

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Neon Nights and Global Echoes: 10th Grade World Lit Quiz

Can a single metaphor bridge two continents? Analyze how magical realism and existentialist tropes function in contemporary South Korean and Czech narratives.

1. In Wole Soyinka's play 'Death and the King's Horseman,' the conflict between the colonial British district officer and the Yoruba tradition represents which literary theme?

Answer: B) The ontological clash between ritual duty and Western law

Soyinka explores the 'intervention' of Western logic into a sacred communal ritual, highlighting the irreconcilable differences between two distinct worldviews.

2. The concept of 'Unbearable Lightness' in the works of _____ explores how lives are lived only once, making every decision carry an agonizing weight or a total lack of meaning.

Answer: B) Milan Kundera

Milan Kundera's 'The Unbearable Lightness of Being' is a quintessential Czech text that analyzes the Nietzschean concept of eternal return versus the singular nature of existence.

3. In the context of the 'Global South' literary movement, the term 'postcolonialism' refers exclusively to the period before European powers arrived in Africa and Asia.

Answer: B) False

Postcolonialism focuses on the cultural, political, and social impacts of decolonization and the legacy left by colonial rule, not the era prior to it.

4. Which literary device, common in Isabel Allende's 'The House of the Spirits,' integrates supernatural elements into a realistic setting to critique social hierarchies?

Answer: C) Magical Realism

Magical realism treats the fantastic as a mundane part of reality, often used by Latin American authors to address complex political legacies.

5. The Japanese concept of _____, often found in the works of Natsume Soseki, refers to a sense of 'loneliness' or 'solitude' resulting from rapid Westernization.

Answer: C) Kokoro

Name: _____ Date: _____

Soseki's novel 'Kokoro' deals with the shift from the Meiji era to modernity and the isolation that followed the breakdown of traditional social structures.

6. How does Han Kang's 'The Vegetarian' use bodily autonomy as a metaphor in contemporary South Korean literature?

Answer: B) As a rebellion against societal violence and patriarchal structures

The protagonist's refusal to eat meat serves as a radical rejection of the societal 'violence' and rigid expectations placed upon women in her culture.

7. The 'Epic of Sundiata' is an example of an oral tradition from the Mali Empire that was later transcribed into written world literature.

Answer: A) True

This West African epic was preserved for centuries by 'griots' (oral historians) before being documented as a foundational work of world lit.

8. In the poem 'The Guest' by Albert Camus, the setting of the Algerian desert reflects the philosophy of _____, where the universe is indifferent to human morality.

Answer: B) Absurdism

Absurdism, championed by Camus, suggests that searching for inherent meaning in a chaotic world is a futile, yet uniquely human, endeavor.

9. Which of these best describes the 'stream of consciousness' technique as utilized by Soviet-era or Eastern European dissidents?

Answer: A) A way to hide political messages within fragmented internal monologues

Authors often used non-linear, internal narratives to explore individual identity and psychological resistance against state conformity.

10. Buchi Emecheta's 'The Joys of Motherhood' is a satirical title that actually critiques the sacrifices forced upon women in colonial Nigeria.

Answer: A) True

The title is ironic; Emecheta uses the story to show how the protagonist's devotion to traditional gender roles leads to her ultimate neglect.