

THE DOLL'S HOUSE

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TITLE

- The “dolls house” is symbolically the centre of the story
- Everything focuses on it's **significance**
- It is a symbol of what separates the rich upper class from the poor lower class

SETTING

- **Late 1800s in New Zealand**
- Countryside with only one school and a confluence of people from many levels of society
- **Burnell's house.**

PLOT

- **Exposition** – The doll's house is delivered
- **Rising action** – All the children from school wants to admire the doll's house at the Burnell home, but the Kelvey girls are excluded and unwelcome
- **Climax** – Kezia invites the Kelvey girls to see the doll's house. She is scolded by aunt Beryl because the Kelveys are beneath them
- **Denouement** – Lil is upset but Else remembers only the little lamp. Despite their differences, she and Kezia are both drawn to the lamp

THEMES

- The cruelty of class discrimination and prejudice.
- Cruelty of adults in society.
- Innocence of children and cruelty of society which distinguishes between rich and poor.
- Hope

CHARACTERS

- **Isabel, Lottie and Kezia Burnell** – *rich kids*
- **Lil and Else Kelvey** – *Daughters of washerwoman and father is in jail (poor and seen as inferior); they have no voice and remain unheard.*
- **Aunt Beryl** (Aunt of the Burnell kids)
- **The teacher**
- **Mrs Hay** who *gave the doll's house*
- **Lena Logan, Jessie Hay, Emmie Cole** – *upper class kids in school.*

CHARACTERS

Kezia Burnell

- She questions the social norms and classes.
- Only one in her family who sees significance of the lamp.
- Invites the Kelveys to the doll house.
- Limited in what she can say (Isabel wants to do the talking).
- In that way she is connected and equal to the Lil and Else.

CHARACTERS

Else Kelvey

- Tiny, cropped hair, big, solemn eyes.
- Basically never spoke.
- Held on to her sister; followed her.
- Through Else's eyes the reader sees into the world of the rich.
- Called "our Else" which creates sympathy for her.

Kezia and Else...

- Have mutual interest in the lamp.
- It signifies that they share the same values in society.
- They (as children) are simply looking for playmates and are not concerned with what class they come from.

CHARACTERS

Isabel Burnell

- From rich family
- Treats her sisters badly
- Bossy, proud
- Thinks she's better than her sisters because she is older.

Lil Kelvey

- From poor family
- Loves her sister and cares for her
- Dresses in rags
- Is sweet and smiles at nasty children.

CHARACTERS

Burnells

- Define themselves by social status and class.
- Consider themselves above the Kelveys.
- Ostracize the Kelveys because they are different.
- Do not want to be associated with Kelveys because of their physical appearance and social class.
- Burnell children not allowed to speak to Kelveys.

CHARACTERS

Adults

- Their attitudes about social class is implanted because their children learn from them and display the same attitudes among each other.
- Class consciousness was handed down from one generation to another.
- The teacher: her attitude about social class is important because kids learn from her. She also treats the Kelveys differently.

SYMBOLS

The doll's house

- The point where everything in the story happens.
- Exquisite, expensive, materialistic detail
- Symbol of upper class (Burnells); metaphor for world of the rich
- Symbol of our materialistic attitude towards life.
- External aspects of the house – beauty, appearance, colour, form – allude to humans' position in society, assets and family name.

SYMBOLS

The lamp

- Represents what is really important – the soul qualities of a human being and his real nature.
- Symbol of Kezia's kindness and warmth.
- Symbol of hope and connection, truth.
- In contrast with the other items in the doll's house, just like Kezia is different from the other upper class children.
- Kezia and Else both impressed by the lamp – connecting them and removing class barriers.
- The gate being opened signifies the removal of social prejudice

NEXT DOOR

KURT VONNEGUT

1. TITLE

- It names the setting
- It focuses on the violent drama that Paul hears happening
- Suggest that “next door” and its events can adversely affect lives at home too

2. SETTING

- The story is set in the USA, in a semi-detached house, in the 1950s
- The dividing wall is paper thin
- Paul is home alone and able to hear the neighbours fighting

3. PLOT

- **Introduction** - The Leonards are going to see a movie that is unsuitable for a young child
- **Rising action** – Paul is home alone and hears the violent argument next door, he tries to stop the fight by calling the radio station, this only makes matters worse
- **Climax** – Paul hears 3 shots fired. He is convinced he is responsible for a murder
- **Conclusion** - The *murderer* tries to bribe Paul. The police arrive and find the victim unharmed. Paul succeeds in getting the Hargers back together

4. CHARACTER

- Paul
- Mrs Leonard
- Mr Leonard
- Mr Harger
- Mrs Harger
- Charlotte

4. CHARACTERISATION

- His mother treats Paul as though he is a baby
- She does not feel the movie is age appropriate
- She is over protective and makes a list of emergency numbers, locks the doors and windows
- His father thinks that Paul would not be harmed by seeing the movie if this would ease his wife's worrying

4. CHARACTERIZATION...Paul

- He is forced into premature “development”
- Has a soft, sleepy, radiant sweetness
- He cares about others and feels the need to stop the fight next door
- He has to cope with a situation that is beyond his years

5. THEMES

- The difference between adults' and children's perceptions
- Coming of age
- Innocence lost
- Guilt of parents

The irony lies in the fact that Paul was exposed to all these things while at home

- **Violence** – shots were fired
- **Swearing** – the couple fought
- **Sex** – infidelity the man's wife left him, his lover was at his home
- **Frightening** – the boy thought he caused someone's death