

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Global Subtext: 11th Grade World Literature Analysis Expedition

Post-colonialism, cultural synthesis, and structuralist critique—unpack the complex layers of international masterworks through deep-dive analytical scenarios.

1. In Wole Soyinka's play 'Death and the King's Horseman', the conflict between Elesin Oba and Simon Pilkings serves primarily as a critique of what colonial dynamic?

Answer: B) The ontological gap between African spiritual duty and Western secular law.

Soyinka highlights the 'clash of cultures' not merely as a physical struggle, but as a fundamental misunderstanding of cosmic and spiritual responsibilities versus European administrative logic.

2. True or False: In post-colonial literature, the 'subaltern' refers to a social group that possesses full political and social agency but chooses to remain silent.

Answer: B) False

Derived from Gayatri Spivak's theory, the 'subaltern' represents populations excluded from the hierarchy of power and denied a voice in the dominant discourse; it is not a choice.

3. Isabel Allende's 'The House of the Spirits' utilizes the literary mode of 'Lo Real Maravilloso' (The Marvelous Real) to achieve which of the following narrative goals?

Answer: C) To integrate supernatural elements as a normalized extension of daily political life.

Allende uses magical realism to weave the extraordinary into the ordinary, reflecting the complex, often surreal intersection of family legacy and national upheaval.

4. In the context of world literature, the term _____ is used to describe the blending of different cultural beliefs and practices into a new, hybrid identity.

Answer: B) Syncretism

Syncretism involves the creative melding of disparate cultural or religious systems, a common theme in literature exploring the diaspora or colonial encounters.

5. Lu Xun's 'A Madman's Diary' is often analyzed as a profound allegory for what specific social critique in early 20th-century China?

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Answer: A) The 'cannibalistic' nature of traditional Confucian feudal society.

Lu Xun uses the protagonist's paranoia of being eaten to symbolize a society that consumes its young through rigid, oppressive traditional values.

6. True or False: The concept of 'double consciousness,' though originating in African American literature, is frequently applied to World Literature to describe the internal conflict of post-colonial subjects.

Answer: A) True

W.E.B. Du Bois's concept is a vital tool for analyzing authors like Ama Ata Aidoo or Derek Walcott, who explore seeing oneself through the eyes of the colonizer.

7. The Persian 'Masnavi' by Rumi utilizes the _____ to teach complex spiritual lessons through simpler, framed narratives.

Answer: C) Didactic parable

Rumi mastered the didactic parable, using instructional stories to communicate Sufi mysticism and universal truths.

8. Franz Kafka's works, though European, are essential to World Literature for their exploration of 'The Absurd'. How does 'The Metamorphosis' redefine the concept of human identity?

Answer: C) By demonstrating that worth is often reduced to economic utility within a bureaucratic society.

Gregor Samsa's tragedy is not just his transformation, but how rapidly his family devalues him once he can no longer work and earn money.

9. Nawal El Saadawi's novel 'Woman at Point Zero' challenges the traditional _____ narrative structure by using a first-hand prison interview to expose patriarchal violence in Egypt.

Answer: B) Frame narrative

The novel uses a frame narrative—a story within a story—to ground the protagonist Firdaus's radical truth within a sociological encounter.

10. True or False: 'Intertextuality' in World Literature implies that a text is a closed system that does not reference other cultural or historical works.

Answer: B) False

Intertextuality is the shaping of a text's meaning by another text; it is the dialogue between works, which is central to comparative world literature.

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