

# [Ibsen’s (p 41) at home. there is](https://assignbuster.com/ibsens-p-41-at-home-there-is/)

Ibsen’s symbolic portrayal of the weatherfunctions as an echo for what is going to occur, meaning that it is a foundationupon which actions arise. In the opening stage directions Ibsen sets the sceneby establishing a big wall of glass through which a “ gloomy fjordlandscape” (p 1) is visible. It rains constantly, thus the weather isthroughout most of the play particularly dismal, a symbolic expression of theoppressive atmosphere created by the social norms.

The darkness of the weather also represents the drearinessof the family circumstances, by being shrouded by secrets. Oswald is mainlyaffected by the oppressing weather, as he complains that it prevents him from thinkingproperly and resorts to drinking to cope with the circumstances. Thisexemplifies how the dismal weather represses Oswald’s and Regina’s joy of life, an inherited characteristic from Captain Alving.

The weather clarifiesthat, Oswald cannot live in a society, where there is “ never a ray of sunshine”(p 41), a symbol of the joy of life being repressed, supported by him “ neverhaving seen the sun shine once” (p 41) at home. There is evidently, no placefor the joy of life to develop due to the conventional views of society, incontrast to Paris where Oswald has “ never noticed anything particularly unprincipledabout these people’s lives” (p 17), who share a more unconventional lifestyle. Anantithesis is, therefore, created between the “ gloomy landscape”, apersonification of the restrictive society that motivates keeping upappearances and obscuring the truth, and the sunny weather, symbolic of the joyof life resultant of the truth being revealed. Throughout the majority of theplay Mrs. Alving represses the truth about Captain Alving and his lust for thejoy of life. However, once she acknowledges the truth and tells Oswald the truestory about his father, the sun breaks into the room cutting through thedarkness. Similarly, the truth frees them from the burden of their secrets.

Theweather is, thus, double-sided, both symbolising the restrictive society, and concurrently, representing a society free fromnorms.