


ROCKWELL CHRONICLES

Connecting Minds and Moments



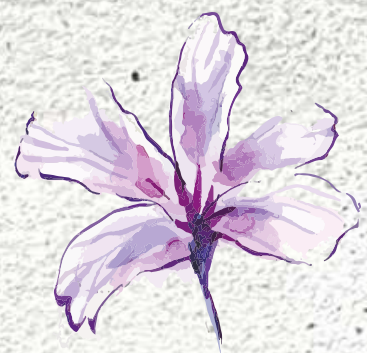
MAD - P!
Music Art
Drama &
Psychology



Learner Portfolio
IBDP Year 1



MUSIC, ART, DRAMA WITH PSYCHOLOGY



The learner portfolio serves as a platform for students to examine and contemplate literary works, while also establishing connections between them and the key concepts in their studies. Although mandatory for IB, the portfolio is more than a requirement as it enables students to creatively express their ideas and passions through writing and other forms. Recently, grade IB DP Y1 students presented their learner portfolios, collaborating with music, art, drama, and psychology to generate new knowledge that transcends conventional disciplines.

One similarity between the play *A Doll's House* and visual art is their association with the realism movement, which emerged in the mid-19th century. This movement rejected the romanticized idealization of life and instead focused on accurately portraying society and everyday life. Ibsen's play features an unconventional protagonist, a housewife!

A Doll's House made a significant impact on the European stage during its debut, with Nora's rejection of marriage and motherhood causing scandal among contemporary audiences. G.B. Shaw famously declared that "The door slam at the end of *A Doll's House* ushered in the age of Modernism." Year 1 IB DP students used readers' theatre to bring the characters to life and provide the audience with a deeper understanding of the play.

Readers' Theatre



The Readers' Theatre allowed the Year 1 IBDP students to bring the characters to life, and the audience was able to connect with the story. This interactive experience enhanced students' understanding of the play, fostering a stronger appreciation for the complexities and nuances of the characters of the play- A Doll's House .





REALISM MOVEMENT

The realism movement swept through the 19th century, and sought to depict life truthfully, challenging conventional ideals and presenting an unfiltered portrayal of society.

In addition to drama, the realism movement revolutionised painting, expanding conceptions of what constituted art. Realist artists sought to depict the truth and reality of their subjects, often choosing to display the lives of ordinary people and their struggles.

Two visual art students, Maksha Shinde and Ilisha Chiruvolu, depicted the truth and reality of *A Doll's House* using original artwork to explain the symbolism and interpretations they derived from the play.

Their artistic expressions serve as a bridge between literature and visual representation, capturing the essence of truth and reality presented in Ibsen's work.

Maksha and Ilisha demonstrate the essence of realism, bringing to life the themes of "*A Doll's House*" through the brushstrokes of their artwork, echoing the movement's aspiration for truth and unadulterated representation.



Doll's House

This painting depicts the house of the Helmer family in the first act. The most dominating colour in the painting remains the warm tones of burnt umber, which helps to set the mood of a cosy winter day.

Moreover, the burnt sienna shades also bring about the rustic or rather, vintage vibes that are associated with European architecture and designs. The primary material used is wood hence the brown tones are used to convey the feel of the wood.

I also incorporated the Christmas tree in my painting, to both express the time of the year as well as to illustrate how the Christmas tree symbolises harmony and love in the family, and the joy Nora takes in decorating the beautiful house.



I used the colours as accurately (i.e. the brown and green shades), and grasped as unembellished a setting as possible, in order to follow the characteristics of the Realism Period of the play.

TARANTELLA

In this painting, I illustrated Nora in a beautiful capri fisher girl's costume for the Tarantella Dance. I kept the colors to the bright and radiant side by including yellow, red and green. These colours represent Nora's emotions while doing the Tarantella dance- fiery passion. The dance symbolizes a side of Nora- a lowering of the façade of the meek, submissive, dignified wife to a woman on fire.

The red conveys the heat, and passion, while the yellow tones further enhance the joy and happiness in Nora as she dances her heart out. The green and blue then balance out the warm tones in the painting to establish an equilibrium. I kept it simple in line with the realism in art.



- Ifisa Chirwa
IBDPYI



PUPPET SHOW

A Doll's House challenges the patriarchal view held by most people at the time. This illustration is the depiction of how society dominates, nurtures and defines clear roles for women and men.

The aim of realism in this artwork is to portray the world around us and express them with exactness, clarity and honesty, so when viewing this artwork, people understand the themes quickly and clearly.

The white negative space and bright blue in Nora's dresses contrasts the black and balances the painting, and red colour composes the space as strings down the paper.



The strings symbolize how domestic life was understood and practiced at the time, Nora was always bound by these strings. The knotty threaded hands are the men in various positions, fathers, husbands and brothers controlling the women in their life. The hands emerge from the black darkness, manifested by the men in the form of domination and in turn annihilated women's identity. The ominous eyes are the cruel stares of the society. Women, like Nora become mere wooden puppets dancing to the tune of the men.



ROLE PLAY



This illustration demonstrates their marriage as a role play of a 'perfect marriage', and this artwork disassembles each symbolic element in the play while simultaneously portraying how Nora was just a display – a product of society.

"Doll's House" that connects to the wooden frame: signifies passivity, beauty, and the basically feminine nature which is seen in Nora when we look at her from outside. Indeed, from the viewpoint of Helmer, Nora is a doll (inside the frame), like an inanimate object with whom he can play.

The colourful macaroons that Nora eats are in her doll hand, which Helmer prohibits her from eating stand for her innocence, childishness and happy-go-lucky nature.

The surrealistic properties of this artwork helped me break all the indices of the book and organise them in way which feels like a fever dream while maintaining that realistic stroke and art style.

