

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmask Complex Motives 6th Grade Character Lab

Students peel back the layers of protagonist psychology to identify internal conflicts and growth patterns using evidence-based reasoning and higher-order evaluation.

1. A character decides to hide a lost wallet they found, despite knowing the owner is struggling financially. What does this specific action primarily reveal about their characterization?

Answer: B) An internal moral conflict and potential flaw

Characterization is often revealed through choices; choosing personal gain over empathy indicates a character flaw or internal struggle.

2. In a story, the protagonist transitions from a fearful child to a courageous leader after facing a major setback. This character is best described as:

Answer: C) Dynamic

Dynamic characters undergo significant internal change or growth throughout the narrative arc.

3. When an author describes a character's traits through their speech, thoughts, and actions rather than stating them directly, they are using _____ characterization.

Answer: D) Indirect

Indirect characterization requires the reader to infer traits based on the character's behavior and dialogue (STEAL method).

4. True or False: A character's 'motivation' refers to the reason behind their specific actions or behaviors within the plot.

Answer: A) True

Motivation is the 'why' behind a character's choices, driving the plot forward and creating conflict.

5. Which of the following scenarios represents a 'Man vs. Self' internal conflict, which is vital for deep character analysis?

Answer: B) A student deciding whether to report a friend for cheating

Internal conflict occurs within a character's mind, involving difficult decisions or moral dilemmas.

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6. The primary character who moves the plot forward and faces the main conflict is known as the _____.

Answer: C) Protagonist

The protagonist is the central figure in a story, typically the character the audience follows and empathizes with.

7. True or False: A 'Flat' character is one who possesses a complex personality with many different, sometimes contradictory, traits.

Answer: B) False

Flat characters are two-dimensional and relatively uncomplicated; 'Round' characters are the ones with complex, multi-faceted personalities.

8. An author writes: 'Leo's hands shook as he stepped onto the stage, his eyes darting toward the exit.' What can you evaluate about Leo from this evidence?

Answer: B) Leo is experiencing intense anxiety or stage fright

Physical cues like shaking hands and darting eyes provide indirect evidence of a character's emotional state.

9. A character who serves as a direct contrast to the protagonist to highlight specific qualities is called a _____.

Answer: A) Foil

A character foil is used by authors to emphasize the traits of the main character through stark comparison.

10. Which piece of evidence best supports the claim that a character is 'resilient'?

Answer: C) The character continues to practice after a devastating injury

Resilience is defined by the ability to recover from or persist through difficulties and setbacks.