

## **Symbols:**

### **Sun**

The sun represents aesthetic beauty, enlightenment, energy, joy, illumination of truth, rebirth, and purification. They are associated with Apollonian truth and purity. Oswald Alving's cry for the sun of Paris shows the driving energy and aestheticism of an artist/painter.

### **Fire**

Fire and light imagery (e.g., the burning orphanage, the lit pipe) represents destruction, and is associated with Dionysian energy and destruction.

### **Pipe**

The pipe that Oswald is smoking when he first enters the scene is his father's pipe, and is thus a symbol of that man. Captain Alving forced Oswald to smoke it when he was a child, symbolically transforming (or rather, completing the transformation of) Oswald into himself. Mrs. Alving didn't like it then and she doesn't like it now, revealing her antipathy toward her late husband. The pipe, some critics theorize, may also have been Ibsen's intended vehicle by which the father transferred syphilis to the son, again confirming the object's symbolic function as the "sins of the father."

### **The Orphanage**

The orphanage is the symbol of the ghosts, the lies, and the repressions Mrs. Alving has carried with her or perpetrated as she tried to expunge her husband from her life and consciousness. It is a perverted symbol, though, for it contains elements of Engstrand's devilishness and Manders's hypocrisy.

### **THE SEAMEN'S HOTEL**

THE brothel Engstrand wants to start of nearly the same name represents something more suitable to be built in memory of the late degenerate Captain ALVING. The brother symbolises profligacy and a site for destruction of women ( Regina)

### **Ghosts Syphilis**

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### **Rain**

Ibsen describes "A gloomy landscape [that] is faintly visible, veiled by steady rain." Of Norway. This steady rain gives the feeling of the dark and sorrowful atmosphere, foreshadowing the mood of Ibsen's play. In literature, weather often serves as a mirror for the characters within the story: in this case, the dismal weather reflects the dismal lives of the Alvings.