





## Evaluation

6. How does the title of *A Doll's House* relate to key themes in the play? Write two paragraphs in response to this question.

### Success criteria:

- Include analysis of quotations from the play.
- Include historical context about the role of women in the 1880s.

### Challenge:

Look at the critics' quotations below, which Dr Duncan discusses in her lecture. Include an analysis of at least one of these quotations as evidence for your answer to question 6.

- '[After *A Doll's House* was staged] marriage was revealed as being far from a divine institution' – August Strindberg writing about the impact of *A Doll's House* in 1884
- 'Baby wife' – Clement Scott's description of Nora's character in his 1889 review of *A Doll's House*
- 'Common respectable marriage – upon which the safety of all social existence is supposed to rest – is the worst, because the most hypocritical, form of woman-purchase.' – Mona Caird, critiquing marriage in an article from 1888

**Extension:** At the end of her lecture, Dr Duncan recommends that students **adjudicate** whether to take into account Ibsen's own claims about his intentions when analysing *A Doll's House*. Do you believe it is important to know what an author "originally" intended when you write an essay on a fiction text? Why/ why not?

## Glossary

- **Ibsenism** – a style of theatre typical of the work of Henrik Ibsen; often relating to plays that explore a moral problem in contemporary society.
- **Caricatured** – to be drawn or described in an exaggerated fashion; to have someone make fun of you by imitating and exaggerating your most striking features.  
*e.g. When we visited the seaside, I had a drawing done of my face which **caricatured** my nose: they made it look ridiculously big!*
- **Lexis** – a collection of words, often relating to a specific theme or idea.  
*e.g. The poem features **lexis** relating to romance, such as nouns like "love" and "angel".*
- **Pathologise** – to describe something in terms of disease and illness.

- **Hysteria** – (*in medicine*) a supposed physical illness among women ascribed to malfunctioning sexual organs, thought to cause breathlessness, strong emotions, and seizures; (*general use*) overwhelming, uncontrollable emotion or agitation.
- **Fallen woman** – a term used to describe a woman seen to have lost her social standing and respectability, often because of sexual promiscuity.
- **Feminism** – advocacy of equality of the sexes and the establishment of the political, social, and economic rights of women; the movement associated with this.
- **Reductive** – tending to present a subject or problem in an overly simplistic form.  
*e.g. Just because some men treat women badly, it is **reductive** to say that all men are sexist.*
- **Adjudicate** – to judge, or act as a referee.  
*e.g. During the baking competition, Mary Berry **adjudicated** to decide who would win.*