

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Suspect: A Forensic Character Analysis Quiz for College Classes

Students dissect literary blueprints to identify protagonists, antagonists, and static tropes while evaluating how baseline traits shape complex narrative arcs.

1. Which term describes a character who undergoes a significant internal change or growth throughout a story?

Answer: B) Dynamic character

Dynamic characters evolve over time, often as a result of the conflicts they face, whereas static characters remain the same.

2. A character's physical appearance is the only factor used to conduct a comprehensive character analysis.

Answer: B) False

Character analysis requires looking at dialogue, actions, thoughts, and interactions, not just physical descriptions.

3. The main character who drives the plot forward is typically referred to as the _____.

Answer: C) Protagonist

The protagonist is the central figure in a literary work whose pursuit of a goal drives the narrative arc.

4. What is the primary function of a 'foil' character in literature?

Answer: C) To highlight specific traits of the protagonist by contrast

A foil is a character who contrasts with another character, usually the protagonist, to emphasize their qualities.

5. Which method of characterization occurs when the author describes a character's traits through their speech and actions rather than telling the reader directly?

Answer: C) Indirect characterization

Indirect characterization requires the reader to infer traits based on the character's behavior, speech, and thoughts.

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6. A 'flat character' is usually complex and possesses many different, sometimes contradictory, personality traits.

Answer: B) False

Flat characters are two-dimensional and simple, often representing a single trait; complex characters with many traits are called 'round' characters.

7. The force or character that opposes the protagonist and creates conflict is known as the _____.

Answer: B) Antagonist

The antagonist provides the counter-force to the protagonist's goals, generating the story's central conflict.

8. In character analysis, what does the 'STEAL' acronym stand for?

Answer: A) Speech, Thoughts, Effect on others, Actions, Looks

STEAL is a common mnemonic device used to help students identify the five methods of indirect characterization.

9. A character who stays the same from the beginning to the end of a story is called a _____ character.

Answer: C) Static

Static characters do not experience significant personal growth or change in perspective during the narrative.

10. Internal conflict refers to a struggle between a character and an outside force, such as nature or society.

Answer: B) False

Internal conflict occurs within a character's mind (character vs. self); external conflict involves outside forces.