

Name: _____ Date: _____

Subtext and Scenography: Advanced 11th Grade Playwriting Quiz

Can you hear what isn't being said onstage? Evaluate the mechanics of dramatic tension through subtext analysis and non-linear structural evaluation.

1. In Sophocles' 'Antigone', the protagonist's decision to bury her brother despite a royal decree serves as the 'inciting incident.' From a structural standpoint, what does this specific beat accomplish regarding the play's dramatic arc?

- A. It establishes the stasis of the Theban society.
- B. It creates the 'point of no return' that necessitates the rising action.
- C. It serves as the 'deus ex machina' to resolve the central conflict.
- D. It functions as the falling action by highlighting Creon's power.

2. True or False: In Bertolt Brecht's theory of 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect), the primary goal of the playwright is to encourage the audience to emotionally identify with the characters' plight.

- A. True
- B. False

3. When a playwright includes a long speech by a single character that is directed toward the audience or used to reveal internal thoughts while alone on stage, it is technically defined as a _____.

- A. Monologue
- B. Aside
- C. Soliloquy
- D. Colloquy

4. Consider Harold Pinter's use of the 'Pinter Pause.' What is the primary function of these silences within the dialogue of a play like 'The Birthday Party'?

- A. To give the actors time to catch their breath during long scenes.
- B. To signal to the audience that a scene change is about to occur.
- C. To emphasize the subtextual power struggle and menace hidden beneath mundane speech.
- D. To follow the strict guidelines of Aristotelian Unities of time and space.

5. In playwrighting, the concept of 'Chekhov's Gun' suggests that if a specific _____ is introduced in the first act, it must be used or 'fired' by the final act to ensure narrative cohesion.

- A. Character trait
- B. Dramatic prop
- C. Sound effect
- D. Lighting cue

6. True or False: The 'Proscenium Arch' refers to the imaginary 'fourth wall' that separates the actors from the audience in a traditional theater space.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. In Lorraine Hansberry's 'A Raisin in the Sun', the recurring imagery of Mama's struggling plant is an example of how a playwright utilizes _____.

- A. Objective Correlative
- B. Anagnorisis
- C. Expositionary Lump
- D. Visual Foreshadowing

8. When writing stage directions for a 'Thrust Stage' configuration, a playwright must be aware that the audience is seated on _____ sides of the acting area.

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Zero

9. True or False: 'In media res' is a playwrighting technique where the story begins at the absolute chronological beginning of the characters' lives.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Which term describes the moment in a tragedy where the protagonist recognizes their true nature or the reality of their situation, often leading to their downfall?

- A. Peripeteia
- B. Hamartia
- C. Anagnorisis
- D. Catharsis