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<td><em>An Enemy of the People</em> by Henrik Ibsen</td>
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### Act 1

1. Describe the setting.  
   What might the status be of a person living in this house?

2. Ibsen is noted as a realist. How does the opening dialogue between Mrs. Stockmann and Billings reflect this?

3. How often does the Mayor visit his brother?

4. What type of man is Peter Stockmann? Support your answer by reference to the text.

5. What is the name of Hovstad’s paper?

6. What is the reason Hovstad gives for Dr. Stockmann’s motivation for writing for the paper? Quote the lines.

7. What is the Mayor’s opinion of the reader’s of “The People’s Messenger”?

8. What is “the very heart of civic life”?

9. How have the Springs affected the economic life of the town?

10. What does Dr. Stockmann’s article pertain to?

11. What does Houstan say to the mayor to make him perturbed?

12. What does the Mayor’s response suggest?

13. The Mayor reveals an important aspect about his brother in response to Hovstad’s presumption. Quote the lines.

14. What type of character is Dr. Stockmann?  
   What type of people does he enjoy?

15. There are many contrasts between the Doctor and the Mayor. List three of them.

16. Which one has the highest social status?

17. Which one has the closest contact with the community?

18. What is the Mayor’s philosophical conflict seen between Billing and Horster?

19. Describe Petra’s personality.  
   What other character is she like?
20. Petra has the long expected letter of Dr. Stockmann’s. What information does this letter contain?

21. A familiar theme is introduced with the Doctor’s discovery. What is it? It is a complicated theme that has two implications. What are they?

22. The Springs are referred to as “the town’s pulsating heart.”

How might the discovery affect this?

How serious is the contamination?

20. How does everyone react to the discovery?

Quote the doctor’s closing line of this act.

An Enemy of the People
Act II

1. Morten Kiil can be said to represent the opinions and mental consciousness of the community. What new viewpoint does he bring to the situation?

2. How will this attitude effect the reputation of Dr. Stockmann?

3. Hovstad arrives at the Stockmann’s house with a different frame of mind. He sees the contamination of the Springs as a metaphor. What is this metaphor?

4. What is the basis of Hovstad’s opinions and beliefs?

How are Hovstad and the Doctor similar?

How are they different?

5. What does Aslaksen offer the doctor?

According to Aslaksen, what is the greatest virtue a man can have?

6. Is there an inconsistency between Aslaksen’s beliefs and Hovstad’s beliefs?

7. The Mayor said that the individual “must submit himself to those duly constituted authorities who best understand the common good.” Will Aslaksen’s approach be acceptable? Why or why not?

8. Describe the Doctor’s outlook on the various proposals that have been made.

9. Ibsen juxtaposes conventional methods of change with modern methods of change. Who represents conventional ideology?

10. What is the Mayor’s argument?
11. Quote the lines where the Mayor charges his brother with destroying the town.

12. What does the Mayor propose to do?
   Quote Dr. Stockmann’s response to the Mayor’s proposal.

13. What is the obvious difference in their intentions?

14. The Mayor says, “It’s very painful for a man in public life to have his nearest relative always compromising himself.” How is this statement ironic?

15. The cusp of Ibsen’s notions of social change and revolution rests in the brief exchange between the Doctor and the Mayor. Quote this passage.

16. What does the Mayor demand of the Doctor?

17. The outburst that follows reveals the sincerity of both sides; however, who is in the positions of power?

18. The Doctor claims he has the welfare of the community at heart, but the Mayor finds that his opinions will jeopardize the community. What does the Mayor call his brother?

19. Another interesting conflict is seen in the dialogue between the Doctor and his wife. What is it?
   • What is the person conflict of the Doctor’s situation?

An Enemy of the People
Act III

1. Where does act III open? Describe the setting.

2. What is Billing’s opinion of the article?

3. Who does Dr. Stockmann trust with the manuscript?

4. What is the difference between the Doctor and Billing’s excitement about the issue?

5. Quote the lines where the Doctor indicates his rationale for doing what he does.

6. What do both Aslaksen and Billing call the Doctor? 
   What did the Mayor call the Doctor?

7. What does Hovstad say about the Doctor after he left?

8. Quote Aslaksen’s lines on page 169, which indicates his position on the matter. 
   How might this effect the changes that are proposed?

