

A Psychoanalytical Approach to A Doll's House All the characters in 'A Doll's House' have psychological issues varying from childhood problems, to personality disorder. Its force, however lies not in the superficial action, which in any case lacks suspense, but in the psychological undercurrent which it generates." Although the Electra Complex states that young girls feel jealousy for their own mothers, Freud's theory on this topic shows that one cannot develop if they are fixated at this stage. It is this fixation that causes Nora's contempt in life. It is the pain of her husband calling her a hypocrite and disowning her that pushes her past this phase, causing final development into an independent woman. Accordingly, Nora defies various "values, taboos, anxieties, and insecurities" that haunt her entire life as a mother and a wife. Evidently, Nora feels differently of what she believes and sacrifices for her husband; she believes that he will be proud of her sacrifice for him. Henrik Ibsen's A Doll's House is a prime example of Freud's theory as the protagonist, Nora, regresses to her past childlike habits of happiness within a voiceless marriage. The man Nora loves is a creature of fantasy..." As Valency argues, the life that Nora lives is one of sheltered fiction. Valency continues, describing Nora as a "rebellious daughter" and Torvald as the "archetype father." Sigmund Freud, a well known psychologist, argues that childhood experience influences adult life in the pursuit of happiness. Nora is limited to mental developmental growth because she is fixated in an adolescent state. This guilt causes Nora to exemplify Freud's reaction formation. (Myers).