

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Motive: A 7th Grade Character Forensics Quiz

Students step into the shoes of a literary detective to decode hidden traits and evolving mindsets through complex textual evidence and behavioral analysis.

1. Which of the following best defines indirect characterization?

Answer: B) The reader must infer traits through speech, thoughts, and actions.

Indirect characterization requires the reader to use 'clues' like dialogue and behavior to determine personality rather than being told directly.

2. A character who undergoes a significant internal change throughout a story is known as a:

Answer: C) Dynamic character

Dynamic characters evolve, learn lessons, or change their perspective as a result of the plot's conflict.

3. The acronym STEAL stands for Speech, Thoughts, Effect on others, Actions, and _____.

Answer: D) Looks

STEAL is a mnemonic for indirect characterization; 'Looks' refers to physical appearance or style which can hint at personality.

4. A character's motivation is the reason behind their specific actions or behaviors.

Answer: A) True

Motivation is the 'why' that drives a character to pursue a goal or react to a conflict.

5. If a character is described as 'a mirror reflecting the protagonist's weaknesses,' they are likely acting as a:

Answer: B) Foil

A foil is a character whose traits contrast with another character (usually the protagonist) to highlight specific qualities.

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6. A ____ character is one-dimensional and lacks complex personality depths or internal conflict.

Answer: B) Flat

Flat characters are usually minor characters defined by a single trait or role.

7. Internal conflict (Man vs. Self) is a key element in developing a character's complexity.

Answer: A) True

Internal conflict reveals a character's values, fears, and growth, making them more 'round' and realistic.

8. Which detail is an example of 'Direct Characterization'?

Answer: B) James was a short-tempered and incredibly aggressive boy.

In this sentence, the narrator tells the reader exactly what James's personality is like without requiring inference.

9. Analyzing how other characters respond to the protagonist is part of the ____ component of character analysis.

Answer: C) Effect

The 'Effect on Others' helps us understand a character's social standing, influence, and personality through the eyes of others.

10. A protagonist is always a hero who does the right thing in the story.

Answer: B) False

The protagonist is simply the main character who drives the plot; they can be flawed or even an 'anti-hero'.