

Short Written Assignment:

Read either *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad, or *Darkness at Noon* by Arthur Koestler. You can find the works online by putting in for your search *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen-Project Gutenberg, *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad-Project Gutenberg or *Darkness at Noon* Arthur Koestler Born in Budapest.

If you choose to read *A Doll's House*, answer both of the following questions:

1. How does Torvald treat his wife Nora? What is the secret that Nora tries to keep from him?
2. Why does she decide to leave her husband? Why would this ending have shocked people back then?

If you choose to read *Heart of Darkness*, answer both of the following questions:

1. When Marlow meets Kurtz, how do his impressions of him change from what people earlier had said about Kurtz?
2. In what ways is *Heart of Darkness* an indictment of European imperialism in the so-called Congo Free State? How does Conrad use the Kurtz character to illustrate the evils of imperialism in the Congo?

If you choose to read *Darkness at Noon*, answer both of the following questions:

1. Who is Rubashov? What crimes is he accused of and why does he confess to them? What is the purpose of a show trial?
2. Who is Gletkin and what methods does he use against Rubashov? Why does he represent the wave of the future in the Party? What insights does the author give into the nature of totalitarian governments and to which one in particular does the novel seem to be referring?

Answer the questions in about one to two pages. Provide at least 2 short quotes from the reading to illustrate your points. The assignment is due on Wed., March 20.