Discussion Questions for *A Doll’s House* - Acts 1 & 2
Based on Bloom’s Taxonomy

**Purpose:** In this exercise, Bloom’s taxonomy is used to create questions for *A Doll’s House* to help students discover what they know and comprehend about the first two acts. It also allows them to utilize high order thinking skills to answer these questions that require them to apply, analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information. These questions can then serve as a springboard for further discussion.

**Instructions:** After reading the first two acts, ask the students the following questions. Have students first answer the questions on their own then have students go over them in groups or as a class. Allow for the students to debate their answers for some of the questions. Have students look to the play for particular quotes that will help support their answers.

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| Knowledge         | Name all the main characters, and tell how they are all connected.  
Answer- Torvald, Nora, Doctor Rank, Mrs. Linden, and Krogstad. Torvald and Nora are married. Doctor Rank is a friend to Torvald and Nora. Mrs. Linden is a childhood friend to Nora. Krogstad works at the bank with Torvald, but committed forgery and is about to lose his job. Also, he is threatening Nora that he will tell Torvald of her debt to him, and the forgery she committed, if she does not force Torvald to put him in a prominent position at the bank.  
Quote: “I want to regain my footing in the world. I want to rise; and your husband shall help me to do it. For the last eighteen months my record has been spotless; I’ve been in bitter need all the |
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<td>Comprehension</td>
<td>time; but I was content to fight my way up, step by step. Now, I’ve been thrust down, and I won’t be satisfied with merely being allowed to sneak back again. I want to rise, I tell you. I must get into the Bank again, in a higher position than before. Your husband shall create a place on purpose for me” (52).</td>
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<td>Summarize how and why Nora got to know Krogstad. Explain what crime Nora committed in the written contract. Describe what Nora must convince Torvald to do if she wants Krogstad to keep the secret. Answer- Torvald was in horrible health and needed to seek rest in the south (Italy). Nora did not have the money, but was afraid that Torvald might die so she borrowed the money from Krogstad. Krogstad wrote up this contract, and had Nora’s father sign it in case she couldn’t pay he would take the responsibility. Nora’s crime was forging her father’s signature on the contract. She did this because her father was dying (soon died), and she did not want to worry her father more. Nora has to convince Torvald to keep Krogstad at the bank and give him a good position. Quote: “No; I wrote father’s name there” (30).</td>
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<td>Application</td>
<td>Illustrate the relationship between Nora and Torvald. How does Torvald treat Nora? Would you consider this a good relationship? Answer- Torvald and Nora do not have a deep relationship. Their relationship is based off of unimportant things. They never talk about anything important. Torvald treats Nora like a child or some sort of pet. The rest of the answers will vary. Quote: “Come, come; my little lark mustn’t let her wings droop like that. What? Is the squirrel pouting there?” (9).</td>
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| **Analysis**     | Compare and contrast the crimes that Krogstad and Nora have committed. How are they the same? How are they different? Analyze the punishment Krogstad is threatening. Is the punishment Krogstad threatens equal to the punishment he had for his crime?  
Answer: They have each committed forgery. Although they each committed the same crime, Nora committed hers for honorable reasons (to save her husband and save her father worry in his dying days) while Krogstad committed his for self promotion at work. He is threatening to tell the secret to Torvald. The rest of the answers will vary.  
Quote: “Do you mean to tell me that a daughter has no right to spare her dying father anxiety? – that a wife has no right to save her husband’s life?” (31). |
| **Synthesis**    | Imagine you were in Nora’s place, what would you do now that Krogstad has put the letter in the box, and he has left town? Why?  
Answer: Answers will vary.  
Quote: “Krogstad must demand his letter back, unread. He must make some excuse” (55). |
| **Evaluation**   | Decide what you think will happen in the next two acts. Justify your answer using the play.  
Answer: Answers will vary.  
Quote: “If you should think of leaving your husband and children” (52). |

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Discussion Questions for Acts 1-2

1. Name all the main characters, and tell how they are all connected.

2. Summarize how and why Nora got to know Krogstad. Explain what crime Nora committed in the written contract. Describe what Nora must convince Torvald to do if she wants Krogstad to keep the secret.

3. Illustrate the relationship between Nora and Torvald. How does Torvald treat Nora? Would you consider this a good relationship?
4. Compare and contrast the crimes that Krogstad and Nora have committed. How are they the same? How are they different? Analyze the punishment Krogstad is threatening. Is the punishment Krogstad threatens equal to the punishment he had for his crime?

5. Imagine you were in Nora’s place, what would you do now that Krogstad has put the letter in the box, and he has left town? Why?

6. Decide what you think will happen in the next two acts. Justify your answer using the play.