

embodies female independence and their action in breaking free from relationships which no longer serve them, proving that 'literature suggests that it is always better to act than to do nothing'.

Furthermore, the concept of the active feminine is clearly explored by Rossetti in *Goblin Market*, where Lizzie exemplifies a Christ-like figure in her acts of heroism to save her sister, challenging the Victorian norm to simply leave and admonish those who had fallen into temptation. This is exemplified as she had 'for your [Laura] sake', risked her life to save her sister, challenging the dominant goblin men, proving that it is 'always better to act than to do nothing' in the face of adversity, and upholding the notion of strong women. This is reflected in Rossetti's work as a volunteer in the Mary Magdelyn institute for fallen women, anchoring the idea that it is always better to support women through action than to demonise them out of society. This also links to Rossetti's Christian beliefs where in the Bible it also promotes the idea that 'faith without action is dead', proving that 'literature suggests that it is always better to act than to do nothing'. Similarly, Ibsen promotes female bonds and action through the relationship of Nora and Christine as Nora states that 'Christine will pack up my things', highlighting female support in Nora's search of independence, which would have been seen as subversive in a 19th century society, where the most important bond would have been the bond between a husband and wife. George Shaw argued that 'A Doll's House' is set in every suburb in Europe, anchoring the idea that his play is a microcosm for society, as Ibsen navigates a common problem in the 19th century- a lack of female autonomy. This critique of a passive woman trapped by the expectations of society is key when considering his naturalist expression of the play, where it is seen to expose social realities with once clear constant setting, and a clear critique of the lack of action taken by individuals in order to break through the walls of a traditional marriage which doesn't serve the individual. Therefore, it can be seen that 'it is always better to act than to do nothing', when evolving and reaching personal fulfilment against the morals and expectations of society.

Overall, both texts explore the importance of action 'than to do nothing', in challenging the ideals set by the patriarchal society of the 19th century. Ibsen explores female independence and the individual growth of a person as they rebel against strict ideals which confine them to a life of belittlement, similarly, Rossetti highlights the importance of strong female voices and the power of active women against dominant men.