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Henrik Ibsen's Hedda Gabler is the perfect example of a melodrama.

Melodrama by definition is a sensational dramatic piece with exaggerated characters and exciting events intended to appeal to the emotions. This play definitely had me on the edge of my seat. The main character Hedda is our main character and shockingly is our villain as well. Throughout the story Hedda makes rather questionable decisions due to her jealousy and need to feel superior to everyone. In melodramas, "typical" characters are also known as stock characters. The six stock characters that are in every melodrama are the main villain, The sensitive hero, The persecuted heroine, The simpleton, the faithful friend, and the villain's sidekick. In this play the main villain was Hedda Gabler. What makes her the villain is her two-faced attitude. She often says things she doesn't mean which lands her into great trouble. For example, she said that she loved the house and was rewarded the house because she said she loved it, but she was just being nice and she actually did not like the house. The sensitive hero is her husband, Tesman. Tesman tries his best to keep everyone happy from his aunts that raised him, to his wife, Hedda, who is using him. He still tries to make everyone happy. The persecuted heroine is definitely Mrs. Elvsted. Mrs. Elvsted's only goal is to be happy with the man she loves but unfortunately Mrs. Elvsted is incredibly naïve. She constantly Falls into Hedda traps and often reveals too much information that Hedda ends up being used against her in the future dialogues. You can easily sympathize with Mrs. Elvsted which is what makes her the persecuted heroine.

The role of simpleton in this play is used by many characters on different occasions. The word simpleton means a foolish or gullible person. Many characters were gullible and fell into Hedda's traps like previously mentioned Mrs. Elvsted was extremely gullible to Hedda's tricks. Another character that was gullible to Hedda's tricks was her own husband Tesman. Tesman was never aware of the male characters in the story flirting with his wife while he left the room, but when he came back to the room he never noticed the shifts and energy or why men were sitting so close or standing so close to his wife. Although there are many characters that were foolish throughout this play the most foolish character had to have been Eilert Lovborg, he was so excited to read his new manuscript but fell into Hedda's trap and ended up taking his first drink due to the belief that Mrs. Elvsted was worried about him. She starts drinking and gets so drunk that he "lost" his manuscript, then killed himself, thinking that his work couldn't be replaced but when you write a book you take notes, and Mrs. Elvsted had the notes so he easily could've re-written a new one. The faithful friend could also be Mrs. Elvsted or Tesmond. Tesman and Mrs. Elvsted always had everyone's best interest at heart but since we already said both characters for others I would say the faithful friend is Tesman's aunt, Aunt Julia. Aunt Julia is described as both a mother and father to Tesman. She also takes care of Tesman's other aunt, Aunt Rina. When Aunt Rina dies she wants to search for someone else to take care of. She even offers to take care of Hedda's child if she ever decides to have any. The villain sidekick is none other than Judge Brack. She is so enticed with Hedda that he wants to be the third member of a love triangle between her husband and her. Judge Brack ends up being the reason that

the villain, Hedda, commits suicide. He blackmails her into being with him due to him finding out the secret that Hedda gave the gun Eilert Lovborg committed suicide with.

The doll house and Hedda Gabler Are very different stories although I got the same vibe from them that women in this time are not as valued as men. In both of these stories the women do not have jobs and it is their husband that is the breadwinner. The difference between these two stories is that in Hedda Gabler The wife is way more free to do as she pleases maybe because she has a passive husband but she takes way more risks than Nora. Hedda is used to living her life on the edge with her previous relationships. Throughout the play heater does a number of questionable things that piss off each character. Even though she pisses them off they still respect her and like her. On the other hand Nora was not as respected as Hedda and was treated poorly when she was just trying to save her husband. When Heeda tells Tesman she burned Loveburgs manuscript for him she was treated very well and was even told “this is not how you usually show your love” and was hugged and caressed. Well out on the other hand Nora was treated disrespectfully when her intentions where is selfish like Hedda.

As far as best play of the two highlights the seven parts of a well-made play I would say dollhouse highlights of the seven parts of a well-made play the best it was very clear to identify the plot which was keeping the secret of Nora borrowing money from Torvalds subordinate. Crisis was Nora keeping secrets of what she done from Torvald. The series of up-and-down’s during the play involve The secrets that Nora is

withholding from her husband. The pivotal reversal and recognition moment is when she realizes she is not being treated correctly by her husband. Although she did make a mistake by doing something behind his back it was to save his life and was for the betterment of their relationship.

I would have to go with Hedda Gabler. While a doll's house was a great play in Hedda Gabler I can clearly identify all seven parts

I believe Hedda Gabler is the best example of Ibsen's abilities as a playwright. This play's emotion had me at the edge of my seat; constantly changing course. The ending was quite tragic but honestly was the best outcome possible. Hedda would have had to live her life as a servant when all she wanted to be was free to do whatever she wants so that is the reason why she killed herself. I also feel like the play makes sense. I was not confused during any part. I was not questioning why characters made the decisions they made. It was very clear that they had no other option.

The weaker example of Ibsen's abilities as a playwright is A doll house. Reason being is I felt that the story was all surrounded by one secret. The plot was surrounded by everyone finding out the secret that Nora borrowed money from her subordinate Torvald. In Hedda there are many secrets that are exposed throughout the story that keep readers at the edge of their seat.

While both these plays by Henrik Ibsen are interesting Hedda had quite more drama to it and had quite more secrets that were told throughout the play. Any reader could've

been shocked by the endless amounts of reveals Heeda Makes throughout the play. Heeda has been with every single male character in the play in a sexual relationship. She's constantly in the same room as them and is in the same room as them and her husband. Her husband never catches onto her infidelities and she dies being a respectable woman when she was not. This is what interests me the most that her secret of being a mistress to all of these men has never came out and she dies with all of them thinking good things of her besides the judge.

Work Cited

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