-Moksha Shinde
IBDP Y1



Unlocking Insights: Collaboration between Literature and Psychology through 'A Doll's House'" data-bbox="64 47 943 157"/>



Applying a psychoanalytical approach to the play allows students to delve deeper into the subconscious motivations of the characters. The students of IBP year 1 enact a role play in order to explore the play through psychoanalytic lens, explaining each of the characters' motivations and flaws providing a depth to them, which might have been easily missed.

Moksha interviews Ilisa who plays the role of the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, in order to explore the play through psychoanalytic lens. For instance, Nora's internal conflict, her desires, and her eventual realisation about her own identity can be analyzed through the lens of Freudian theories. Her struggle to conform to societal norms while grappling with her own desires and autonomy reveals layers of depth to her character.

The students not only develop a deeper appreciation of the play but also acquire valuable skills in critical analysis, empathy, and understanding human behaviour—skills that transcend disciplinary boundaries and enrich their academic and personal growth.



Interview with Sigmund Freud



Excerpt from the Interview

Moksha interviews Ilisa who played the role of the father of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, in order to explore the play through psychoanalytic lens; explaining each of the characters' motivations and flaws providing a depth to them, which might have been easily missed.

Interviewer: (excitingly) We have the great Austrian explorer, neurologist and the father of psychoanalysis. Freud is to psychology, what Galileo was to astronomy. PLEASE WELCOME Sigmund Freud.

(drum roll)

Dr. Freud Thank you! (waving towards the audience)

Interviewer: (gratefully) Welcome! Dr. FreudI'm very excited to have you on the show to discuss the play A DOLL'S HOUSE by Henrik Ibsen through the psychoanalytical lens.

Freud: Well first off, a very good morning to you all! I'm much honored to be here! To begin with what Psychoanalysis is a theory of personality based on repression of unconscious impulses, anxieties, and internal conflicts in order to release energy or find pleasure. The idea behind psychoanalysis is making the unconscious workings of a person's mind conscious. It is the best way to help people overcome or deal with their mental disorders.

Interviewer: (intrigued) How interesting! So can this technique explain how Ibsen perceived the characteristics of the play?

[Freud] Well of course.

Interviewer (intrigued) Then starting off strong with the first question... How does Psychoanalysis explain Nora?

Freud: Through a psychoanalytic lens, Nora's behavior can be understood as a manifestation of her unconscious desires for independence and self-realization. She is unable to express these desires openly because of the strict gender roles imposed on her by society. Her desire for freedom is represented by her secret borrowing of money to pay for her husband's medical treatment, which is a violation of the traditional power dynamics in her marriage. Nora, regresses to her past childlike habits of happiness within a voiceless marriage.

Interviewer: Heaven! Why do you consider she is happy in a voiceless marriage?

Freud: Nora is limited to mental developmental growth because she is fixated in an adolescent state. The man Nora loves is a creature of fantasy. Nora lives is one of sheltered fiction. This is the exact reason that Nora is so happy in her voiceless marriage





English & Psychology Collaboration: Elisa's Reflection

This collaboration was extremely exciting for me, as I was exposed to a new concept in psychology- Psychoanalysis. It is quite a renowned term, and I have always been curious as to what exactly Psychoanalysis is, this was a perfect opportunity for me to not only learn the concept but apply it practically.

My task was to use a psychoanalytic lens to understand the thinking, and the complexity of the lead character in Henrik Ibsen's play Nora. It was difficult and extremely overwhelming at first, but no matter, my psychology teacher helped me overcome it, and together, we used some concepts of Id, ego, and superego to explain why Nora did what she did.

On the day of our role play, I enacted Sigmund Freud, while my classmate was the interviewer, who was interviewing me about the controversial act of Nora. I felt very cool, using all this psychological knowledge. I truly understand now, the role psychology plays in our everyday activities- it literally shapes everything, from our thinking to the way we behave, to what we define as right or wrong.

It is extremely important to understand this subject, in my opinion, and I am very glad and honoured to have the privilege to study it, as a part of my DP course curriculum. Going ahead, I will be sure to not only gain as much knowledge in Psychology but apply it to people, to understand them better, to learn them, to help them.

This activity opened my mind to not judge someone quickly, there is always a reason for why people do what they do, and with the help of psychology, we can!

