

The "key" question: Is Dora a heroine or a victim? Why?

In many ways, this is a text about reading, is it not? How so and how does Freud ask us to read this text?

It's very easy to dismiss Freud's work or dismiss psychoanalysis as too essentialist, patriarchal, or not constructive. Where does Freud "get it right" in this text? That is, where does he make observations or connections with which we would agree?

What is the role of the unconscious in Freud's work? What is it and does it have potential?

Freud explains very clearly that the root cause of hysteria is sexual or that there are always connections to sexuality (it is "the key"). Sexuality, though, is often the specific way that we define the body—by sex markers. What are the implications here?

Grosz writes, "Much of Freud's work, particularly on female sexuality, makes biological presuppositions, yet he also presents alternative accounts of a socially, historically, and culturally sexed body" (268). Where, if anywhere, do we see this in the *Dora* text?

What is the relationship between the psyche and the body? Psyche maps its symptoms on the body—somatic symptoms.

What is the role of science in this narrative?

What do you make of Freud's constant references to being like a gynecologist? How is psychoanalysis like gynecology?

Freud's mother and the obsession of housework—how is this role analyzed? Is there an implied moderation for woman's role?

What does Freud mean by somatic compliance and transference? How are these terms important to the text?