*PROBLEM SITUATION: ALLIGATOR RIVER*

*Read the following story and rank the characters as explained in the instructions below.*

There lived a woman named Abigail who was in love with a socially important man

named Gregory. Gregory lived on the shore of a river. Abigail lived on the opposite shore

of the same river. The river that separated the two lovers was teeming with dangerous

alligators. Abigail wanted to cross the river to be with Gregory.

Unfortunately, the bridge had been washed out by a heavy flood the previous week. So she

went to ask Sinbad, a riverboat captain, to take her across. He said he would be glad to if

she would consent to deliver illegal drugs to a teenage dealer on the other side. She

promptly refused and went to a friend named Ivan to explain her plight. Ivan did not want

to get involved at all in the situation. Abigail felt her only alternative was to accept Sinbad’s

terms and deliver the drugs. Sinbad fulfilled his promise to Abigail and delivered her into

the arms of Gregory.

When Abigail told Gregory about her illegal escapade in order to cross the river, Gregory

cast her aside because he thought that his reputation would be damaged when people

heard what his fiancé had done. Heartsick and rejected, Abigail turned to Slug with her

tale of woe. Slug, feeling compassion for Abigail, sought out Gregory and beat him

brutally. Abigail was happy at the sight of Gregory getting his due. As the sun set on the

horizon, people could hear Abigail laughing at Gregory.

\*Source of original story Simon, S. B, Howe, L. W., & Kirschenbaum, H. A Teacher’s Guide to the Signet Classics Edition of Henrik Ibsen’s A Doll’s House 11

(1972). Values Clarification. NY: Warner Books.

***Instructions:*** *After reading the story, rank the five (5) characters in the story beginning*

*with the one whom you consider as the “most morally offensive” and end with the one*

*whom you consider the “least objectionable.” That is, the character who seems to be the*

*most dishonorable to you should be entered first in the list following the story, then the*

*second most dishonorable, and so on, with the least dishonorable or objectionable being*

*entered fifth. Very briefly note why you rank them in the order that you do.*

Characters: Abigail, Gregory, Ivan, Sinbad, Slug

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (most dishonorable)

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (least dishonorable)

***Think, Pair, Share:*** *Read and react to each of the following questions. Partner up and discuss your answers. Share similarities or differences you had with your partners in the spaces provided.*

• On what basis did you judge the morality or immorality of the characters?

• Is it ever right to do something wrong to achieve a good end?

• What is virtue? How do we judge it?

• Is there absolute good or evil? Or are there degrees of good and evil?