of course. You'll go on living here; that goes without saying. But I won't let you bring up the children; I dare not trust you with them ---- Oh! Having to say this to one I have loved so much, and whom I still ---- ! But all that is past. It's not a	

		question of happiness anymore but of hanging on to what can be salvaged ---- pieces, appearances ----	
1170	Nora	You don't understand me. And I have never understood you ---- not till tonight.	
1171	Nora	You have never loved me ---- neither Daddy nor you. You only thought it was fun to be in love with me.	
1171	Nora	But our home has never been more than a playroom. I have been your doll wife here, just the way I used to be Daddy's doll child. And the children have been my dolls. I thought it was fun when you played with me, just as they thought it was fun when I played with them. That's been our marriage, Torvald.	
1171	Helmer	There is something in what you are saying ---- exaggerated and hysterical though it is. But from now on things will be different. Playtime is over; it's time for growing up.	
1172	Nora	Somehow I have to grow up myself. And you are not the man to help me do that. That's a job I have to do by myself. And that's why I'm leaving you.	
1172	Helmer	<i>(jumps up)</i> . What did you say?	
1172	Nora	I have to be by myself if I am to find out about myself and about all the other things too. SO I can't stay here with you any longer.	
1172	Helmer	They are your duties to your husband and your children.	
1172	Nora	I have other duties equally sacred.	

1172	Helmer	You do not. What would they be?	
1172	Nora	My duties to myself.	
1172	Helmer	You are a wife and a mother before you are anything else.	
1172	Nora	I don't believe that any more. I believe I am first of all a human being, just as much as you are ---- or at any rather that I must try to become one. Oh, I know very well that most people agree with you, Torvald, and that it says something like that in all the books. But what people say and what the books say is no longer enough for me. I have to think about these things myself and see if I can't find the answers.	
1174	Helmer	But nobody sacrificed for his <i>honor</i> for his love.	
1174	Nora	A hundred thousand women have done so.	
1174	Helmer	An abyss has opened up between us.	
1175	Nora	Oh Torvald ---- then the most wonderful of all would have to happen ----	
1175	Helmer	Tell me what that would be ---- !	
1175	Nora	For that to happen, both you and I would have to change so that ---- Oh, Torvald, I no longer believe in the wonderful.	
1175	Helmer	But I <i>will</i> believe. Tel me! Change, so that ---- !	
1175	Nora	So that our living together would become a true marriage. Goodbye. (<i>She goes out through the hall.</i>)	

1175	Helmer	<i>(sinks down on a chair near the door and covers his face with his hands).</i> Nora! Nora! <i>(Looks around him and gets up.)</i> All empty. She's gone. <i>(With sudden hope.)</i> The most wonderful ---- ?!	
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