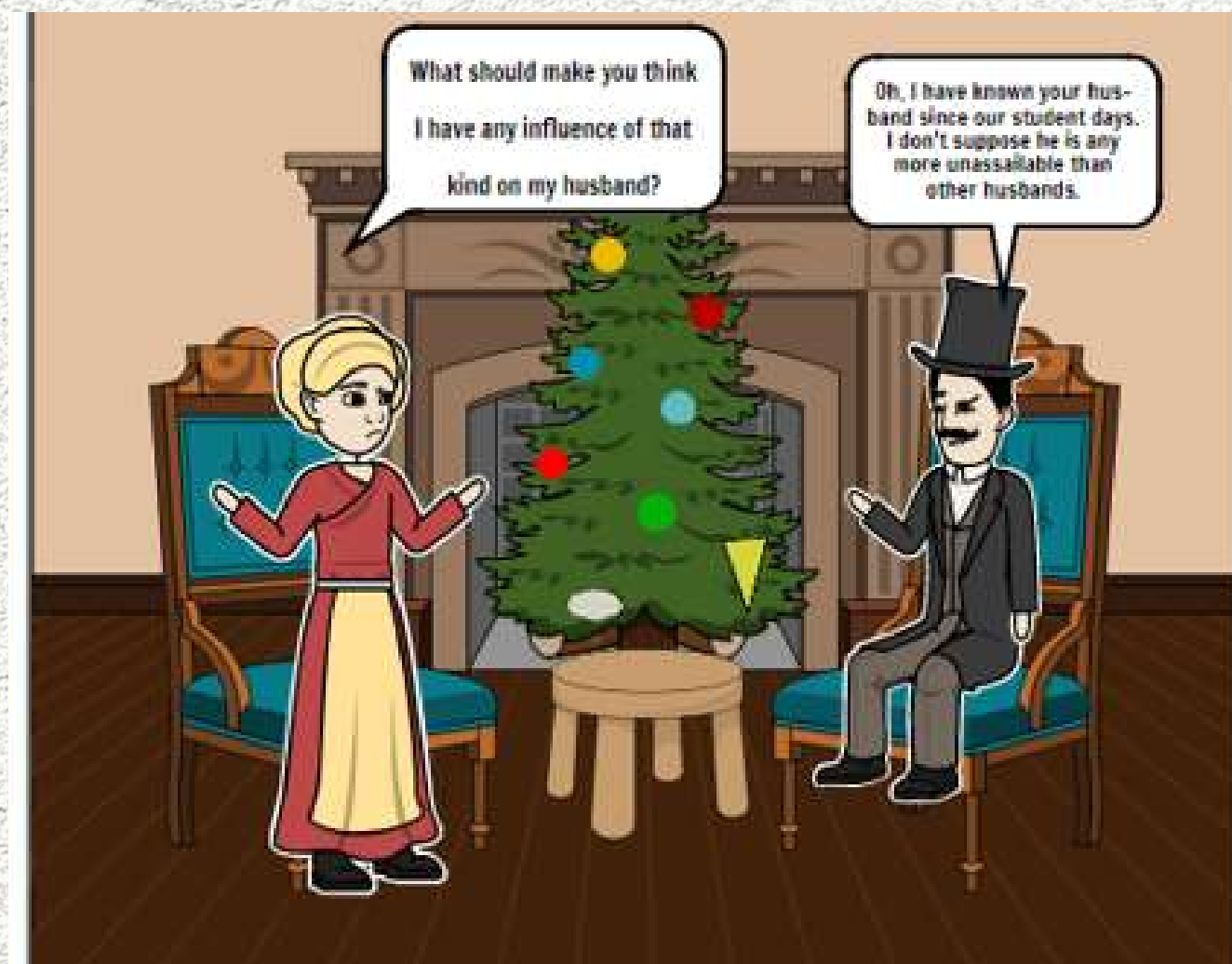
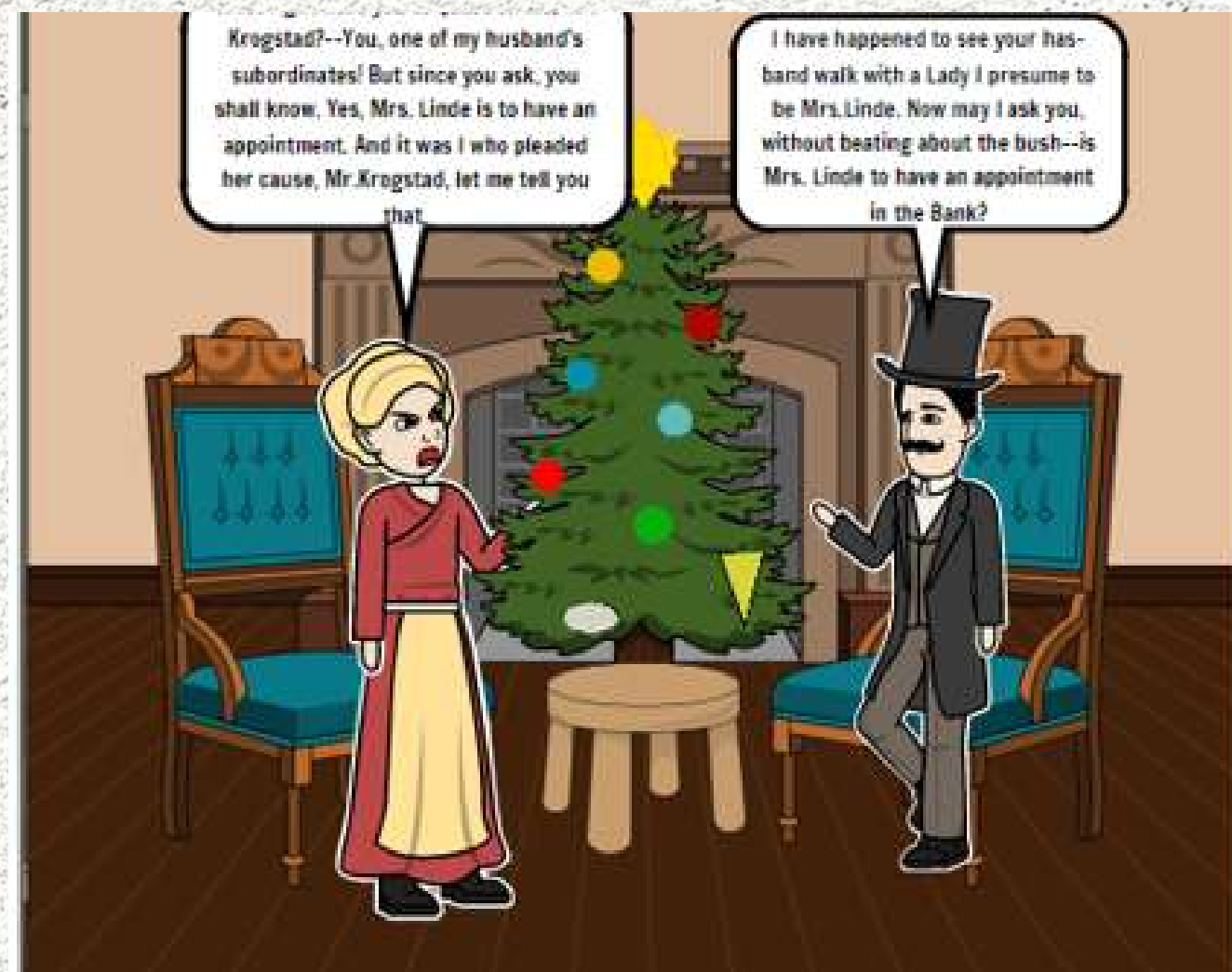




