

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Prose vs. Poetics: A College Creative Writing Primer

Examine foundational craft elements like stream-of-consciousness and epistolary forms to refine narrative identity in professional and artistic manuscripts.

1. Which literary technique involves a narrative style that attempts to capture the continuous, often disjointed flow of a character's thoughts?

Answer: B) Stream-of-consciousness

Stream-of-consciousness, popularized by writers like Virginia Woolf and James Joyce, aims to replicate the unedited internal monologue of a persona.

2. In the context of narrative structure, a story told through a series of documents like letters or diary entries is known as a(n) _____ novel.

Answer: C) Epistolary

The epistolary form uses localized 'artifacts' like letters (such as in Bram Stoker's Dracula) to advance the plot and voice.

3. True or False: In creative writing, 'diction' refers specifically to the choice and use of words and phrases in speech or writing.

Answer: A) True

Diction is a core element of style, defining the level of formality or characterization through vocabulary choice.

4. Which of the following best describes 'Second Person' point of view in creative prose?

Answer: B) The narrator addresses the reader directly using 'you'.

Second person ('you') is often used in experimental fiction or instructional guides to bridge the gap between reader and protagonist.

5. The term used to describe the underlying message or central idea explored throughout a literary work is the _____.

Answer: A) Theme

Themes are the universal concepts, such as 'man vs. nature' or 'the loss of innocence,' that anchor a creative piece.

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6. True or False: Free verse poetry is defined by its strict adherence to a specific meter and rhyme scheme.

Answer: B) False

Free verse is characterized by its lack of a consistent meter or rhyme pattern, allowing for more natural speech rhythms.

7. If a writer utilizes 'Macabre' imagery, which of the following subjects are they most likely focusing on?

Answer: C) Grim or gruesome details related to death

The macabre is a specific stylistic choice often found in Gothic literature, focusing on the dark and disturbing.

8. A comparison between two unlike things using 'like' or 'as' is known as a(n) _____.

Answer: C) Simile

Similes are fundamental tools of figurative language used to create vivid imagery in both poetry and prose.

9. True or False: In a screenplay, the 'Slugline' provides essential information about the setting and time of a scene.

Answer: A) True

Sluglines (e.g., INT. LIBRARY - DAY) are standard formatting requirements in scriptwriting to establish location and lighting.

10. What is the primary function of 'Subtext' in creative dialogue?

Answer: C) To convey hidden meanings or emotions not explicitly stated.

Subtext allows for complexity in characters, where what they mean is different from what they actually say, adding tension to the scene.