

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmasking the Motive: 10th Grade Character Analysis Quiz

Challenge sophomores to look beyond the surface, decoding character arcs and psychological depth through textual evidence and narrative function.

1. Which term describes a character who undergoes a significant internal change throughout the course of a narrative?

Answer: B) Dynamic character

Dynamic characters experience an internal shift in perspective, belief, or personality due to the plot's events, distinguishing them from static characters who remain the same.

2. A literary device used to reveal a character's personality through their speech, actions, or appearance rather than through direct description is _____ characterization.

Answer: C) Indirect

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

3. A protagonist is always a heroic or 'good' character in a literary work.

Answer: B) False

A protagonist is simply the main character who drives the action; they can be morally ambiguous or even an anti-hero.

4. When an author highlights a character's traits by contrasting them against another character, the second character is known as a:

Answer: B) Foil

A foil is a character whose qualities serve to emphasize the specific traits of the protagonist through stark contrast.

5. An archetype is a recurring character type or symbol that is universally recognized across different cultures and time periods.

Answer: A) True

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Archetypes, such as 'The Hero' or 'The Outcast,' provide a foundational template that readers recognize regardless of the specific setting.

6. The driving force behind a character's actions, which provides the 'why' behind their behavior, is termed character _____.

Answer: A) Motivation

Motivation explains the psychological or external reasons why a character pursues a specific goal or reacts in a certain way.

7. Which of the following is an example of an internal conflict a character might face?

Answer: C) A teenager deciding whether to report a friend for cheating

Internal conflict (Man vs. Self) takes place within a character's mind, involving moral dilemmas or emotional struggles.

8. A _____ character is complex and multi-dimensional, possessing many traits and often displaying contradictory behaviors.

Answer: D) Round

Round characters are well-developed by the author and feel like real people with complicated layers and motivations.

9. A character's social status and historical context are irrelevant to their character analysis.

Answer: B) False

Setting and context are vital to character analysis because they define the societal pressures and limitations that shape a character's choices.

10. In a tragedy, what is the term for the 'fatal flaw' that leads to the downfall of the protagonist?

Answer: B) Hamartia

Hamartia is the Greek term for a tragic flaw or error in judgment that causes the protagonist's reversal of fortune.