Digital Storyboard by Siddharth P

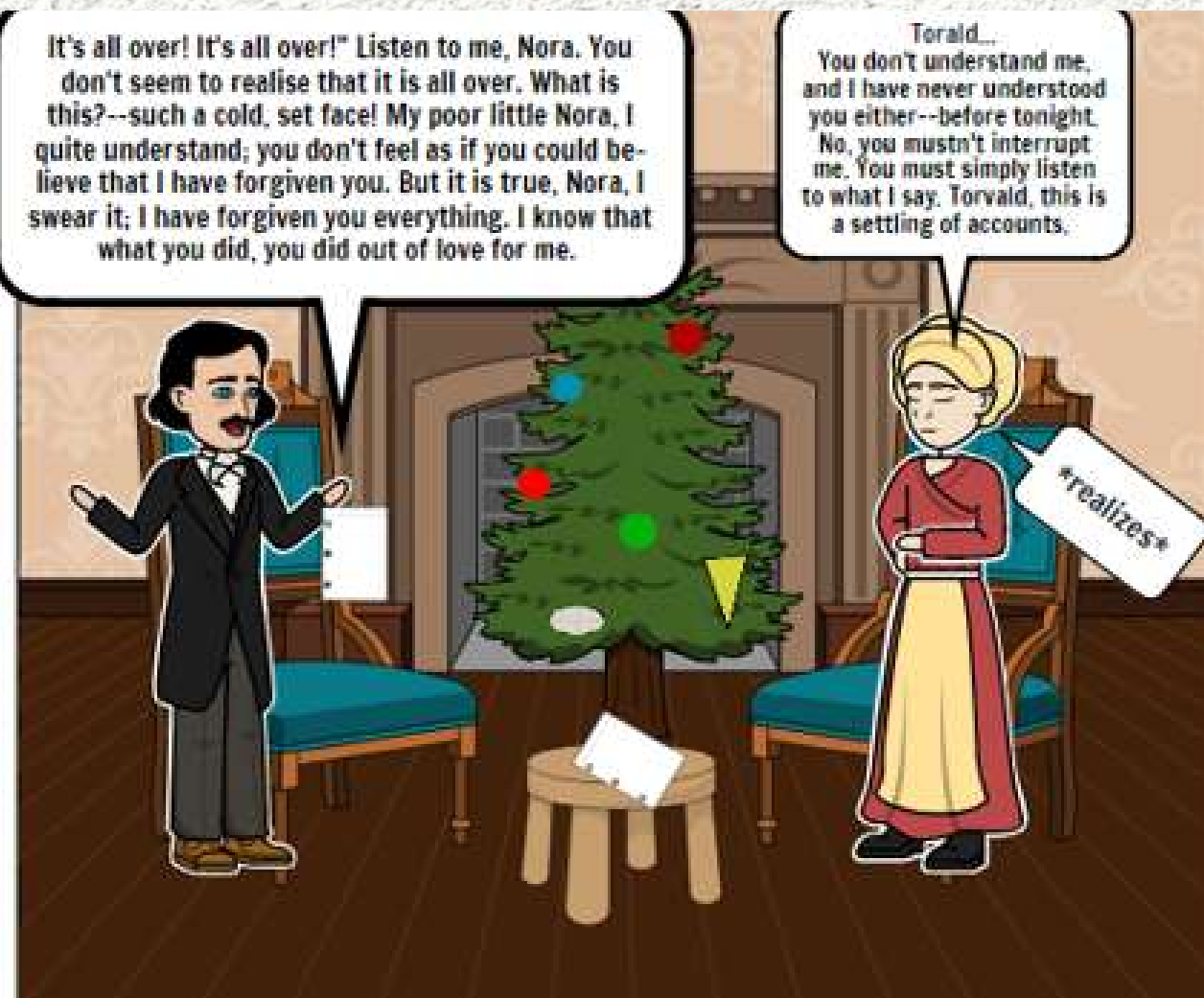
