*A Doll’s House*: Act II Responses.

1.      Where is the Christmas tree at the beginning of Act II?  In what condition is it?  What is the significance/symbolism of the setting of the room and the tree.?

2.      What is Nora’s attitude toward her children in Act II?  Why do you think she’s acting this way?

3.      When Nora sees the box of masquerade clothes, she wants to “rip them in a million pieces!”  What does Ibsen symbolize with this characterization?

4.      Why do you think that Torvald makes such a decisive show of mailing the letter firing Krogstad against Nora’s pleas?

5.      After Dr. Rank professes his love, Nora demands the lamp be brought in.  Why do you think she does this?  Is this light real or artificial?  What might Ibsen be suggesting about truth and light in the Helmer household?

6.      During her conversation with Krogstad, what last resort does Nora reveal that she’s considered in order to end her ordeal?  Why, ultimately, does she decide that this isn’t the best course of action?

7.      During her conversation with Mrs. Linde, Nora implies that she is waiting for a “great miracle” to take place.  Though it is a bit unclear at this point, what miracle do you think she’s referring to?

8.      Some histories of the tarantella dance explain that it is used to fight off the venomous effects of a spider bite.  Other interpretations suggest that it represents a woman’s frustration in oppression.  Which of these explanations best fits Nora’s violent practice at the end of Act II?  Might both apply?  Explain your reasoning.

9.      How does Mrs. Linde offer to help Nora?