9. What is significant about Morten Kiil’s money? Give 2 ideas.

10. Petra enters with the manuscript, which Hovstad wanted her to translate. What is her argument for not translating it?
11. Why does Hovstad want to publish it?  
   What is the basic difference of opinion?

12. According to Petra, what is the role of the journalist?  
   What is Havstad’s viewpoint?

13. Petra sees Hovstad’s true colors. What type of man is he?

14. The Mayor unexpectedly enters. How does Aslaksen react when confronted with authority?

15. How does Hovstad react?

16. On what level does the Mayor appeal to Aslaksen and Hovstad?

17. What changes will have to take place to accommodate for the contaminated Springs?

18. How do Aslaksen and Hovstad change?

19. Who unexpectedly arrives?

20. Do Aslaksen and Hovstad approach him with the change of plans?

21. Mrs. Stockman enters. What is she trying to prevent?

22. The Doctor discovers his brother’s hat and stick. He puts them on and finds his brother in the back room. What is the tension of this scene?

23. According to Aslaksen, who runs the paper?  
   Whose article are they going to print?

24. What basic freedom of Dr. Stockmann’s do Aslaksen, Hovstad and the Mayor violate?

An Enemy of the People  
Act IV

1. According to the spectators what is the debate about?

2. Are they interested in the issue?  
   What advice does one man give another man?

3. Who has donated the meeting hall?

4. Describe the attitude of the people at the meeting.  
   Whose side are they on?

5. Why did the Doctor call the meeting?  
   Why does the Mayor think there should be a chairman?

6. The Mayor takes the first opportunity to speak. What does he propose and why?

7. How does he appeal to the people?
8. What does Aslaksen do? Does this violate his function as chairman?

9. Aslaksen says, “There are some things in this world that simply cost too much.” What is the irony of this statement?

10. Hovstad says, “…it has become undeniably clear that public opinion is against Dr. Stockmann.” What is the bias of this statement?

11. The drunk who appears at the door is different from the other spectators. How is he different?

12. Dr. Stockmann doesn’t talk about the Springs. He talks about his new discovery. What is it?

13. What does the Doctor say about the authorities who run the town?

14. According to the Doctor, who are the real enemies of truth and freedom? Quote the lines.

15. Hovstad says, “The majority is always right!” Does majority mean conformity? What are the Doctor’s feelings on this subject?

16. What is the nature of truth?

17. What is the difference between the “common man” and the “intelligent man?” What injustice is done?

18. According to the Doctor’s argument, what is the difference between a mongrel and a poodle? How is this applied to man?

19. Are “common men” only found in the lower classes?

20. What is a distinguishing characteristic of the “common man?” What constitutes morality?

21. The Doctor claims the town is “prospering on a lie.” What is the lie?

22. What do the people call Dr. Stockmann?

23. How do the people account for the Doctor’s behavior? Did they understand the Doctor’s argument?

24. How does Morten Kiil react to the Doctor?

25. A fat man talks with Horster about the matter of loaning his house to “an Enemy of the People.” What are the implied consequences? What type of man is Horster?
An Enemy of the People
Act V

1. What has happened to the Stockmann’s house?

2. Why are the Stockmann’s being evicted?

3. Where does the Doctor want to go? Why?

   Is there a conflict between the Doctor’s beliefs and where he wants to go?

4. Why was Petra fired?

   What has happened to Captain Horster?

5. How does the theme of appearance not paralleling reality apply to the townspeople?

   Give 2 examples.

6. What news does the Mayor bring about the Doctor’s status?

   Why was he fired?

7. What is the Mayor’s advice to the Doctor?

   How does the Doctor react to this?

   He claims that there’s one thing a free man has not right to do.” What is it?

   Quote these lines.

8. What is the new twist to the situation?

   How does this affect the Doctor?

9. The Doctor says, “Old Badger is much too pleased with the way I’ve gone after you and your precious friends.” How does the Mayor react to this?

   How will he use this statement?

10. Morten Kiil enters. What has he done?

11. What is the irony of this situation?

   What does this action force the Doctor to do?

12. What do Aslaksen and Hovstad propose to do?

   How will they manipulate the Doctor?
How does the Doctor react?

13. What does the Doctor commit himself to doing?

14. Who will the Doctor relate his cause to?

   He plans to teach his sons. Who else does he plan to include?

15. Quote the Doctor’s closing lines

   How do they fit in with his philosophy?