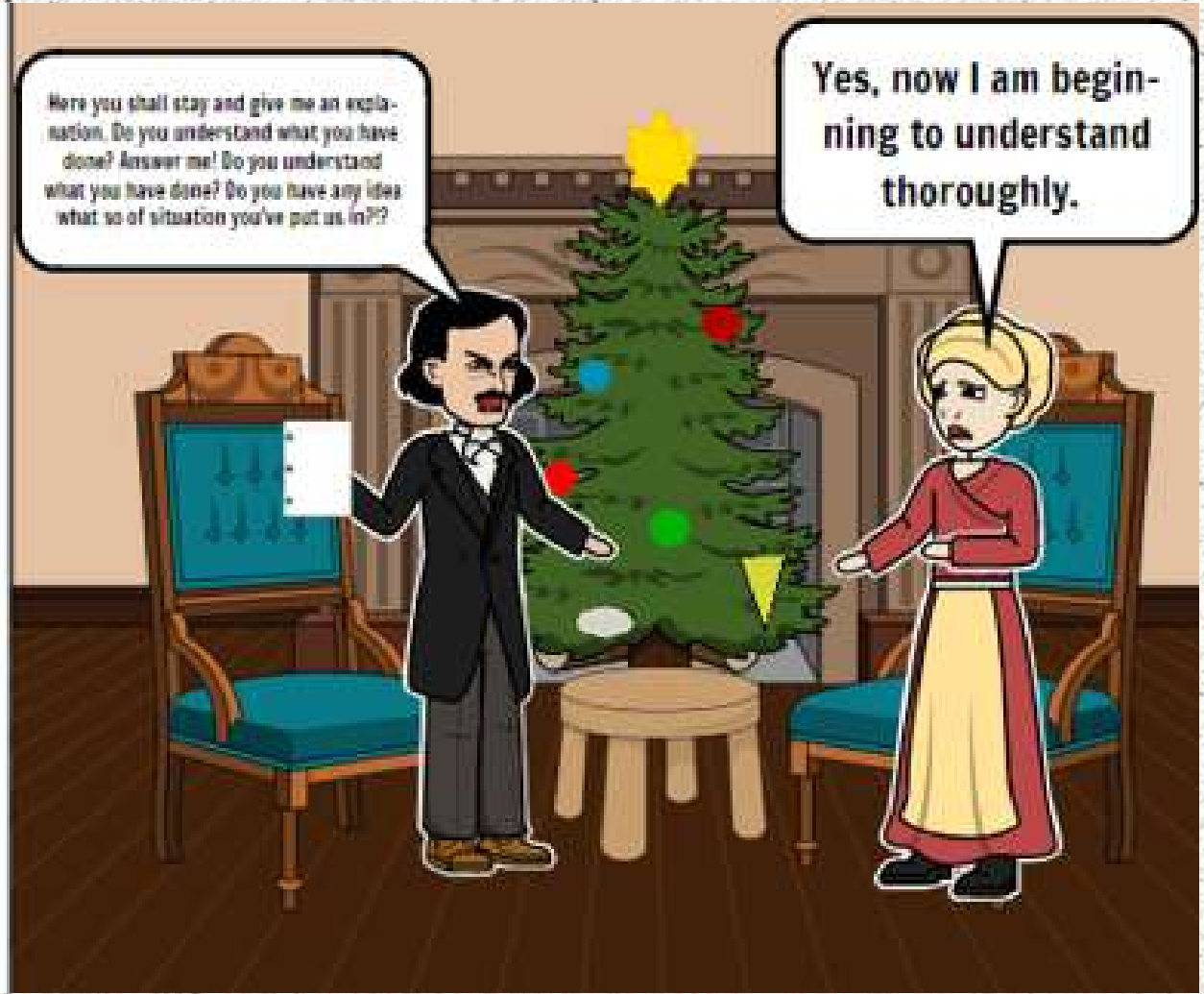
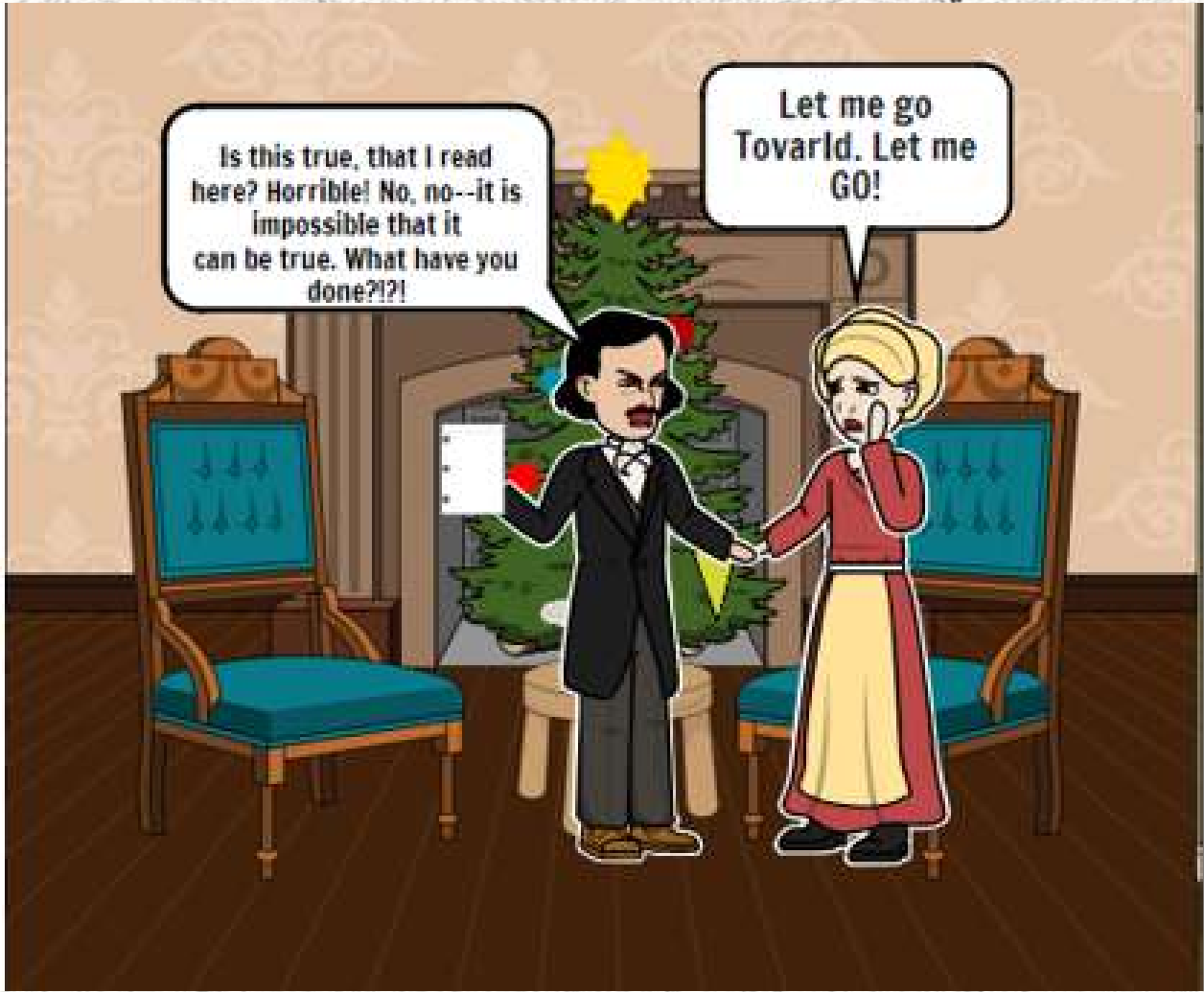


