

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Motive: 12th Grade Character Analysis Quiz

Seniors track the shifting intentions and internal conflicts that transform protagonists from mere names into complex, breathing literary figures.

1. Which term refers to the underlying reason behind a character's specific behavior or action in a narrative?

Answer: A) Character Motivation

Motivation is the psychological driver—the 'why'—that compels a character to act in a certain way.

2. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Great Gatsby', what is the primary motivation driving Jay Gatsby's pursuit of wealth?

Answer: B) To win back the love of Daisy Buchanan

Gatsby's entire persona and fortune are constructed for the sole purpose of proving himself worthy of Daisy.

3. A character who undergoes a significant internal change throughout the course of a story is known as a _____ character.

Answer: C) Dynamic

Dynamic characters evolve in response to the plot, unlike static characters who remain the same.

4. Direct characterization occurs when the author reveals a character's traits through their actions, thoughts, and speech rather than telling the reader directly.

Answer: B) False

The description provided actually defines 'Indirect Characterization'; Direct characterization is when the author explicitly states the trait.

5. Which character archetype is often defined by a 'tragic flaw' (hamartia) that leads to their eventual downfall?

Answer: B) The Tragic Hero

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The Tragic Hero, a staple of senior literature such as Hamlet or Macbeth, is undone by a specific internal weakness.

6. When a character serves as a contrast to another character (usually the protagonist) to highlight specific qualities, they are called a _____.

Answer: C) Foil

A foil, like Banquo to Macbeth, provides a point of comparison that highlights the main character's traits.

7. An antagonist is always a 'villain' who has evil intentions.

Answer: B) False

An antagonist is simply the force that opposes the protagonist; they can have benevolent intentions that happen to conflict with the hero.

8. Which element is considered 'indirect characterization'?

Answer: C) The character shaking hands with a nervous sweat.

Showing a character's physical reaction (sweating) allows the reader to infer their internal state (anxiety).

9. The internal struggle a character faces within their own mind is categorized as 'Character vs. _____'.

Answer: C) Self

Internal conflict occurs within a character's conscience or emotions, known as 'Man vs. Self'.

10. A 'Round Character' is one that is complex and has many different traits developed by the author.

Answer: A) True

Round characters are multi-dimensional and realistic, as opposed to flat characters who represent a single idea or trait.