

What the characters say about Hedda – Act One

1. Decide who says each of the quotations below.
2. Sort them into the correct order in which they appear in the play.
3. Decide why Ibsen reveals information about Hedda in this way.
4. What does Ibsen want the audience to think about Hedda?
5. What do the comments show us about the characters who say them?
6. Look through the rest of the play and make notes on what else the other characters say about Hedda; do their opinions of her change through the play?

Yes, of course – it's a bit more expensive. But Hedda just had to have that trip. She <i>had</i> to. There was nothing else to be done.	... there's nothing new in that. Hedda's been lovely all her life.
Hedda is lovely – lovely – lovely. God bless and keep Hedda Tesman – for George's sake.	We were sorry we couldn't drive you up. But you saw for yourself – Hedda had all those boxes to bring along.
... take a good look at Hedda before you leave. See how charming <i>she</i> is!	Yes, but you were a class ahead of me. Oh, I was terribly afraid of you then!
There's a woman's shadow between Eilert Lovborg and me ... Someone out of his – his past. Someone he's really never forgotten.	I'm happiest now for Hedda's sake. Before we were engaged, she used to say so many times there was no place she'd rather live than here, in Secretary Falk's town house.
Well, of course. General Gabler's daughter. What a life she had in the general's day! Remember seeing her out with her father – how she'd go galloping past in that long black riding outfit, with a feather in her hat?	But have you noticed how plump and buxom she's grown?
Hedda – that's the most beautiful part of it all!	Yes, but I only thought, now that she's part of the family -
And most of all, dear, now that you've won her, the wife of your heart.	I bought that for Hedda's sake ... Yes, so Hedda wouldn't feel ashamed of me if we walked down the street together.
Think about Hedda ... You, who know her so well – I simply couldn't have her live like a grocer's wife.	Because whenever we met on the stairs, you'd always pull my hair.