

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Unmask Their Motives: Your 7th Grade Character Analysis Quest

Deconstruct complex protagonists and evaluate character development through internal conflict, dynamic shifts, and textual evidence in nuanced literary scenarios.

1. A character struggles between their loyalty to a friend and their duty to follow the law. This scenario is a primary example of:

Answer: B) An internal conflict reflecting moral ambiguity

Internal conflict involves a psychological struggle within a character, specifically choosing between competing values or desires.

2. Which of the following best describes the difference between a 'complex' character and a 'flat' character?

Answer: C) Complex characters have multiple, sometimes contradictory, traits.

Complexity in literature refers to characters who possess many layers of personality and exhibit realistic, multifaceted behavior.

3. When an author shows a character's personality through their actions, speech, and thoughts rather than telling the reader directly, they are using _____ characterization.

Answer: B) indirect

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

4. A 'dynamic' character is defined strictly by being the main character of the story, regardless of whether they change.

Answer: B) False

Dynamic refers to a character who undergoes a significant internal change or growth; a protagonist can be dynamic, but the terms are not synonymous.

5. An author describes a character as 'having a heart of stone.' This is an example of characterization that primarily influences the reader's perception of the character's:

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Answer: C) Internal temperament and empathy

Metaphorical language like 'heart of stone' is used to characterize a person's emotional state or personality traits, specifically a lack of compassion.

6. To analyze how a character's _____ drives the plot, a reader must look at the specific reasons why a character chooses their particular course of action.

Answer: C) motivation

Motivation is the 'why' behind a character's behavior, which creates the cause-and-effect chain that moves the plot forward.

7. A character whose primary function is to provide a contrast to the protagonist's traits is known as a 'foil'.

Answer: A) True

A foil is a character used by the author to highlight specific qualities of the main character by contrasting them.

8. In a climactic scene, a fearful character decides to lead a rescue mission. This shift in the character's behavior most likely indicates:

Answer: B) The character's development and arc

When a character acts against their established fears to achieve a goal, it represents a character arc—the journey of change throughout the story.

9. When evaluating character development, the most reliable source of evidence is often the character's _____ because they reveal true intent more than words alone.

Answer: A) actions

Actions often speak louder than words in literature; analyzing what a character does provides concrete evidence of their growth and values.

10. Which analytical question best helps a reader evaluate a character's complexity?

Answer: C) How do the character's conflicting desires impact their decisions?

Evaluating complexity requires looking at depth and conflict within a character's psyche rather than surface-level details.