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## Answer Key: What Lies Beneath the Script? 9th Grade Drama Analysis Quiz

Step into the shoes of a literary dramaturg to dissect subtext and tragic irony in works like 'A Doll's House' and 'The Glass Menagerie.'

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**1. In Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House', Nora Helmer's constant eating of macaroons against Torvald's wishes functions as a dramatic device primarily to represent which of the following?**

**Answer:** B) A small, subversive act of rebellion against domestic control

Nora's secret consumption of macaroons is a symbolic act of defiance in a household where her husband dictating her diet mirrors his control over her entire life.

**2. In Tennessee Williams' 'The Glass Menagerie', the 'glass menagerie' itself serves as a motif for Laura's extreme physical strength and resilience.**

**Answer:** B) False

The glass menagerie represents Laura's fragility and her disconnection from reality; glass is delicate and easily shattered, much like her emotional state.

**3. In Sophocles' 'Ajax', the protagonist's decision to commit suicide after being humiliated by the Greek leaders is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the play's tragic arc.**

**Answer:** B) Climax

The climax is the point of greatest intensity or turning point; Ajax's death represents the peak of his internal and external conflict.

**4. Bertolt Brecht's 'Mother Courage and Her Children' utilizes 'Verfremdungseffekt' (the alienation effect). What is the primary analytical purpose of this dramatic technique?**

**Answer:** C) To prevent emotional catharsis so the audience thinks critically about politics

Brecht wanted viewers to remain objective observers who could analyze the socio-political messages of the play rather than getting swept up in the characters' emotions.

**5. In 'The Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov, the sound of a breaking string is heard twice. This auditory symbol most likely signifies:**

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**Answer:** D) The end of an era and the fading of the Russian aristocracy

The breaking string is a haunting, symbolic sound that aligns with the loss of the estate and the inevitable shift in the Russian social class system.

**6. In dramatic analysis, 'subtext' refers to the literal meaning of the words spoken by the characters on stage.**

**Answer:** B) False

Subtext is the underlying meaning, emotion, or intention 'between the lines' that is not explicitly stated in the dialogue.

**7. In 'Tartuffe' by Molière, the eponymous character maintains a 'pious' facade to manipulate Orgon. This discrepancy between appearance and reality is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** A) Dramatic Irony

Dramatic irony occurs when the audience knows that Tartuffe is a fraud, while the character Orgon remains completely unaware.

**8. How does the character of Benvolio serve as a 'foil' to Tybalt in 'Romeo and Juliet'?**

**Answer:** B) Benvolio's desire for peace highlights Tybalt's quick-tempered violence

A foil is a character that shows qualities in contrast with the qualities of another character. Benvolio (the peacemaker) underscores Tybalt's volatility.

**9. A 'soliloquy' is a speech delivered by a character alone on stage to reveal their innermost thoughts to the audience.**

**Answer:** A) True

Unlike an 'aside' (brief comment) or a 'monologue' (speech to other characters), a soliloquy is specifically the character speaking to themselves/the audience alone.

**10. In 'The Importance of Being Earnest', the character of Jack Worthing lives a double life in the city and the country. This literary technique is known as \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Bunburying

While 'Anagnorisis' refers to a tragic discovery, 'Bunburying' is the specific term used in the play for Jack and Algernon's practice of creating fictional identities to escape social duties.

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