

Name: _____ Date: _____

Subtext and Spectacle: 10th Grade Advanced Playwriting Quiz

Deconstruct radical dramatic structures and synthesize complex subtext through the lens of non-linear narratives and Brechtian alienation effects.

1. In contemporary drama, a 'non-linear' plot structure often utilizes which narrative device to challenge the audience's perception of cause and effect?

- A. The Aristotelian Unities of time and place
- B. Anachronistic vignettes and fragmented timelines
- C. A standard three-act structure with rising action
- D. The use of a Greek Chorus to explain chronologic shifts

2. When a playwright employs 'subtext,' they are primarily crafting which element of the theatrical experience?

- A. The literal dictionary definition of the dialogue
- B. The technical specifications for the lighting rig
- C. The unspoken underlying objectives and tensions between characters
- D. The historical footnotes provided in the program

3. Identify the term for a character's internal struggle that prevents them from achieving their super-objective: _____.

- A. Inciting Incident
- B. Psychological Impediment
- C. Internal Obstacle
- D. External Conflict

4. In 'Epic Theatre,' the 'Verfremdungseffekt' (alienation effect) is designed to make the audience lose themselves in the emotional reality of the characters.

- A. True
- B. False

5. Which of the following describes a 'Static Character' in a way that suggests sophisticated dramatic intentionality?

- A. A character who fails to grow because the playwright forgot to write an arc
- B. A character whose refusal to change serves as a commentary on a rigid social system
- C. A character who only appears in the background of the first act
- D. A character who provides comic relief in the resolution phase

6. In a script, an 'aside' differs from a 'soliloquy' because an aside is _____.

- A. A long speech delivered to a silent character
- B. A stage direction regarding the set design

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- C. A brief comment made to the audience while other characters are present
- D. The final line of a play before the curtain falls

7. The 'Inciting Incident' must occur before the play begins for it to be considered a 'Late Point of Attack.'

- A. True
- B. False

8. When writing stage directions, a 'Given Circumstance' refers to which of the following?

- A. The budget allocated for the production
- B. The environmental and historical facts provided by the playwright
- C. The actor's personal preference for stage movement
- D. The improvised lines added during rehearsal

9. The structural element where the protagonist's fortunes take a decisive turn for better or worse is the _____.

- A. Exposition
- B. Denouement
- C. Peripeteia
- D. Prologue

10. How does 'Vernacular Dialogue' contribute to the 'Verisimilitude' of a play?

- A. It makes the play harder to understand for international audiences
- B. It ensures the play rhymes according to Shakespearean standards
- C. It ground characters in a specific socio-economic and regional reality
- D. It replaces the need for stage directions entirely