

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Old Words, New Worlds: Sophomore World Literature Quiz

Examine if you can identify the cultural trademarks and recurring motifs that define storytelling across the Mediterranean, Scandinavia, and the Caribbean.

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**1. Which ancient Mesopotamian text is one of the earliest examples of world literature, focusing on a king's quest for immortality?**

**Answer:** B) The Epic of Gilgamesh

The Epic of Gilgamesh is an ancient poem from Mesopotamia and is considered the first great work of literature.

**2. In French literature, which author is famous for writing the classic play 'The Misanthrope' to satirize 17th-century social norms?**

**Answer:** A) Molière

Molière was a master of French comedy who used satire to critique the hypocrisy of the aristocratic society of his time.

**3. The Norwegian playwright \_\_\_\_\_ is known as the 'father of realism' for his play 'A Doll's House', which challenged 19th-century marriage roles.**

**Answer:** B) Henrik Ibsen

Henrik Ibsen's realistic dramas revolutionized theater by focusing on middle-class people and social problems.

**4. The literary term 'Bildungsroman' is a German word describing a story about a character's internal growth and moral education.**

**Answer:** A) True

Originating in German literature, a Bildungsroman is a 'coming-of-age' story that focuses on the protagonist's psychological development.

**5. Which Caribbean author won the Nobel Prize for works like 'Omeros', which reimagines the Greek Iliad through the lens of St. Lucia?**

**Answer:** A) Derek Walcott

Derek Walcott was a Saint Lucian poet and playwright whose work explored post-colonial identity and Caribbean history.

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**6. The Russian masterpiece 'Crime and Punishment', which explores the guilt of a student named Raskolnikov, was written by \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Fyodor Dostoevsky

Dostoevsky is renowned for his psychological depth and exploration of philosophical dilemmas in late 19th-century Russia.

**7. Mexican author Juan Rulfo is considered a major precursor to the Magical Realism movement through his short novel 'Pedro Páramo'.**

**Answer:** A) True

Juan Rulfo's 'Pedro Páramo' uses ghostly characters and nonlinear time, heavily influencing later Latin American writers.

**8. Which famous Icelandic genre consists of prose narratives about historical events and family feuds during the Middle Ages?**

**Answer:** B) Sagas

The Icelandic Sagas are unique literary treasures that document the lives and conflicts of Norse settlers.

**9. In Chilean literature, the poet \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Latin American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1945.**

**Answer:** B) Gabriela Mistral

Gabriela Mistral was a diplomat and educator whose poetry touched on themes of childhood, motherhood, and nature.

**10. 'The Art of War' is an influential Chinese military treatise that is often studied today as a work of philosophy and strategic literature.**

**Answer:** A) True

Attributed to Sun Tzu, 'The Art of War' is a cornerstone of East Asian literature that explains conflict through the lens of Taoist philosophy.