ACT 1 - Conversation between Nora and Krogstad



SIDDARTH USED A DIGITAL MEDIUM TO PRESENT HIS COMPREHENSION OF THE PLAY BY VISUALIZING THE NARRATIVE THROUGH A STORYBOARD. HE SELECTED TWO PIVOTAL EVENTS TO ILLUSTRATE THE PLAY'S ESSENTIAL FEATURES, SUCH AS THE SETTING, CHARACTERS, AND CONVERSATION, IN A CONCISE AND CLEAR MANNER

ACT III CLIMAX



REFLECTION



I decided on the storyboard as my medium because I thought it would allow me to communicate my digital works most effectively. Two specific events from the play that I consider to be turning points are depicted in the storyboard I created.

The first storyboard shows the conclusion of the first act when Krogstad visits her to talk about a problem with the bank where her husband works as a clerk. He has learned that Nora forged her father's signature- since women were not allowed to borrow money. Krogstad threatens to divulge her secret if she can't persuade her husband to keep him in his position in the bank. I selected this scene because it is widely regarded as the pivotal scene and because it brilliantly sets up the play's climax and resolution.

The second storyboard shows Nora's decision to leave her husband and kids in order to pursue her own independence and self-realization. She comes to the conclusion that her marriage has damaged her sense of self-worth and that her spouse's love and respect for her were conditional. In the pivotal scene, Nora defies Torvald's efforts to control her and decides to leave, metaphorically closing the door on her previous existence and starting a journey of empowerment and self-discovery.

By visualizing the narrative, I was able to explain and visualize these ideas more easily, using the storyboard. This helped me to convey the story's essential features, like the setting, characters, and conversation, concisely and clearly. This assignment has helped me realize my own skills and has helped me gain a better understanding of the play.

TIME magazine dedicates a special section each year to the selection for Person of the Year. Therefore I went with the play's two main characters, Torvald and Nora Helmer. In Torvald's case, I've written about how he is perceived by the public eye and why he's so admirable and would be considered the Masculine Ideal in the 19th century.

Additionally, here in Nora's case, I've written about her courageous action of staying true to herself and undertaking the necessary actions of doing so, and how she is The Face of Feminism. I believe that Nora would have been selected as the Person of the Year in the 21st century. This assignment also made me more aware of my own abilities and boosted my grasp of the play. I intend to do more tasks similar to this one in the future to push myself to acquire new abilities and engage in more enlightening experiences.

*Siddharth P
IBDP Year 1*

Siddharth designed the **Time Magazine - Person of the Year** and he went with Torvald Helmer titled - **Masculine Ideal in the 19th Century**



Torvald Helmer

Person Of The Year

The esteemed Torvald Helmer is the recipient of the Person of the Year award this year. getting recently promoted to the position of Bank Manager. Torvald has had nothing short of extraordinary influence. He maintains his immaculate appearance and represents perfection in our society.

Helmer's affluent privileged upbringing contributed to his at hold positions of authc influence within community.



With his respected persona and universal admiration great pride in his position and his journey to these he has the utmost devotion for his family. Torvald traditional gender roles of men as providers and caregivers, embodying the ideals of the patriarch which he lives. genuinely traditional..

The Masculine Ideal

In his era, society viewed Torvald as the emboc the masculine ideal. He has a strong sense of h bold, honorable, respected, courageous, and se Torvald's social status is immaculate and has th to exercise power and authority over others. Tor fulfilled his destiny to be the breadwinner and their families. Torvald is the ideal illustration of these traits. Torvald has consistently demonstrate



qualities that ar essential to being man, such as str sexual prowess a virility, through conventional gen roles and expecta of our modern-da society.

The Dutiful Provider

Torvald is a living example of principles and ideals of this era instance, he places a high value on status and appearances, and h extremely worried about his repu and how other people view him. He has a strong sense of morality and v responsibility and duty highly. Torva a living example of the principles ideals of this era.



Apart from being a Bank manage is also a lawyer and is one of the legal minds among his peers.



His Personal Life

Torvald Helmer is a devoted husband, father, and friend. He is married to the stunning Nora Helmer, a devoted mother and wife who has three kids with Torvald. He also has a friendship with the esteemed Dr. Rank, a doctor employed by the neighborhood hospital. Overall, he is regarded as the ideal family man and is held in high regard.



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PICTURES OF TORVALD:

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NUMB

Linkin Park

*"I'm tired of being what you want me to be
Feeling so faithless, lost under the surface
Don't know what you're expecting of me
Put under the pressure of walking in your shoes"*

These lines accurately convey Nora's state of mind regarding herself and her marriage to Torvald. They signal how Nora is exhausted and tired of putting up a façade and playing into society's, or rather Torvald's expectations of how she, as a woman should be. From being a soft, timid, and submissive girl, to transforming into a rather brave, determined, and self-confident woman, the song matches Nora's newfound sense of independence. The high energy and vivacity of the song, I felt, accentuates the climax of the play further by amplifying the tension. As Nora walks out on her life at the doll's house, embarking on her journey for self-discovery, the song plays on...

ILISA CHOSE THE BAND LINKIN PARK AND THE LYRICS FROM THE SONG -NUMB



“LAST CHRISTMAS” BY WHAM!



Last Christmas Song by Wham!

Last Christmas I gave you
my heart, But the very
next day you gave it away
This year, to save me from
tears, I'll give it to
someone special

I think this is what Nora feeling about Torvald change throughout the climax, mainly revolving during ACT III: realisation, acceptance, and moving to a journey of loving herself.

