

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Succession: The Machiavellian Maneuvers of Senior Literary Character Analysis

Deconstruct the complex psychology of the 'anti-hero' as students peel back layers of moral ambiguity and narrative unreliability in classic literature.

1. Which analytical framework focuses primarily on the character's subconscious desires and the conflict between the ego and the id?

Answer: B) Psychoanalytic Criticism

Psychoanalytic criticism, rooted in Freudian theory, examines the internal psychological drivers and unconscious motivations that shape a character's actions.

2. A character who remains essentially unchanged throughout the duration of a narrative is defined as a _____ character.

Answer: B) Static

Static characters do not undergo significant internal change or growth, contrasting with dynamic characters who evolve due to the plot.

3. In literary analysis, an 'anti-hero' is defined solely by their lack of traditional heroic qualities, such as courage or idealism.

Answer: A) True

The anti-hero is a central character who lacks conventional heroic attributes, often possessing traits that are socially or morally questionable.

4. When an author reveals a character's traits through their speech, thoughts, and actions rather than explicit description, they are using:

Answer: C) Indirect Characterization

Indirect characterization requires the reader to infer personality traits based on the 'STEAL' acronym: Speech, Thoughts, Effect on others, Actions, and Looks.

5. The term _____ refers to a character's tragic flaw, most notably observed in Greek tragedies, which leads to their ultimate downfall.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer: D) Hamartia

Hamartia is the Aristotelian term for the fatal flaw or error in judgment that causes the protagonist's reversal of fortune.

6. A 'foil' is a character whose primary purpose is to mirror and replicate the protagonist's traits to emphasize thematic consistency.

Answer: B) False

A foil is designed to contrast with another character (usually the protagonist) to highlight particular qualities of that character.

7. Which term best describes a narrator whose credibility is compromised, requiring the reader to analyze the character's potential biases or mental state?

Answer: B) Unreliable Narrator

Unreliable narrators provide a skewed perspective, often due to personal interests, mental instability, or lack of information.

8. In Jungian archetypal theory, the 'mask' or the public face a character presents to the world is known as the _____.

Answer: C) Persona

The Persona is the social face the individual presents to the world—'a kind of mask, designed on the one hand to make a definite impression upon others.'

9. Deconstructionist character analysis focuses on finding the single, unified 'truth' of a character's identity within the text.

Answer: B) False

Deconstruction seeks to identify contradictions and instabilities in the text that undermine a singular, fixed meaning of identity.

10. What is the primary difference between a 'round' character and a 'flat' character according to E.M. Forster?

Answer: B) Round characters are complex and capable of surprising the reader.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Forster defined round characters as multi-dimensional and capable of change, whereas flat characters are built around a single idea or quality.