

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Will Your Narrative Subvert the Norm? College Creative Writing Quiz

Analyze non-linear structures and unreliable narration to refine your literary voice for advanced workshop peer reviews or portfolio development.

1. In the context of contemporary fiction, what specific narrative function does the 'objective correlative' serve for a writer's style?

Answer: B) Using a set of objects or events to evoke a specific emotion without stating it

Coined by T.S. Eliot, the objective correlative is a stylistic tool where external symbols provide a 'formula' for a particular emotion, allowing for more sophisticated, indirect characterization.

2. A 'stream of consciousness' narrative style, famously utilized by Virginia Woolf, is characterized by a chronological and strictly logical progression of external events.

Answer: B) False

Stream of consciousness mimics the nonlinear and often chaotic flow of human thought, frequently prioritizing internal psychologies over linear, logical external action.

3. To create a sense of 'defamiliarization' (ostranenie), a writer might describe a common object like a _____ as if seeing it for the first time through an alien lens.

Answer: D) rotary telephone

Defamiliarization (a concept from Viktor Shklovsky) involves presenting common things in an unfamiliar way to enhance perception; describing a rotary telephone as a 'circular prison of numbers' is an application of this.

4. Which transition in narrative 'voice' occurs when a writer shifts from a character's internal thoughts to a detached, clinical observation within the same paragraph?

Answer: C) Psychic distance shift

Psychic distance refers to how close the reader is to a character's interiority; moving from deep thought to clinical distance is a sophisticated manipulation of narrative voice.

5. In Jorge Luis Borges' writing, the use of a 'fictional encyclopedia entry' serves as an example of which creative writing technique?

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Answer: A) Metafiction

Metafiction is a form of literature that emphasizes its own construct; by using fake scholarly citations or encyclopedias, Borges draws attention to the relationship between fiction and reality.

6. When a poet utilizes _____ verse, they are abandoning strict meter and rhyme while maintaining a focus on the cadences of natural speech.

Answer: B) free

Free verse allows for maximum stylistic originality by prioritizing internal rhythm and imagery over the external constraints of traditional poetic forms.

7. The 'In Media Res' technique is a stylistic choice where a story begins at the chronological start of a character's life.

Answer: B) False

'In Media Res' means 'into the middle of things.' It is a narrative technique of starting in the midst of action to immediately engage the reader's interest.

8. How does the 'Unreliable Narrator' (such as in works by Kazuo Ishiguro) impact the reader's analysis of the text?

Answer: B) It forces the reader to look for subtext and gaps in the narrator's memory or morality.

Unreliable narrators demand that the reader engage critically with the voice of the text, deciphering what is omitted or distorted due to the narrator's bias or lack of knowledge.

9. A writer looking to subvert expectations might use _____, a technique where the narrative focus is placed on a seemingly unimportant detail to distract from the main plot.

Answer: C) red herring

A 'red herring' is a literary device used to mislead the audience, often used in mystery genres or complex psychological dramas to maintain suspense and originality.

10. 'Voice' in creative writing is solely determined by the vocabulary used by the characters in dialogue.

Answer: B) False

Voice encompasses the entire narrative personality, including syntax, rhythm, and perspective, extending far beyond simple character dialogue.

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