As she begins to realise that Torvald does not love her. We find Nora struggling to accept the truth that her husband doesn't love her but just the idea of her: she doesn't want Torvald to be labeled as an 'immoral man' or have his life ruined because she was -supposedly- a thoughtless miserable woman. We see how Nora sincerely loved Torvald, but he did not love her and instead "fooled" her and himself into believing that their marriage was genuine. the last verse captured it perfectly - Nora is ready to move on from everything and truly discover herself. Her final goodbye was a gift to herself on Christmas, a "something special".

Moksha Shinde

- PRETTY GIRL BY MAGGIE LINDERMAN

NOW PLAYING



Pretty Girl Maggie Lindemann



Lyrics

I'm more than just a picture
I'm a daughter and a sister
Sometimes it's hard for me to show
That I'm more than just a rumor
Or a song on your computer
There's more to me than people
know

song. It's a catchy pop tune about what it's like to be a young woman in this period of time.

I think this song is similar to what Nora feels throughout the climax.

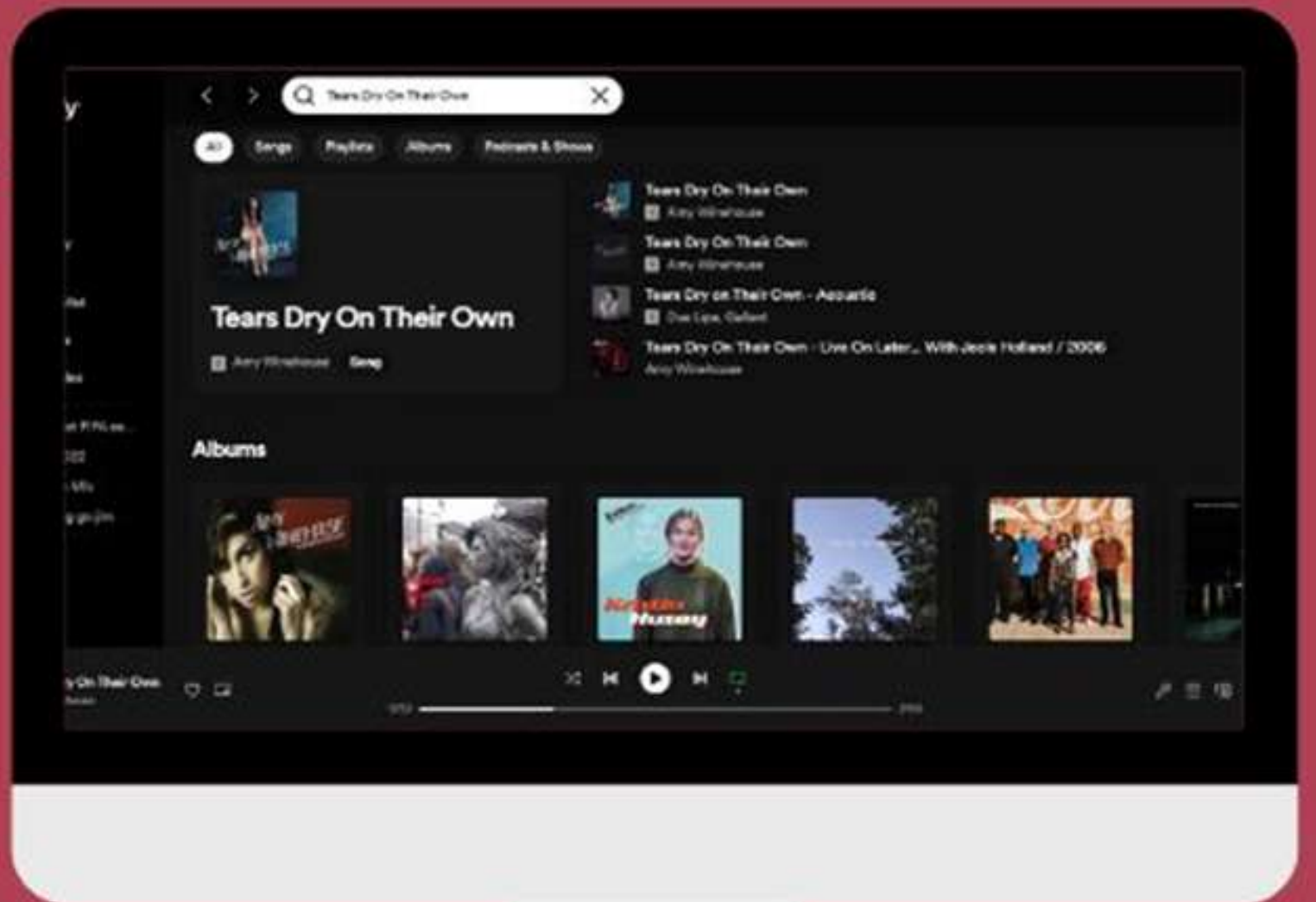
“Nora: No, that is just it. You don't understand me, and I have never understood you either--before tonight. No, you mustn't interrupt me. You must simply listen to what I say. Torvald, this is a settling of accounts.”

We may deduce from these conversations that Nora and Torvald never had a genuine talk because Torvald never believed Nora's thoughts were significant enough and she was always treated like a child, a pet or an inferior being.

“Nora: That is just it; you have never understood me... I have existed merely to perform tricks for you, Torvald. But you would have it so. You and papa have committed a great sin against me. It is your fault that I have made nothing of my life.”

She claims that throughout her life, she never felt completely aware of herself, and that men in her family have treated her like a doll since her identity as a woman has been shrunk and subjugated to merely a woman who incapable of thinking. A doll that is controlled by her puppeteers. We can see in the climax sequence how she wants to be viewed as an individual rather than "just a picture." She claims that she was never satisfied with the marriage and that she just became acclimated to Torvald's way of life since she never decided "to show" her dislike for it.

