

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Script Surgeon's Quest: 7th Grade Subtext and Structural Analysis

Step into a dramaturg's shoes to dissect complex scripts, identifying how structural shifts and silent subtext craft professional-grade theater.

1. In August Strindberg's 'Miss Julie,' the intense power struggle between the characters is often driven by social class. Which analytical concept best describes the unspoken meaning behind their dialogue?

Answer: B) Subtext

Subtext refers to the underlying message or motivation that is not explicitly stated in the lines but informs the characters' actions and intentions.

2. In the structural analysis of Henrik Ibsen's 'A Doll's House,' the moment Nora Helmer slams the door at the end of the play serves as the ____.

Answer: C) Resolution

The resolution (or denouement) is the final part of the play where the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.

3. True or False: In Bertolt Brecht's 'Mother Courage and Her Children,' the use of 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect) is designed to make the audience empathize deeply and emotionally with the protagonist's suffering.

Answer: B) False

Brecht used the alienation effect to prevent the audience from losing themselves emotionally, forcing them instead to critically analyze the social and political messages of the play.

4. In Federico García Lorca's 'Blood Wedding,' symbols like the Moon and the Beggar Woman are used to foreshadow death. This technique is an example of which dramatic element?

Answer: C) Atmospheric Symbolism

Atmospheric symbolism uses objects or characters to represent abstract ideas—in this case, fate and mortality—to deepen the play's thematic resonance.

5. When analyzing the character of Juror #8 in Reginald Rose's 'Twelve Angry Men,' his willingness to stand alone against the majority demonstrates a character ____ involving 'integrity vs. conformity.'

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Answer: D) Arc

A character arc tracks the development or internal change of a character in response to the conflict within the narrative.

6. True or False: In 'The Glass Menagerie' by Tennessee Williams, the 'Screen Device' (images projected on a screen) is a structural tool used to heighten the realism of the play.

Answer: B) False

The Screen Device is a non-realistic, 'memory play' technique intended to emphasize themes and emotions rather than traditional realism.

7. In Wole Soyinka's 'Death and the King's Horseman,' the conflict arises because the British District Officer intervenes in a local ritual. This is a classic example of what type of dramatic conflict?

Answer: C) Society vs. Society

This play explores the clash between two different cultural and societal value systems, which is a Society vs. Society conflict.

8. In Aristophanes' comedy 'Lysistrata,' the protagonist organizes a 'strike' to end the Peloponnesian War. This central idea that drives the action is known as the ____.

Answer: A) Dramatic Premise

The dramatic premise is the fundamental 'what if' question or idea that serves as the foundation for the entire plot.

9. True or False: In Thornton Wilder's 'Our Town,' the character of the 'Stage Manager' exists outside the world of the characters to provide commentary and context for the audience.

Answer: A) True

The Stage Manager acts as a narrator and guide, breaking the 'fourth wall' to connect the play's themes of life and death directly to the audience.

10. When analyzing 'The Cherry Orchard' by Anton Chekhov, the constant sound of a string breaking in the distance is used to create a specific mood and signify the end of an era. This is an example of:

Answer: B) Auditory Foreshadowing

Auditory foreshadowing uses sound to hint at future events or thematic shifts, such as the impending loss of the family estate.

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