

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Who Are They Behind the Mask? Deciphering 8th Grade Literary Personas

Students peel back layers of motivation and trait-based evidence as they differentiate between static and dynamic figures across familiar classic narratives.

1. Which term refers to a character who remains exactly the same from the beginning of a story until the very end?

Answer: C) Static character

A static character does not undergo any significant internal change or growth throughout the course of a narrative.

2. In a story, the 'antagonist' is most commonly recognized as the character who:

Answer: B) Opposes the main character

The antagonist provides the conflict by working against the protagonist, or main character.

3. A ____ character is one who is complex and well-developed with many different personality traits.

Answer: C) Round

A 'round' character is multi-dimensional and feels like a real person to the reader, showing various strengths and weaknesses.

4. True or False: The protagonist of a story must always be a 'good guy' or a hero.

Answer: B) False

The protagonist is simply the central character the story follows; they can be a villain (anti-hero) or a regular person.

5. Which of these is an example of indirect characterization?

Answer: C) A character slams a door and screams after losing a game.

Indirect characterization shows traits through actions (slaming the door) rather than telling the reader directly.

6. When an author tells the reader exactly what a character is like (e.g., 'He was brave'), it is called ____ characterization.

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Answer: A) Direct

Direct characterization occurs when the author explicitly states a character's traits.

7. True or False: A dynamic character undergoes an internal change, such as a shift in perspective or values.

Answer: A) True

Dynamic characters are defined by their evolution or growth during the narrative.

8. What is 'character motivation'?

Answer: B) The reason behind a character's actions

Motivation is the 'why' behind a character's choices, driving the plot forward.

9. A ___ character is a two-dimensional character with only one or two dominant traits.

Answer: B) Flat

Flat characters lack depth and are often used as archetypes or background figures.

10. True or False: Using the acronym STEAL (Speech, Thoughts, Effect, Actions, Looks) helps analyze characterization.

Answer: A) True

STEAL is a standard pedagogical tool used to identify methods of indirect characterization.