"Tears Dry On Their Own" by Amy Winehouse is a powerful and emotional song that could capture the essence of the moment when Torvald reads Nora's letter. The lyrics convey a sense of betrayal, disappointment, and realization Nora experiences as Torvald discovers her secret.



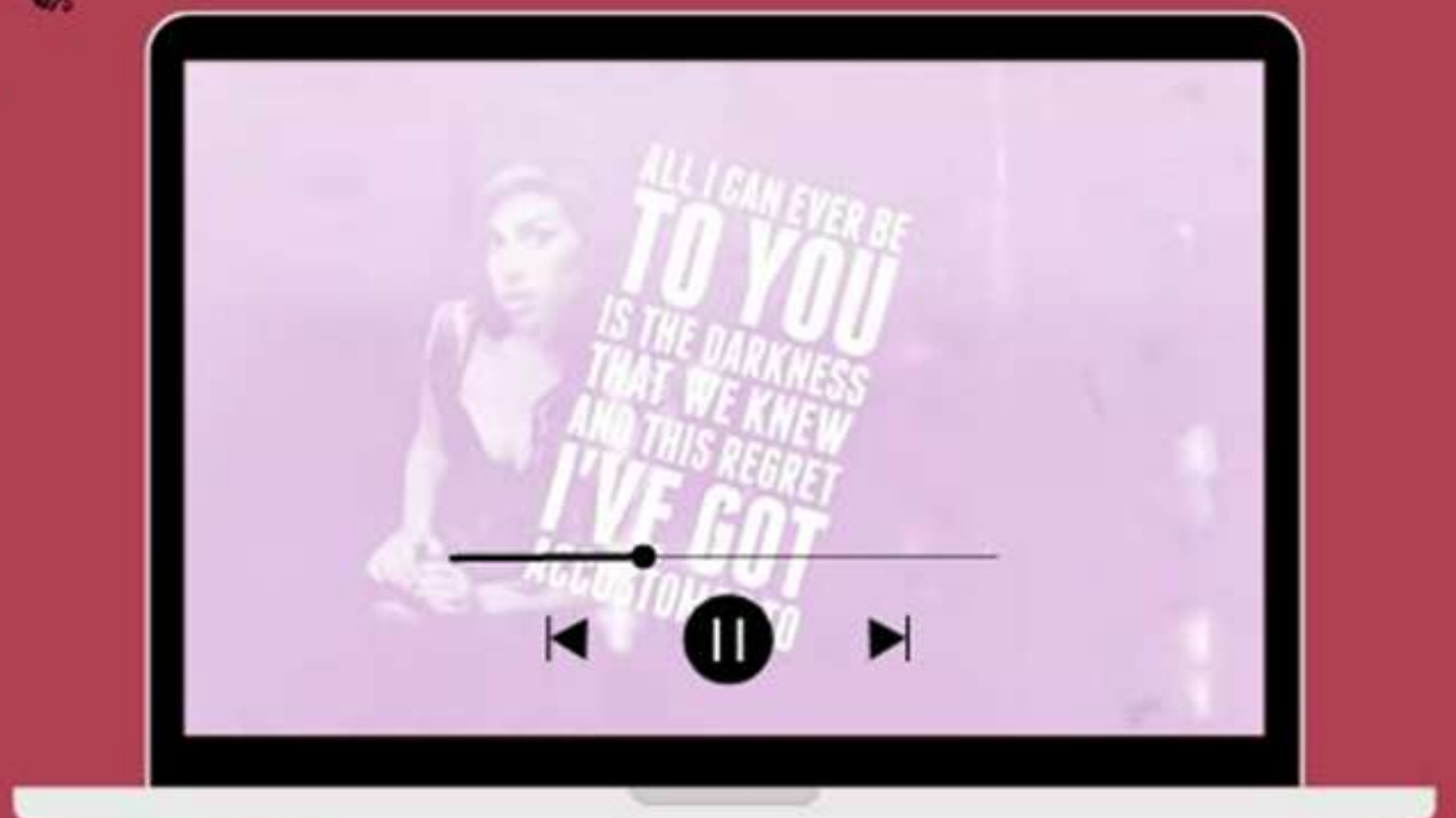
The first line of the song, "All I can ever be to you / Is a darkness that we knew / And this regret I got used to," alludes to Nora's feelings of being trapped in a relationship that doesn't fully satisfy her.



The chorus of the song, "It's so cold out here in your wilderness/I want you to be my keeper/But not if you are so reckless/If you're gonna let me down/Let me down gently/Don't pretend that you don't want me/Our love ain't water under the bridge," demonstrates Nora's desire for Torvald to be her protector as well as her frustration and disappointment when he falls short of her expectations. The line "If you're going to let me down, / Let me down gently" implies that Nora was aware that there was a chance she might be let down, but she still hoped Torvald would treat it delicately and with compassion.

my tears
dry
on their
own

The line on the bridge, "I'm the same I always was / Now don't you understand / I'm never changing who I am," demonstrates Nora's willpower to stay true to herself in the face of Torvald's behavior. It implies that she is adamant about staying true to her identity as well as what she wants. This came about as a result of her "mental awakening," which was the realization that she cannot be played around by her husband for the sake of societal expectations.





WHAT SIDDHARTH, ILISA & MOKSHA HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE MAD - P!

WORKING ON THIS PROJECT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES, LEADING TO THE GENERATION OF NEW IDEAS AND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS. WE WERE ABLE TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE, AND EXPERTISE THROUGH OUR UNIQUE SKILLSETS, WHICH LEAD TO INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE LEARNING THAT ENCOURAGED OPEN COMMUNICATION AND CREATIVITY.



Appreciative audience
made the day

