

Name: _____ Date: _____

Silk Roads and Shadow Lines: 12th Grade World Literature Analysis Quiz

Deconstruct structural hybridity and subaltern voices in texts that challenge the Western canon, from the Rubaiyat to contemporary global realism.

1. In the context of Persian literature, how does the 'Ruba'i' stanza structure specifically support the philosophical themes often found in the works of Omar Khayyam?

- A. The AABA rhyme scheme creates a sense of unresolved tension mirroring existential doubt.
- B. The interlocking chain of sonnets represents the eternal cycle of reincarnation.
- C. The use of free verse mimics the chaotic nature of the desert landscape.
- D. The strict 14-line format enforces a sense of divine order and mathematical perfection.

2. The concept of 'Joie de vivre' is often contrasted with the 'Mono no aware' aesthetic found in classic Japanese literature, which translates most closely to:

- A. The joy of social achievement and status
- B. A pathos for the ephemeral nature of things
- C. The violent rejection of traditional values
- D. A celebration of immortal, unchanging beauty

3. Postcolonial literature frequently utilizes 'appropriation,' which involves taking the language of the colonizer and adapting it to convey local cultural nuances and rhythms.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Wole Soyinka's play 'Death and the King's Horseman' serves as a critical bridge between Yoruba cosmology and which Western literary tradition?

- A. The Victorian Comedy of Manners
- B. The Aristotelian Tragedy
- C. The American Transcendentalist Essay
- D. The Beat Generation's Stream of Consciousness

5. In Latin American literature, the technique of incorporating indigenous myths into modern political settings to challenge Eurocentric reality is known as:

- A. Naturalism
- B. Lo Real Maravilloso (The Marvelous Real)
- C. Dadaism
- D. The Picaresque Novel

6. The 'Epic of Gilgamesh' is considered world literature simply because it is the oldest story, though it lacks the complex character development found in modern narratives.

- A. True

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B. False

7. Considering the works of Czech author Franz Kafka, the term 'Kafkaesque' best describes a literary situation where:

- A. Nature acts as a benevolent force of healing.
- B. A protagonist is trapped in a dream-like, illogical, and menacing bureaucratic maze.
- C. Two lovers from feuding families find destiny in the stars.
- D. Technology is used to create a perfect utopian society.

8. The 'Negritude' movement, associated with Léopold Sédar Senghor, was a literary and ideological movement that sought to:

- A. Encourage the total assimilation of African writers into French culture.
- B. Reject written literature in favor of exclusively oral performances.
- C. Reclaim and celebrate a distinct Pan-African identity and heritage.
- D. Translate Russian literature into various African dialects.

9. In Chinese literature, the 'Journey to the West' is primarily a historical account of the Tang Dynasty's expansion, devoid of supernatural or allegorical elements.

- A. True
- B. False

10. What is the primary function of the 'Chorus' in ancient Greek drama, and how does it compare to the modern 'unreliable narrator' in global fiction?

- A. Both are designed to mislead the audience about the protagonist's true intentions.
- B. The Chorus represents the communal or 'ideal' spectator, while the unreliable narrator represents the fractured individual perspective.
- C. The Chorus provides the main action, while the narrator provides only background music.
- D. The Chorus is always the villain, whereas the unreliable narrator is always the hero.